ORDER

OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ON THE APPROVAL OF A PLANT PROTECTION PLAN

29 June 2012, No 3D-535
Vilnius

I hereby approve this Plant Protection Plan (as appended).

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
KAZYS STARKEVIČIUS

CO-ORDINATED BY:

CO-ORDINATED BY:
Letter No (11.3-192)10-5576 of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania of 28 June 2012

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PLANT PROTECTION PLAN

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The purpose of the Plant Protection Plan (hereinafter referred to as “the Plan”) is to establish the sustainable, rational, safe and responsible use of plant protection products.


3. For the purpose of the Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

   Risk indicator for plant protection products (hereinafter referred to as “the risk indicator”) means the result of a method of calculation that is used to evaluate risks posed by plant protection products to human health and/or the environment.

   Other definitions used in the Plan shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Plant Protection (Official Gazette 1995, No 90-2013; 2012, No 63-3162) and other legislation.

II. STATUS QUO

4. Training. Lithuania has set up a system for training distributors, consultants and professional users of plant protection products and for the issue of certificates to distributors, consultants and professional users of plant protection products who have completed plant protection product training courses. Training programmes are geared to the educational level of trainees and trainee target groups according to their roles and responsibilities. Those who complete the training course and fulfil the requirements set out in the training programmes are granted course attendance certificates. Practical training is important to understand risks associated with the use of plant protection products, the measures to protect users and their health, environmental protection, product quality and public health related thereto. Therefore, there is a need for further improvement of the qualifications of distributors, advisors and professional users of plant protection products in accordance with the procedure laid down in legislation.

5. Placing on the market of plant protection products. Placement on the market of plant protection products is regulated by the Law on Plant Protection of the Republic of Lithuania and the Rules on importing, storing, trading and using plant protection products, as approved by Order No 3D-564 of the Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2003 (Official Gazette 2004, No 15-481; 2010, No 92-4868). In Lithuania, sales of plant protection products is restricted to natural persons and legal persons established in the Republic of Lithuania or other EU Member State, or other EEA country, or other organisations or subdivisions thereof (hereinafter referred to as “natural and legal persons”). Plant protection products intended for professional use shall be sold exclusively to professional users of plant protection products.

   Risks arising from exposure to such products shall be assessed during the process of registration of plant protection products, which shall be followed by the establishment of risk reduction measures to be indicated on labelling. Persons who make plant protection products available on the market usually place only short instructions for use on their websites, while labels of plant protection products are rarely published. Therefore, in
order to protect human health and the environment, it is necessary to ensure that distributors of plant protection products provide users with more information on the issues relating to the use of plant protection products.

6. Information and awareness-raising. The Health Emergency Situations Centre of the Ministry of Health gathers information on, and analyses, incidents of acute poisoning caused by plant protection products. However, there is no special programme in place in Lithuania for informing the general public about the risks and the potential acute and chronic impact on human health and the environment of the use of plant protection products. Systemised information regarding the registration, comprehensive surveys and use of plant protection products as well as regarding the risks associated with the use of such products would help protect broader sections of the public against the potentially hazardous effects of plant protection products.

7. Use of plant protection product application equipment. Only inspected plant protection product spraying equipment shall be authorised for professional PPP use. Plant protection product spraying equipment shall be inspected at five year intervals. In Lithuania, inspection of such equipment has been obligatory since 2001. Companies carrying out inspections of spraying equipment are supervised by the State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “the Service”), which also conducts certification of, and provides training for, persons wishing to carry out inspections of plant protection product spraying equipment. Inspections of new and modified application equipment as well as of application equipment already in use are conducted by the State Station for Machine Testing under the Ministry of Agriculture. Between 2006 and 2010, 11 persons were certified to conduct inspections of spraying equipment in use all over Lithuania. From the beginning of 2006 until 1 July 2011, more than five thousand certificates were issued for spraying equipment following inspection.

8. Aerial spraying of plant protection products. Aerial spraying of plant protection products is prohibited in Lithuania, other than in the cases laid down by the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Plant Protection.

9. Information for the public. The process of registration of plant protection products includes the assessment of the potential impact of plant protection products on operators of plant protection products, people in the surrounding environment, and the establishment of restrictions and risk reduction methods as detailed on product labels. The Rules on the import, storage, trade and use of plant protection products contain general instructions about the monitoring of aerial spraying to prevent spray from drifting to adjacent fields or farms. Each specific product must have a label specifying the conditions and methods of use. This way, the safety of people living nearby is fully assured if users of plant protection products have strictly complied with the recommendations for use of plant protection products and the public has been provided with objective information on the use of plant protection products and the risks of their use on human health and the environment.

