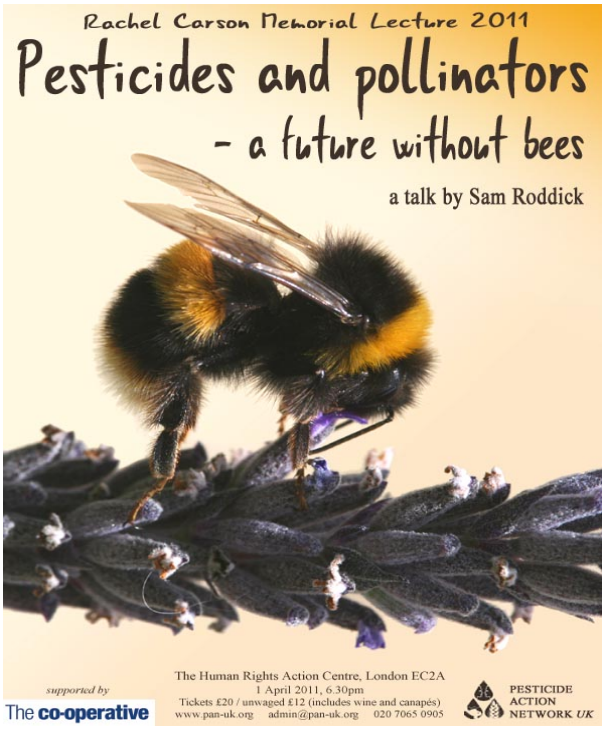
PAN EUROPE NEWSLETTER
Summer 2011.

Pesticides Action Network Europe

1. BEES & BEE FRIENDLY COMPETITION



Rachel Carson Memorial.
(By Nick Mole, PAN-UK).

This year PAN UK dedicated their Rachel Carson lecturer to the link between pesticides and pollinators, giving focus to the bee friendly competition…

Pesticides and pollinators – a future without bees…

Honeybees have been hitting the headlines recently, as their numbers have been falling alarmingly. Numerous other species of bee and other pollinators have also been on the decline.

So what has this got to do with pesticides?

It is fair to say that the precise role of pesticides in bee deaths is unclear, given the many pressures on bee populations, such as parasites and diseases. However, what is recognised is that there are three issues related to pesticide use that could be part of the problem:

- Toxic pesticides having acute or chronic effects on bee health
- The effects of pesticides as stressors on bees making them more susceptible to parasitic, microbial and viral attack

- And loss of foraging habitat due to overuse of herbicides and widespread monocultures in agriculture

The loss of pollinators is of deep concern, not least because we depend on them for food: it's thought that a third of our food comes from crops pollinated by insects. Dwindling insect numbers will also impact on the bird and mammal species that feed on them. Not to mention the intrinsic value of these extraordinary and fascinating creatures

Bee Friendly Farmer of the Year

PAN UK will be presenting the award for the British heats of a new annual competition to find the 'European Integrated Production Farmer/Grower of the Year'. The aim is to recognise and reward those farmers and growers making an extra effort to produce food sustainably, and to inspire other farmers to do the same. The theme for 2011 is 'Bee-friendly Practices'.

PAN Europe starts identifying bee friendly agricultural practices to make Integrated Production more concrete

(By Henriette Christensen, PAN Europe).

Several factors act as driving forces for pollinator population instability. Starting from habitat deterioration and pollution due to human activities, increased sensitivity of pollinators to diseases, or the agricultural model based on monoculture and chemical utilisation.

In order to help stem bee decline, a holistic approach is needed. Since 60% of the honey production in Europe is linked to farmland, actions taken by farmers greatly contribute to the well being of bees.

In an attempt to transform words into actions, PAN Europe and the European Beekeeping Coordination launched last year their initiative to identify conventional and Integrated Pest Management-practice farmers who are making a difference. The aim was to recognise and reward those producers who perform sustainable agricultural practices, supporting environmental protection at the same time as growing crops profitably. In doing so, not only do they protect our health, environment and biodiversity , but also combat climate change .

