HOLLAND, LAND OF FLOWER BULBS AND PESTICIDES



USE OF PESTICIDES IN THE NETHERLANDS



GOVERNMENT ACTION

Several attemps to reduce pesticide use:

- Multi-year crop protection plan (95-2000), 50% reduction target not met;
- No-unless principle and ICM (2000present) stuck in mud of selfregulation.

WHAT DID WE LEARN MOST?

- Focus on individual farmer
- Focus on concrete crop practices
- Regulate and enforce.

ICM PROVEN STRATEGY

- Crop-wise prevention strategy available
- Proven since 20 years
- Pesticide reduction up to 90%

ICM strategy: hierarchy of methods & practices.

- 1. Prevention
- 2. Technical methods for crop growing
- 3. Pest-warning and decision-predicting systems
- 4. Non-chemical plant protection
- 5. Chemical plant protection
- 6. Emission reduction

1. Prevention

- Disease-free starting material;
- Cleaning of equipment;
- Choice of soil (organic matter/clay);
- Crop rotation frequency;
- Increasing biodiversity of soils;
- Etc.

2. Technical methods for crop growing.

- Use of resistant varieties;
- Increasing plant distances;
- Registration of unbalanced soil areas;
- Crop planning for mechanical weeding;
- Etc.

3. Pest warning and decisionprediction systems

- Information on presence of pests by scouting, sensors, or on-line services;
- Connection to decision-supporting plant protection systems;
- Etc.

4. Non-chemical plant protection

- Mechanical weeding;
- Biological control/ refuges for natural enemies of pests;
- Nutrient management;
- Use of non-synthetic products;
- Etc.

5. Chemical plant protection

- Use of selective chemicals;
- Spot-wise use of chemicals or 'on-target';
- Chemicals combined to prediction system;
- Chemicals on recipe for calamities;
- Maximum total dosage in kg/ha.year;
- Etc.

6. Emission reduction.

- Use of air-jet spraying equipment;
- Spraying in absence of wind;
- Non-spraying zones;
- Etc.

Not a lack of information Not money Neither techniques, is the problem, but, A lack of strong incentives on farm level.