10. Measures to protect surface water and groundwater from the impact of plant protection products. In Lithuania, the use of drinking water is currently governed by legislation establishing the authorised maximum contents of substances whose levels of emission to water need to be controlled. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Water (Official Gazette 1997, No 104-2615; 2003, No 36-1544), assessment of the condition of water bodies requires surveillance, operational and investigative monitoring of water bodies. A new National Environmental Monitoring Programme for 2011-17 was approved by Resolution No 315 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 2 March 2011 “on the approval of the 2011-17 National Environmental Monitoring Programme” (Official Gazette 2011, No 34-1603). The programme provides for the continuation of monitoring of plant protection products whose use is restricted or banned altogether in groundwater, the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon. In order to protect surface water and groundwater, the use of plant protection products is prohibited in safeguard zones for surface water, as provided for in the Special

In order to avoid exposure of water bodies to plant protection products, it is appropriate to use the most efficient spraying techniques and to reduce the use of plant protection products where there is a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems.

11. **Reduction of the use of plant protection products in specific areas.** In order to protect areas used by the general public or by sensitive populations, the use of plant protection products for professional use shall be prohibited in the close vicinity of educational and healthcare facilities. The use of plant protection products on recreational land in the vicinity of sports facilities is restricted to plant protection products containing low-risk active substances. The Special conditions for the use of land and forest stipulate that the use of plant protection products is prohibited in protected wetland reserves, soil reserves, animal, bird and fish reserves as well as in karst area land falling under group III and IV. The use of plant protection products in botanical and zoological reserves and in buffer zones around these is restricted to arable land. Depending on the specific nature of the operations, agricultural workers may be permitted to carry out treatment-related operations in outdoor and indoor areas during the treatment and immediately afterwards unless otherwise indicated on the label of the product in use, and always provided that personal protective equipment is worn as specified on the labelling of the product in use.

12. **Handling and storage of plant protection products and treatment of their packaging and residues.** Storage and handling of plant protection products, disposal of tank mixtures remaining after application and cleaning of the equipment used after application are regulated by the Rules on the import, storage, trade and use of plant protection products. In compliance with the Rules, users of plant protection products shall perform spraying operations in accordance with good plant protection practices, the principles of integrated harmful organism management and the requirements specified on the product labelling.


13. **Integrated harmful organism management.** Integrated harmful organism management emphasises the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages the use of control mechanisms that are safe, as far as possible, for human health and the environment. Integrated harmful organism management consists of monitoring and predicting harmful organisms, warning of possible harm, and selecting and applying control methods. Priority should be given to non-chemical methods of plant protection, and chemical plant protection products should be used only where other effective and economically appropriate alternatives are ineffective against harmful organisms.

A disease and pest management network for agricultural and horticultural crops is currently being implemented in Lithuania, covering 10 holdings located in different agro-climatic zones of Lithuania. The advanced system of disease and pest management for agricultural and horticultural plants is in use in 10 meteorological stations. It is necessary to develop this network to ensure the growth of healthy fruit and vegetables. There are insufficient meteorological stations with integrated disease and pest management models to achieve this objective. Monitoring of outdoor plant diseases and pests as well as forecasting the spreading
thereof are carried out on a fragmentary basis. The use of biological plant protection products is also an integral part of integrated harmful organism management. The range of such products has been very limited to date. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage research into the effectiveness and practical application of biological products for plant protection.

14. Risk indicators. National risk indicators have not been regulated in the Republic of Lithuania; nor, however, are established at Community level either. In the absence of such indicators, environmental, social and economic indicators shall be used to show progress in achieving the objectives of the Plan.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No 3D-704 of 4 September 2012, Official Gazette 2012, No 105-5354 (8 September 2012)

III. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

15. The aim of this Plan is to promote the well-targeted and cost-efficient use of plant protection products, to ensure food safety and sustainable agricultural development, to protect human health and the environment from the risks related to the use of plant protection products, to improve information and public awareness-raising on the issues related to the sustainable use of plant protection products, to ensure education and training for training for distributors, advisors and users of plant protection products, and to promote the application of integrated harmful organism management and the use of non-chemical substances.