In our publication from last year (http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/SSP_EN.pdf) agriculture poses certain threats for bees linked to GM-crops, monoculture (including dependency on imported soybeans), and pesticide application can cause mortalities, probably in combination with other factors, or disruption of behaviour. Bees need variety like crop rotations with (flowering) protein crops (legumes), and a diversified environment, where crops are interspersed with hedges and rows of wood or grove, where wetlands and grass-land can still flourish.

PAN Europe and European Beekeeping Coordination established in 2010 a pilot project for a Europe-wide "Bee friendly competition" for conventional farmers who believe they deliver special benefits to bees. The project was launched in the United Kingdom by distributing a questionnaire among farmers. In the future, this initiative will be developed in other counties.

The aim is to create a platform of discussion and constructive work among different actors through the building of a win-win relationship. The project brings together farmers, beekeepers, bee experts, environmental NGOs and organisations working on Biological Control (IOBC). The 2010 pilot experience enabled us to identify farmer groups interested in,

and working for defining sustainable agricultural practices for bees. Few, but very interesting answers were received, allowing the identification of good agricultural practices to preserve pollinators, including in addition to the practices mentioned above:
- Long term plan based around positive management to increase both food production and all bio-diversity on this farm (including bees).
- Crop rotation with protein crops;
- Protect natural areas and invite the local community to observe biodiversity changes

The low number of applications made it impossible to identify a real winner this year. However, the jury was happy to find great potential among the participants and might offer further advice to these farmers. In doing so, they will be in a better position to be winners next year

2. NEWS FROM THE NETWORK.

Pesticide campaign Nature & Progrès Belgium.

(By François de Gaultier, Nature and Progress Belgium).
Last September, after 35 years of promoting organic gardening and agriculture, Nature & Progrès Belgium decided to sniff out the stinking reality of pesticides. We have always declared that pesticides were unnecessary and harmful, but during that time their use in private homes has been increasing...
We learned at that time that one third of pesticides used in Belgium are used by amateurs! However, the same products are sold to members of the public and professionals, whereas only professionals are subject to use regulations (sprayers and storage) and only a few must be trained (sellers). How can you leave in the hands of inexperienced, untrained and misinformed amateurs some products whose toxicity toward living things is usually the first "quality"? We set ourselves an ambitious and long-term objective of banning sale of pesticides to the public. Nothing less!

To increase our knowledge of the sale and use of these products, we have mobilized our members to make careful observations of marketing methods of pesticides. Currently, our members are visiting retailers to survey practical sale aspects, presentation, packaging and

labeling as well as retail staff knowledge of alternative methods of pest control. The information collected is transmitted to us and builds up the basis of a report on the danger that manufacturers of pesticides pose to the individual and their environment. We intend to highlight the impossibility to prevent accidents and contamination when individuals make use of these products with very high toxicity. The survey results in retail outlets will be announced at our annual organic fair in, to be held 3-5 September
For more information visit: www.natpro.be and www.valériane.be

