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## The Oil Palm Industry's Approach to the Use of Pesticides in Papua New Guinea

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*Oil palm in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is grown by both smallholders and plantations under what is known as a Nucleus Estate/Smallholder model, which together account for more than 120 000 ha of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) grown in PNG. The industry as a whole is concerned with the health and safety of its workforce, and its impact upon the environment. As an entity, the industry is striving to obtain ISO 14001 certification for all aspects of its operations. Foremost in its thinking has been the use of pesticides within the plantations. With the environmental responsibilities of ISO 14001, the use of pesticides is strictly controlled, and is managed in accordance with ISO 14001 principles. In the example provided, herbicides account for 91 per cent of all pesticide use, while insecticides for pest control (other than malaria) account for 5.7 per cent. The strict control of herbicides has reduced their use by almost a half between 1998 and 2002, while a well developed IPM programme is in use by the industry and is being continually refined. Specific reference is made to the IPM strategies employed to control populations of long-horned grasshoppers, present in PNG, which can defoliate oil palm in large outbreaks and can cause serious economic damage.*

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