16. The objectives of the Plan are as follows:

16.1. to organise training accessible to all distributors, advisors and professional users of plant protection products to acquire or update knowledge as appropriate;

16.2. to ensure that distributors who place plant protection products on the market provide users of plant protection products with detailed information on the risks to human health and the environment arising from the use of plant protection products, safety requirements, proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal of plant protection products;

16.3. to design programmes to inform the general public on the application of non-chemical measures, the risks of, and the potential acute and chronic effects on, human health, non-target organisms and the environment arising from the use of plant protection products, and to protect the general public from the risks associated with the use of plant protection products;

16.4. to ensure that only inspected plant protection product spraying equipment is authorised for professional PPP use;

16.5. to ensure that aerial spraying of plant protection products is carried out exclusively under conditions laid down by the Law on Plant Protection;

16.6. to ensure implementation of measures to protect surface water and groundwater from plant protection product pollution;

16.7. to ensure application of adequate risk management measures in protected sites, areas of the Community’s ecological network Natura 2000 and in areas recently treated with plant protection products;

16.8. to approve measures ensuring the storage of plant protection products and to ensure handling, recovery and disposal of waste of plant protection product packaging;

16.9. to promote harmful organism management through the application of the general principles of integrated harmful organism management listed in Annex 2, and to establish the necessary measures for their implementation;

16.10. to establish indicators showing progress in achieving the objectives of the Plan.
IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

17. Plan implementation measures (measures for achieving the targets of the Plan, deadlines, competent authorities) are given in Annex 1.

18. Taking account of the effectiveness of the measures in Annex 1 and their effects on human health, the environment and economic impact, the Plan shall be reviewed at least once every five years.

19. Responsibility for the co-ordination and supervision of the Plan implementation shall be given to the Ministry of Agriculture, which may set up a working group for the co-ordination of the Plan.

20. The Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Health and the State Food and Veterinary Service shall ensure that information regarding the implementation of measures for a given year, as performed by the institutions and agencies subordinated to them and falling within their field of regulation, is submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture by 1 February of the following year.

*Amendments to the paragraph:*
No 3D-704 of 4 September 2012, Official Gazette 2012, No 105-5354 (8 September 2012)

V. ANTICIPATED RESULTS

21. The risk indicators set out in Annex 1 to the Plan will help to assess the effectiveness of the measures in achieving the objectives of the Plan.

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

22. After implementation of the measures set out for achieving the targets of the Plan:

22.1. the maximum residue levels of PPPs in food products will be reduced by 2 per cent in 2017, as compared to 2010;

22.2. the area of utilised agricultural land on which the use of plant protection products has been eliminated will increase by up to 2 per cent in 2017, as compared to the average in 2008–2011.

*Addition of the paragraph:*
No 3D-704, of 4 September 2012, Official Gazette 2012, No 105-5354 (8 September 2012).

23. The measures provided in the Plan shall be financed from combined allocations approved in the national budget of the Republic of Lithuania to ministries and agencies sharing in the implementation of the Plan, European Union’s financial aid and other funds received in accordance with the procedure laid down in legislation.

24. The Plan and any amendments thereto shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture. The general public and the authorities concerned may submit their comments and recommendations in accordance with the procedure laid down in legislation.
**PLANT PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Implementation deadlines limits</th>
<th>Authority in charge</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Organise accessible training for all distributors, consultants and</td>
<td>1.1. Provide training for, and improve the qualifications of, distributors, consultants and professional users of plant protection products in accordance with approved plant protection programmes.</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Centre for LEADER Programme and Agricultural Training Methodology under the Ministry of Agriculture (ŽMMC) and Agricultural Training Methodology under the Ministry of Agriculture (VAT)</td>
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<td>professional users of plant protection products to acquire or update</td>
<td>1.2. Update a database on the issue of certificates to the persons completing plant protection training courses.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>VAT</td>
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<td>knowledge as appropriate.</td>
<td>1.3. Provide for measures to encourage training, consultancy and information on the issues related to the sustainable use of plant protection measures.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture (ŽUM)</td>
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<td>2. Ensure that distributors who place plant protection products on the</td>
<td>2.1. Recommend that representatives of the producers of plant protection products post on their websites the labelling of all the latest plant protection products available on the market as well as other general information regarding the risks to human health and the environment of the use of plant protection products.</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>VAT</td>
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<td>market provide users of plant protection products with detailed</td>
<td>2.2. Ensure compliance with specific safety measures indicated on the labels of plant protection products in order to reduce the risks associated with plant protection products.</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>VAT</td>
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<td>information regarding the risks to human health and the environment</td>
<td>2.3. Disseminate, via training initiatives, the media and the internet, information on good and bad practices related to exposure to plant protection products at work and preventive measures in place.</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>VAT</td>
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<td>arising from the use of plant protection products, safety requirements,</td>
<td>2.4. Prepare a publication on the Safe Use of Plant Protection Products to cover all stages of using such products.</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>ŽÚM</td>
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<td>proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal of plant</td>
<td>2.5. Ensure that all distributors of plant protection products involved in their direct sale have completed training programmes and are able, during sales operations, to</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>VAT</td>
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<td>protection products.</td>
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provide professional and non-professional users of plant protection products with relevant information on the use of plant protection products, the risks they may pose to human health and the environment, and safety instructions regarding risk management related to the products in question.

