



Chapter 4: Farming

4.6 Agrochemicals Management

4.6.1 - 4.6.4

Agrochemicals management 4.6.1 - 4.6.4

This activity covers requirements that focus on the **allowed uses** and **safe handling** of agrochemicals.



4.6 Agrochemicals Management

No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.1	<p>No <u>agrochemicals</u> are used that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides or List of <u>Obsolete Pesticides</u> • Prohibited by applicable law • Not legally registered in the country where the farm is located <p>Producers use only agrochemicals sold by authorized vendors, in original and sealed packaging.</p> <p>Chemical substances used for livestock or pets are not included in the scope of this standard</p> <p>Applicable to group management in case the group management has a purchasing task.</p> <p><i>Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.6.2	<p>Producers using pesticides on the Risk Mitigation list must implement all related practices described in the Farming Annex.</p> <p>Producers using pesticides under the Exceptional Use Policy must follow all respective practices detailed in this policy and adhere to the procedure for requesting and reporting exceptions as outlined in the annex.</p> <p><i>Please see A-07-SCRL-B-FA –Farming Annex</i></p> <p><i>Please see A-12-SCRL-B-FA Exceptional Use Policy: Granted Exceptions and their Conditions for Using Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticides</i></p>	✓	✓		✓
4.6.3	<p>Pesticide handlers are trained annually in preparation and application. They use <u>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</u> as specified by the product label or <u>Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)</u>, or <u>basic protective clothing</u> based on risk when no information is available. PPE must be in good condition, washed and stored safely after use, and not taken into workers' housing. Single-use items are disposed of after one use.</p> <p>PPE is provided for free, and farm/group management records, monitors, and enforces PPE usage.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

Read the requirements and their applicability before you move on to the next page

Prohibited Agrochemicals



No agrochemicals are used that are:

- On the Rainforest Alliance List of Prohibited Pesticides or List of Obsolete Pesticides
- Prohibited by applicable law
- Not legally registered in the country of production

Please see: Farming Annex

Rainforest Alliance Lists



Let's take a quick look at the process of consulting the Rainforest Alliance's **List of Prohibited Pesticides** and **List of Obsolete Pesticides** using Amina, a manager of an individually certified farm.

Before using any agrochemical, she needs to check if it is prohibited:

- ✓ Review both lists
- ✓ Look for the active ingredient
- ✓ Sometimes the active ingredient can be confusing so she should also check the **CAS number**

No.	PROHIBITED PESTICIDES Active ingredient or group	CAS number
1	Abamectin	71751-41-2
2	Acetochlor	34256-82-1
3	Acrolein	107-02-8

Please see: Farming Annex

Country Laws



In addition to the Rainforest Alliance documentation, Amina also needs to check that:

- The agrochemical is **not prohibited** by law in her country.
- The agrochemical is **legally registered** in her country.
 - It does not need to be registered for the specific crop, but it does have to be registered for use.

From the moment Amina decides to opt for certification, she needs to ensure that she doesn't use any of these categories of agrochemicals.

4.6.1

Authorized vendors and original, sealed packaging



When she purchases agrochemicals, Amina should only buy from **authorized vendors**, in **original and sealed** packaging.

She should not buy chemicals that have been repackaged into other bottles. She can never be sure of its content, and without the original label, she is missing critical information about the product.



Please see: Farming Annex

Exceptional Use Policy (EUP)

The Rainforest Alliance understands that sometimes there are no alternatives to certain prohibited agrochemicals and phasing them out takes time.

In such cases, exceptions for using these substances can be granted.

These exceptions are **specific to a country, a particular crop, and a specific pest or disease**.

Once an exception is granted in the policy, all producers with that specific combination can use the substance for a limited period of time.

Producers using these substances must **follow the conditions and risk mitigation measures** listed in the policy and comply with **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** and agrochemicals management requirements of the Rainforest Alliance Standard.

The Rainforest Alliance reviews and publishes accepted exceptions every six months.

Exceptional Use Policy (EUP)

Producers need to report the use, from January first to December 31st, of the substances covered by the policy during the first two months of the following year using this template. [Annual Pesticides Report / Reporte Anual de Uso de Plaguicidas](#)

Requests for Exceptional Use need to be submitted using the following form:

[Requests for Exceptional Use of Pesticides / Solicitudes de Uso Excepcional de Plaguicidas](#)

You can also find out more details on the Exceptional Use Policy and Procedure by following this e-course:

<https://learn.ra.org/course/view.php?id=4478>

More information can also be found in the Farming Annex and Exceptional Use Policy.

Please see: Farming Annex

Exceptional Use Policy: Granted Exceptions and their Conditions for Using Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticides

Case scenario

Amina is considering using Lorsban to control the coffee berry borer infestation in her field.



Lorsban is registered in her country, and its application for coffee is legally allowed in the country.

She checked the Rainforest Alliance Prohibited Pesticide List and did not see Lorsban on the list.

38	Chlormephos
39	Chlorophacinone
40	Chlorothalonil
41	Chlorotoluron
42	Chlorpyrifos
43	Chlorpyrifos-methyl
44	Clothianidin
45	Coumaphos
46	Coumatetralyl



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Can she apply Lorsban in his field according to the requirement 4.6.1?