The Pesticide Reduction Program (PRP) of GLOBAL 2000

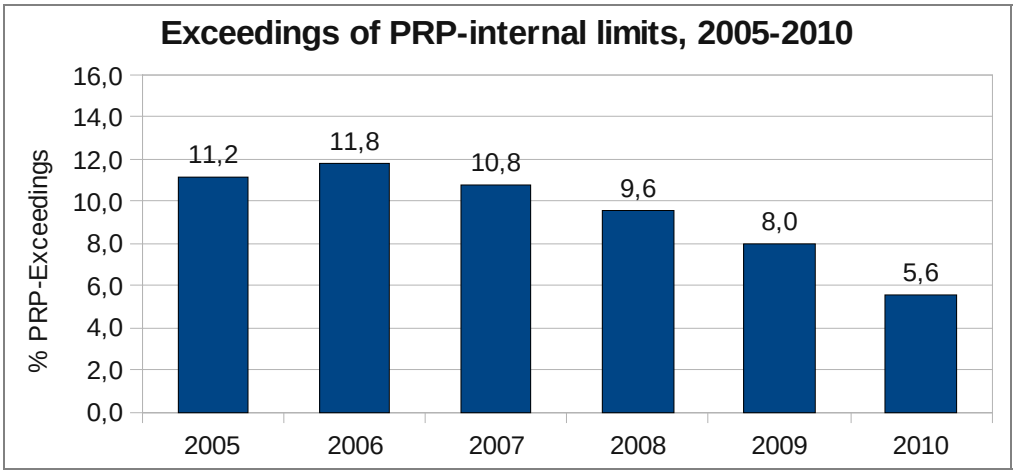
(By Waltraud Novak, Global 2000)
In February 2002 GLOBAL2000, the Austrian Environment Protection Organisation, tested peppers from Spain and found pesticide residues much higher than the permitted legal limits. As a contribution for solving the general problem of pesticide residues in food, GLOBAL 2000 designed a program to alleviate the pesticide situation for fruits and vegetables. Since 2003, this program is implemented in partnership with REWE International AG supermarkets in Austria.
The program focuses on a step by step reduction of residues of fruits and vegetables. Internal upper limits were set which are mainly based on the ADI (Accpetable Daily Intake) values for each pesticide and product. Besides compliance with MRL (Maximum Residue Level) and ARfD (Acute Reference Dose), suppliers and producers of fruit and vegetable have to fulfill rigorous PRP-limits, which are in most cases much lower than the legal upper limits. Furthermore, the so-called “cocktail-effect” is taken into account by assessing the combined effect of the pesticides, expressed by an additional internal limit, the “Sum of Exposure”.

The goals of the PRP are:
A reduced pesticide burden in our resources: Water, soil and air.
Advantages for consumers: The additional level of quality control reduces the risk of consuming contaminated products.
Safety for delivery and sales persons: A clearly reduced risk of legal action or negative public relations caused by contaminated products.
Reduction of health risks for producers: Reduction of total exposure and careful selection of pest control methods used improves the working conditions in the fruit and vegetable production business.

To achieve the aim of the PRP, the team of GLOBAL 2000 cooperates intensively with suppliers and producers and encourages alternative plant protection methods and optimisation and reduction of chemical pesticide use. GLOBAL 2000 also conducts practical field tests about the efficiency and practicability of natural pest and disease controlling methods.

The results of the regular pesticide-analyses show a marked reduction in the number of exceedances of the internal PRP-upper-limits in recent years (see graph). It has to be underlined that these internal limits are very stringent and in most cases much lower than the official upper limits (MRL).

The Pesticide Reduction Program is thus a successful way of providing consumers with residue-free fruits and vegetables and helping protect consumers health and the environment.



SIXth edition of the Week for Alternatives to Pesticides.

(By Malissa Phitthayaphone, Generation Futures)

From 20 to 30 March 2011 the 6th annual Week for Alternatives to Pesticides took place, event initiated by a group of associations and coordinated by Future Generations (formerly MDRGF).

This Week is an opportunity for many organizations, communities, citizens or businesses to publicize their work by organizing activities to educate the public about issues related to synthetic chemical pesticides and promoting alternatives to their use. It was also the occasion to remind policy makers of the major issues surrounding these topics and their responsibilities and commitments, in particular during the Grenelle Environment (France's policy debate with citizens).

The balance of this year's Week is positive with 15 countries engaged, over 730 organizations and 230 shares were listed on the website of the campaign, an increase of 23% since 2010. Stakeholders have organized screenings and debates, lectures, visits to organic farms, workshops around the organic vegetable garden, shows, etc.. For 2011, symbolic steps to say "Yes to alternatives to pesticides" were organized all over France and Africa. The idea was to march in a festive and family event to show that many citizens are in favour of alternatives to pesticides.

One highlight of the 2011 Week in France has been the creation of the association Phyto-Victims group of occupational victims of pesticides.
The creation of this adventure began in January 2010. Future Generations and HEAL lifted the veil on the victims of pesticides in organizing a briefing and discussion at Ruffec (Poitou-Charentes), in collaboration with Paul Francis, a conventional farmer who was poisoned with a herbicide during the opening of the sprayer. The objective of this meeting was to bring together victims of pesticides in order to exchange and collect testimonies from people (farmers and individuals) sick or made ill due to pesticide exposure. This meeting was filmed by Marie Monique Robin, and is the subject of an early sequence of her new film "Our daily poison."