| 3. Design programmes to inform the general public about the use of non-chemical measures, the risks and the potential acute and chronic effects on human health, non-target organisms and the environment arising from the use of plant protection products, and protect the general public from risks associated with the use of plant protection products. |
| 3.1. Design a virtual, objective information system covering the registration, action, safe use of plant protection products, their impact on human health and the environment, non-target organisms, integrated harmful organism management, application of non-chemical measures, etc. | 2013 | ŽŪM, ŽMMC, VAT, Ministry of Health (SAM), Ministry of the Environment (AM), |
| 3.2. Hold presentations on the safe use of plant protection products at agricultural shows and other events. | Continuous | ŽMMC |
| 3.3. Gather and publish information on incidents of acute poisoning that involve plant protection products. | Continuous | SAM, ŽŪM, VAT |
| 3.4. Disseminate, via training initiatives, the media and the internet, information on the effects of plant protection products on their users and preventive measures in place. | Continuous | ŽMMC, VAT, ŽŪM, SAM |
| 3.5. Include stakeholders and associations bringing together producers, distributors, vendors, consultants or users of plant protection products into working groups dealing with the safe use of plant protection products and/or awareness-raising. | Continuous | ŽŪM, VAT, SAM, AM |

| 4. Ensure that only inspected plant protection product spraying equipment is authorised for the professional use of plant protection products. |
| 4.1. Develop and expand a database on plant protection product spraying equipment for professional use. | 2014 | VAT, ŽŪM |
| 4.2. Ensure that high-quality inspections are carried out by all entities delivering spray equipment inspection services. | Continuous | State Station for Machine Testing under the Ministry of Agriculture |
| 4.3. Ensure that only inspected sprayers in good technical condition, equipped with nozzles capable of producing the homogeneous spray pattern in a desired amount are used for the application of plant protection products, so as to avoid unreasonable spread of plant protection products, environmental pollution and negative effects for persons operating plant protection products. | Continuous | VAT |

| 5. Ensure that aerial spraying of plant protection products is carried out exclusively under conditions laid |
| 5.1. K the competent authorities and the general public informed about requests to issue single permits for aerial spraying of plant protection products and approvals | Continuous | AM |
down by the Law on Plant Protection.

### 5.2. Carry out surveillance of aerial application of plant protection products.

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<th>VAT, AM</th>
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### 6. Ensure implementation of measures to protect surface water and groundwater from plant protection product pollution.

- **6.1. Review legislation addressing protection of surface water and groundwater from the impact of plant protection products and submit proposals regarding legislative improvements.**
  - 2013
  - AM, ŽÚM

### 7. Ensure application of adequate risk management measures in protected sites, areas of the Community’s ecological network Natura 2000 and in areas where plant protection products were recently used.

- **7.1. Bring into use plant protection products and other methods of plant protection in protected sites, areas of the Community’s ecological network Natura 2000 and in areas where plant protection products were recently used, and assess whether adequate risk management measures are in place.**
  - Continuous
  - VAT

### 8. Approve measures ensuring the storage of plant protection products and guarantee the proper handling, recovery and disposal of the waste plant protection product packaging.

- **8.1. Review legislation dealing with the handling, storage and disposal of PPP packaging waste and table proposals regarding legislative improvements.**
  - 2014
  - ŽÚM, AM, VAT

- **8.2. Elaborate rules for the process engineering of plant protection product storing.**
  - 2013
  - ŽÚM

### 9. Promote harmful organism management through the application of the general principles of integrated harmful organism management listed in Annex 2, and establish the necessary measures for their implementation.