Think about the answer before you move on to the next page

Case scenario - Solution

The answer is, “No.” When she checks the Prohibited Pesticide List, she needs to **check the active ingredient of the product, not the brand name.**

The active ingredient of Lorsban is chlorpyrifos, and chlorpyrifos is on the Prohibited Pesticide list. Therefore, this product cannot be used on her farm. Amina also checked the Exceptional Use Policy to see if there were any exceptions, but there are none for her crop, coffee. Therefore, she cannot use chlorpyrifos.

38	Chlormephos
39	Chlorophacinone
40	Chlorothalonil
41	Chlorotoluron
42	Chlorpyrifos
43	Chlorpyrifos-methyl
44	Clothianidin
45	Coumaphos
46	Coumatetralyl

Chlorpyrifos* For banana Only allowed to be used for impregnated plastics. For pineapple Application with closed cabin tractor is the only permitted application method. Use is permitted before flowering only.	2921-88-2	Chronic toxicity	Mealybugs (<i>Pseudococcus</i> sp., <i>Ferrisia</i> sp., <i>Dysmicoccus</i> sp.), Aphids (<i>Pentalonia</i> sp.), Scarring beetle (<i>Colaspis</i> sp.)	Banana	Colombia Costa Rica Ecuador Guatemala Honduras Philippines	December 31, 2026
			Symphylan (<i>Scutigerella immaculata</i>)	Pineapple	Costa Rica Ecuador Ivory Coast	December 31, 2026



List of Risk Mitigation Pesticides

The Risk Mitigation List has been developed based on different risk categories:

- Higher-level Personal Protection required
- Risk to aquatic life
- Risk to terrestrial wildlife
- Risk to Pollinators
- Bystander risk (people who do not handle pesticides but are exposed to pesticides by inhalation)

The pesticides that are on the Risk Mitigation list can be used only when the respective risk mitigation measures are implemented and within the context of the IPM strategy.

The list indicates which agrochemical has which types of risks. For each category of risk, there are risk mitigation measures to be implemented.

4.6.2

Significant acute or chronic risks

If Amina uses an agrochemical which has a risk of causing **significant acute** or **chronic risks** to pesticide handlers, and if its label does not provide details on PPE, **higher level PPE** is required:

- ✓ Coverall over long-sleeved shirt
- ✓ Long pants
- ✓ Socks and stout shoes
- ✓ Chemically resistant gloves
- ✓ Protection for eyes
- ✓ Respiratory protection



4.6.2

Aquatic or terrestrial wildlife risk

If Amina uses a chemical which has **aquatic risk** or a **risk to terrestrial wildlife**, mechanisms need to be established to avoid contamination by spray drift or other pathways.

Such mechanisms include the establishment of non-application zones or non-crop vegetative barriers. The details of non-application zones and vegetative barriers will be explained later in the module, under the requirement **4.6.6**.



Pollinator Risk

If Amina uses a chemical which can pose a risk to pollinators, she needs to follow these risk mitigation practices.

- Use the chemical only if less toxic pesticides are unavailable.
- Establish **non-application zones** or vegetative **barriers**.
- Avoid applying to flowering weeds.
- Avoid applying during the crop's peak flowering period (except for bananas, cocoa, grapes, lemongrass, pineapple, psyllium, sugar cane, and tea).



For Bystanders:

- Enforce Restricted Entry Intervals (REI).
- Flag all application sites to indicate risk.
- Pesticide handlers must use respirators with an organic vapor (OV) cartridge or canister with any N, R, P, or 100-series filter.



4.6.3

Pesticide handlers are trained annually

It is important that persons handling pesticides know well how to prepare and apply pesticides safely and effectively.

They need to receive training at least annually.



4.6.3

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Persons handling pesticides need to use PPE, as prescribed in the product's label or **Material Safety Data Sheet** (MSDS).

[illegible]

PPE is indicated in the bottom part of a product label.

4.6.3

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



If neither the label nor the MSDS contains information on PPE, you should wear basic protective clothing with additional items according to the potential risk and as recommended by a competent technician.

4.6.3



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- As prescribed in the **product's label or MSDS** (Material Safety Data Sheet)
- In **good condition**
- **Washed** directly after use, **stored safely**, and not taken to workers' housing
- Disposable PPE, should be used only once
- PPE should be provided to workers **free of charge**
- There should be a system to **record, monitor, and enforce** the use of PPE

Case scenario



A worker on Amina's farm is applying agrochemical as can be seen in the photo.

The product that he is applying requires the following PPE during application:



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Is this worker compliant with the requirement?

Think about the answer before you move on to the next page

Case scenario - Solution

The answer is, "No."

The label requires gloves during the application, but this worker is not wearing gloves.

The farmer looks as if he is wearing a respirator, but if you take a closer look, his respirator is barely covering his mouth and is not covering his nose. The label requires covering all his face, but his eyes and nose are exposed.

If you take a close look at his feet, he is wearing normal walking shoes that can absorb chemicals. He is not wearing boots. Therefore, he is not wearing any of the PPE required on the label.



No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
4.6.4	Pesticide handlers must bathe, change, and wash clothes after application. Management should provide them with a private area, water, soap, and, if possible, bathing facilities.	✓	✓	✓	✓



*Read the requirement and its applicability
before you move on to the next page*

4.6.4

Bathing and changing clothes

Amina needs to ensure that persons handling pesticide, **bathe, change** and **wash clothes** after application.

Management needs to provide an area with **privacy, water, soap**, and if possible, **bathing facilities**.

Washed PPE should stay on the farm.





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