Following this meeting, everyone felt the need to continue. That is why a year later we decided we had to find ways to take action by coming together again and launching the association Phyto-Victims to help victims of occupational pesticide harm. The objectives are, among others, to inform the impact of pesticides to health professionals to assist their patients in providing legal advice and medical scientists, to identify the number of people suffering from diseases related to their professional activities but also help victims to change their practices and move towards more environmentally friendly alternatives. Given these objectives, the launch of the association during the Week for Alternatives to Pesticides was therefore quite natural and more than symbolic. The site dedicated to the association will soon be online http://www.phyto-victimes.fr

For more information on pesticides, go to the site of Future Generations: http://www.generations-futures.fr, and on the website of the Week for Alternatives to Pesticides http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.com

From the 20th-30th of March 2011 the South of Belgium went Pesticide-Free!

(By Bastien Domken, ADALIA)
For the 4th time The Pesticide-free Week was held all across Wallonia during the 10 first days of spring. A total of 106 events took place, inviting families, gardeners, and professionals to discover ways of replacing chemical pesticides. ADALIA, a non-profit organization, decided in 2008 to join the French initiative by coordinating their own campaign, funded by the Wallonian government.

Our goal is to draw people's attention all over the region to the dangers of using pesticides and especially to show practical ways to reduce their use. People could choose amongst a large variety of activities such as conferences, exhibitions, visits, guided walks, organic gardening tips, etc, … organized by local public authorities, gardening stores, environmental organizations, or simply dedicated people to our cause.

The first step for someone to participate and organize an activity during the campaign is to contact us for help and then fill in a form on our website www.semainesanspesticides.be (not yet in English), after which their event shows up on the program and they receive free

promotion material such as flyers and posters. Adalia also gives away information booklets warning about the dangers of using chemical pesticides and how to garden without them.

We organize our own events and collaborate with gardening stores willing to take part by hiring a student who will advise the shop's clients on which (ecological) product to choose. In this way we are able to inform people who are not particularly aware of the campaign. We promote the "Semaine Sans Pesticides" by contacting the press, the radio and the television and, since this year, by using other networks such as Facebook.

Week for Alternatives to Pesticides in Macedonia

(By Tomica Ancevski, MADE)

On 20 March 2011 the Association of Doctors for the Environment MADE – Kumanovo, Republic of Macedonia, organized a walk with posters for pesticides alternatives.

Members of MADE took posters along the streets to show messages. The citizens which we meet during our walk stop us and ask what we are doing? We tell them about PAN – Europe, that MADE are part of PAN, about the aims of the Week without Pesticides, about organic food. The public show great interest and some joined MADE in their walk.

On 27 March MADE organized a meeting with health workers to give them short lessons about consequences of using pesticides and how they can be part of this global movement. With these events, MADE has successfully increased awareness about acute and chronic poisoning of pesticides.

3. CHEMICALS.

Those Who Have the Gold Make the Evidence: How the Pharmaceutical Industry Biases the Outcomes of Clinical Trials of Medications.

(Recent research of Joel Lexchin, Univ. Toronto, published in Sci Eng Ethics, DOI 10.1007/s11948-011-9265-3, showing possible ways of bias in industry studies)

Pharmaceutical companies fund the bulk of clinical research that is carried out on medications. Poor outcomes from these studies can have negative effects on sales of medicines. Previous research has shown that company funded research is much more likely to yield positive outcomes than research with any other sponsorship. The aim of this article is to investigate the possible ways in which bias can be introduced into research outcomes by drawing on concrete examples from the published literature. Poorer methodology in industry-funded research is not likely to account for the biases seen. Biases are introduced through a variety of measures including the choice of comparator agents, multiple publication of positive trials and non-publication of negative trials, reinterpreting data submitted to regulatory agencies, discordance between results and conclusions, conflict-of-interest leading to more positive conclusions, ghostwriting and the use of ''seeding'' trials. Thus far, efforts to contain bias have largely focused on more stringent rules regarding conflict-of-interest (COI) and clinical trial registries. There is no evidence that any measures that have been taken so far

have stopped the biasing of clinical research and it's not clear that they have even slowed down the process. Economic theory predicts that firms will try to bias the evidence base wherever its benefits exceed its costs. The examples given here confirm what theory predicts. What will be needed to curb and ultimately stop the bias that we have seen is a paradigm change in the way that we treat the relationship between pharmaceutical companies and the conduct and reporting of clinical trials.