- **9.1. Set damage thresholds for organisms harmful to outdoor, horticultural and agricultural plants, design practical schemes for disease and pest monitoring.**
  - 2012–2017
  - ŽÚM

- **9.2. Conduct research into the effectives of plant protection products and their changes.**
  - Continuous
  - ŽÚM

- **9.3. In line with the latest research findings, prepare and regularly update economically beneficial plant growing techniques that are safe for human health and the environment, and are aimed at reducing the use of plant protection products through application of integrated harmful organism management.**
  - Continuous
  - ŽÚM

- **9.4. Establish a common system to forecast the spread of diseases and pests, and ensure timely publishing of such information.**
  - Continuous
  - ŽÚM
| 9.5. Determine the value of new cultivars and those already registered, evaluate their sensitivity to diseases, and make relevant data available to the public. | Continuous | ŽUM |
| 9.6. Provide for measures to encourage agricultural entities to apply integrated harmful organism management in their holdings. | 2014 | ŽUM |
| 9.7. Review the Rules on plant protection product control and include in them provisions regarding integrated harmful organism management. | 2013 | VAT |
| 9.8. Ensure compliance with the principles of integrated harmful organism management. | Continuous | VAT |
| 9.9. Keep agricultural operators informed and encourage them to develop organic farming. | Continuous | ŽUM |
| 9.10. Provide for measures to encourage registration of biological plant protection products. | 2013 | VAT |

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<th>10. Establish indicators showing progress in the achievement of the objectives of the Plan.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental indicators</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.1. Increase in the number of certified spraying equipment for the professional use of plant protection products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.2. Increase in the number of plant protection product spraying equipment fitted with devices and/or special nozzles to reduce spray drift to on non-target organisms.</td>
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<td>10.3. Reduction in the content of hazardous active substances in registered plant protection products.</td>
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</table>

<p>| Social indicators |
| 10.4. Reduction of residue levels of plant protection products in foods of plant origin. | Reporting period - 2010 | State Food and Veterinary Service |
| 10.5. Increase in the number of distributors, consultants and professional users of plant protection products holding certificates of completion of plant protection training. | Reporting period - 2012 | VAT |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Economic indicators</th>
<th>Reporting period - 2012</th>
<th>VAT</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.6. Increase in the number of registered biological plant protection products.</td>
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<td>10.7. Changes in the amount of utilised quantities of active substances of plant protection products.</td>
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*Addition of paragraphs 10.4 and 10.7:*

LIST OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATED HARMFUL ORGANISM MANAGEMENT

Professional users of plant protection products shall observe the following requirements:

1. To follow crop rotation.
2. To use adequate cultivation techniques (e.g. stale seedbed technique, conservation tillage and direct sowing.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No 3D-704 of 4 September 2012, Official Gazette 2012, No 105-5354 (8 September 2012)

3. To follow adequate sowing dates and densities, under-sowing techniques.
4. To use resistant/tolerant cultivars and high-quality seed and planting material.
5. To use balanced fertilisation, liming and irrigation practices.
6. To prevent the spreading of harmful organisms by hygiene measures (e.g. by regular cleansing of application, cultivation, sowing and harvesting machinery and equipment).
7. Where available, to use non-chemical technologies and measures, and biological plant protection products that preserve beneficial organisms inside and outside crop sites.
8. To comply with the results of the monitoring of harmful organisms, scientifically sound warning, forecasting and early diagnosis systems for the spread of harmful organisms as well as to use advice from professionally qualified plant protection advisors.
9. Based on the results of the monitoring of harmful organisms, to decide whether and when to apply plant protection measures. Robust and scientifically sound recommendations are important for making decisions regarding the use of chemical plant protection products. For harmful organisms threshold levels defined for specific areas, crops and particular climatic conditions must be taken into account.
10. Sustainable biological, physical and other non-chemical methods must be preferred if they provide satisfactory harmful organism control.
11. The plant protection products applied shall be as specific as possible for the target and shall have the least side effects on human and animal health, non-target organisms and the environment.
12. To keep the use of plant protection products and other methods to levels that are necessary, e.g. by reduced doses of plant protection products, reduced application frequency or partial applications, without increasing the risk of resistance developing in populations of harmful organisms.
13. Where the risk of resistance of harmful organisms against a specific plant protection product is known, available anti-resistance strategies should be applied. This may include the use of multiple plant protection products of different chemical groups and different modes of treatment.
14. Based on the records on the use of plant protection products and on the monitoring of harmful organisms, to check the success of the applied plant protection measures.

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Amendments:

1.

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Order

No 3D-704 of 4 September 2012, Official Gazette 2012, No 105-5354 (8 September 2012)

REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF ORDER NO 3D-535 OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE OF 29 JUNE 2012 “ON THE APPROVAL OF A PLANT PROTECTION PLAN”

*** The end ***

Edited by Laimutė Aleksejevienė, Chief Officer (12 September 2012)

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