



Experiences in Belgium

Federal pesticides reduction program

Esmeralda Borgo



Bond Beter Leefmilieu
KOEPEL VAN MILIEUVERENIGINGEN Vlaanderen...



Federal program to reduce PPP/biocides



Legal basis : law on product standards (21/12/98)

– 29/04/03: Art. 8bis added:

- *National* pesticides reduction program, to be revised every 2 years
- Must include clear objectives
- Development of an indicator



Both PPP as biocides

Federal program to reduce PPP/biocides

-  Only federal while regions and even communities have a lot of competences on PPP (no national program)
-  The obligation to set up a co-operation agreement between the federal government, the regions and communities has been removed from the law (22/12/03)
-  Many aspects of PUR can not be included
-  A working group was established between these authorities: co-operation on a informal basis



First program (12/04)

- Objectives :
 - To reduce the negative impact of the use of PPP for agricultural purposes with 25% no later than 2010 in comparison with 2001
 - To reduce the negative impact of the use of biocides and of PPP for non-agricultural purposes with 50% no later than 2010 in comparison with 2001
 - “No scientific basis...” - objectives will be “refined” before the end of 2006.
- Implementation under supervision of a steering group (stakeholder group, including 1 representative of an environmental NGO)



Choice of indicator (PPP)

 Objective : the reduction of the **impact** of pesticides

 Indicator : PRIBEL

– Pesticide Risk assessment Indicator for **BELgium**

- Use data will be based on sale data
- Takes into account: risk for consumers, applicators, birds, bees, water organisms, earthworms and leaching to groundwater
- Depending on situation, some of these indices may be considered as negligible (“expert judgement”)
- Aggregation of the risk indices into a global risk indicator

 Resistance by all stakeholders (except NGO's) to calculate the Treatment Frequency indicator



Most important measures (PPP) (1)

- Mandatory record keeping (01/01/06)
- Split up authorizations PPP for professional/agricultural use - non-professional use
- Program to reduce pesticides residues on food
- improvement of technical measures during use of PPP / application equipment



Most important measures (PPP) (2)

- Website with information on products, licenses, licensees
- Creating awareness
- Transparency
- Tax based on risk (R-phrases)
 - To be paid in a fund
 - Budget used to implement pesticides reduction program
 - Special council to approve projects (50% of the members are from industry, 50% public authorities, no NGO's)



Most important measures (PPP) (3)

- Working groups to set up a pesticide reduction plan for several cultivations
 - Cereals, maize, beet, fruit,...
- Licence for pesticide operators (+ education requirement)



Conclusion

- First program lacks ambition but is at least a first step in a new process
- Legal basis (law)
- Co-operation needed between federal government, regions and communities
- Involvement of stakeholders from the beginning and during implementation:
 - positive
 - but also fear for participation trap (e.g. choice of PRIBEL indicator)
 - Even when there is a general agreement between stakeholders = no guarantee for implementation (e.g. pesticide use reporting)