Say goodbye to Chlorpyrifos.

(By Hans Muilerman, PAN Europe)

Many very dangerous chemicals have been approved under the old pesticide regime of Directive 91/414. Part of the reason is the lack of clear criteria for banning, part of the reason is a lack of political will. There is evidence for many years that exposure of children and the unborn to Chlorpyrifos might result in brain damage and health effects of in later life.

Chlorpyrifos is restricted for this reason in the US but still allowed in Europe. Soon Member States and Commission will –behind closed doors and a total lack of transparency- decide on effects of Chlorpyrifos on wildlife.

PAN-Europe feels it is time to say goodbye to Chlorpyrifos.

Chlorpyrifos is a nerve toxin – used as insecticide- and research shows it is involved in disturbing development of organisms at special windows of vulnerability, leading to irreversible mental damage. Chlorpyrifos targets cell signalling cascades that control neural cell replication and differentiation, leading to cell damage and loss in the immature brain, mis-wiring of neuronal circuits, and corresponding behavioural deficits that continue to emerge later in adolescence and adulthood (Slotkin 2010[1]). The key finding was that organophosphate-induced interference with this signalling cascade during critical developmental periods permanently reprograms the future expression and function of the signalling proteins themselves. This means that cellular responses to the multiple neurotransmitters, hormones, cytokines and trophic signals that operate through cyclic AMP are permanently altered. Chlorpyrifos is analysed in almost any place, food, water, in the air, tissue and even the North Pole.

PAN Europe position paper on criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides.

PAN Europe submitted its position paper on endocrine disrupting pesticides to Environmental Commissioner Potocnik in May 2011. Soon the 'comitology procedure' for developing such criteria will be started in DG Environment. Several stakeholders like industry and some EU Member States have already put forward their ideas on the criteria.

In Regulation 1107/2009 endocrine disrupting properties are seen as unwanted properties and pesticides having these properties will not be allowed on the market (unless in exceptional

[1] Theodore A.Slotkin, Does early-life exposure to organophosphate insecticides lead to prediabetes and obesity?, Reproductive Toxicology xxx (2010).

cases such as use in closed systems). The criteria for determining such properties still need to be defined. By 14th December 2013, the Commission shall present measures concerning specific scientific criteria for the determination of endocrine disrupting (ED) properties (Regulation 1107/2009). These criteria will likely be used in the implementation of other regulations, and as such will cover 'horizontal' legislation, including that relating to cosmetics, biocides, pharmaceuticals, and industrial chemicals at large.

PAN Europe puts strong emphasis on the need of a new testing design and a new way of assessing adverse effects. The traditional risk assessment methodology, used for decades, was not able to discover this potentially very harmful effects. A 'hazard' based approach needs to be introduced.

There can be no doubt that EU policy makers, Council and Parliament, have chosen and agreed on a hazard, not a risk-based, approach for endocrine disrupting properties in Regulation 1107/2009. Specific inherent effects of pesticides (carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic), specific chemical qualities (persistence, bioaccumulation) and endocrine disrupting properties (apart from specific cases such as closed systems) are identified as sufficient reason to prevent chemicals with such properties from entering the European market. In risk assessment numerous methodologies and ways of arguing were allowed, rarely, if ever, leading to a ban of a chemical. If an effect was discovered in a test animal, industry was allowed to question of this effect was relevant for humans and deliver assumptions for disregarding this effect. If an effect was discovered industry could claim an assumed (or calculated) alleged low dose exist with no effects. Exposure to humans could be argued to be acceptable, or even it was assumed human can adapt to high doses and wildlife 'restored' one year after application of pesticides. Unknown metabolites allowed to be classified as 'irrelevant'. This toolbox was extended indefinitely. The 'hazard' approach is meant to make an end to this toolbox and bring back pesticide assessment in the realm of science.
http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/110525.html

PAN Europe report on derogations (and other loopholes in pesticide policy)

(Hans Muilerman).

