

Resource efficient programs

Our products enable growers to use natural resources more efficiently by using less water and reducing soil erosion (see our products help to [increase resource efficiency](#)). Improving the productivity of existing farmland also reduces the need to expand into uncultivated land.

In 2010, we invested US\$ 7.6 million in resource efficiency programs, working with farmers to promote sustainable agriculture techniques. These include minimum tillage – controlling weeds without tilling the ground – to reduce soil erosion and runoff from fields, and creating diverse habitats in field margins to promote biodiversity on farm land.

Our programs around the world help farmers overcome local issues. For example, over the last five years, more than 1,400 farmers in Columbia have received training on minimum tillage to tackle soil erosion – a significant issue in some of the country's main potato-growing regions. In Hungary, our research on the impact of combining minimum tillage with vegetative field margins (to be completed in 2011) is showing positive results in reducing soil erosion and protecting waterways.

Syngenta is participating in the European Crop Protection Association's three-year project to Protect Water from Diffuse Sources (PROWADIS), building on the project to Train Operators to prevent Pollution from Point Sources (TOPPS) that concluded in 2009. PROWADIS focuses on preventing crop protection products from entering surface water through runoff from fields and drift from sprayers. It will explore the effectiveness of vegetative buffer strips to reduce pesticide levels in runoff, technology to reduce spray drift, and ways to identify water catchments that are particularly vulnerable to surface runoff.

In Canada, Syngenta committed to support the Fondation de la faune program in Québec for a further five years from 2010. More than 500 farmers are involved in the program to analyze 650 km of river running through their land and protect it through individual farm management plans to mitigate erosion, establish vegetative buffer zones on riverbanks and structures to improve fish habitats. In the US, Syngenta has worked with conservation organization Trees Forever since 2007 to establish nearly 6,000 acres of buffer zones along streams in Illinois and Iowa.

Inappropriate disposal of water used to mix or wash out sprayers is one of the most common causes of contamination of ground and surface water with pesticide residues. Syngenta's Heliosec equipment, piloted in France in 2009, provides a simple and effective solution using a lined tank designed to allow the water to evaporate leaving solid residues that can be safely disposed.

We continue to promote biodiversity on the farm through Operation Pollinator. Now running in 13 European countries, this program encourages farmers to use field margins to provide habitats for not only pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies but also other local flora and fauna. This is just one of the environmental stewardship programs that will be showcased across the Interra network of farms we launched in 2010 to promote best practices across Europe.

See more on how Syngenta is helping to [increase resource efficiency](#).

Soil, water, biodiversity, IPM/ICM, safe use ¹	2010	2009	2008
Total investment (US \$m)	7.57	7.03	8.13
EAME	41.5%	29.0%	40.6%
NAFTA	20.7%	24.8%	29.0%
LATAM	19.5%	26.8%	16.8%
APAC	18.3%	19.4%	13.6%
Active programs	182	177	163

¹ Starting 2009, reporting year October 1 to September 30