One of the many derogations in EU pesticide legislation is the "120-day derogation" allowing EU Member States use of illegal pesticides for almost a full crop season. This on condition of "unforeseen danger" where no alternatives are available. PAN-Europe analysed the use of this derogation in the past 4 years and observed an explosion in use, from 59 cases in 2007 to 321 in 2010, many times allowing very harmful pesticides, in total 152 different chemicals. France went up form 0 derogations in 2007 to 74 in 2010, Greece from 6 derogations to 54 and Portugal from 1 to 41 in 2010. PAN-Europe concludes it is highly likely the provision is misused by Member States on a large scale. Can Portugal have 1 case of "unforeseen danger" in 2007 and 31 in 2010? Can France have 0 derogations in 2007 and even 0 in 2008 and 2009 and all of a sudden 74 cases of "unforeseen danger" in 2010? This looks more like

whitewashing illegal use. Several granted authorisation fi. on soil fumigants also cannot be an "unforeseen danger" at all and alternatives are readily available.
PAN-Europe additionally observes an enormous intransparency in decision making, done behind closed doors in the Standing Committee of DG SANCO. Applications for these derogations are not published, Commission "measures" are not published and a discussion and voting –if any- is not visible, as well as any control or enforcement action. PAN-Europe thinks it is essential for stakeholders to be able to verify if a provision is properly used. Committee meetings and documents should be freely accessible.
Given the long list of derogations, backdoors and loopholes in pesticides policy in general, a 'wider picture' needs to be considered. PAN-Europe believes the conflict of interest of Agricultural Ministries, delivering the representatives in the Standing Committee, is one of the main reasons for the continuing pressure to open backdoors, serving mainly groups of back lagging farmers, stopping innovation in agriculture and certainly not serving citizens in Europe.
http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/index.html

4. NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

NAP implementation in Denmark – revision of chemical law

In April 2011 the Danish government amended the Danish law on chemical substances to take into account the implementation of the Framework Directive on sustainable use of pesticides. Like any other member state thinking about implementation of EU law, the Danish Minister of Environment argues in the speech in the Danish Parliament that 'the directive contains a wide range of requirements already introduced a long time ago in Denmark, including requirements for establishment of a certification scheme for persons spraying pesticides, rules for washing areas and rules for handling and storage of pesticides. Nevertheless, changes need to be included into the chemical law such as new requirements on the sale of pesticides, to be in line with the new Framework directive'.

These changes includes:
Pesticide dealers must employ staff who can show they have received training in environmental health and correct use of pesticides, or demonstrate that they have otherwise acquired knowledge to advise farmers to use less hazardous pesticides.
In garden centers staff also needs to be trained on the pesticides they sell to advise customers on less hazardous pesticides, how to use and how to store them.

While the minister in her speech held in Parliament in April, did recognize that there is a need to match the Framework directive's requirement to ensure that pesticide use be reduced to a minimum or totally prohibited in certain areas with public access (e.g. stadiums, parks), the current amendments to the Danish law is until now limited to a decree that sets restrictions on pesticide use on golf courses!

Other parts of the Danish SUD implementation will be included into other pieces of Danish law for instance linked to establishment of buffer zones around water.

National Action Plan implementation - News from Belgium (Flanders) on public areas

(By Greet Tijskens, VELT)

The federal Ministry of Public Health decides if a pesticide can be sold on the Belgian market. Since January 2010 this federal law was extended with a 'split authorisation'. The package must indicate if the pesticide is intended for professional use or for gardeners and the public (amateur use). There is a proposal from the Wallonian green party *Ecolo* to restrict sale to consumers in self service, the obligation to inform the buyer by trained staff and the restriction of advertising directed to consumers. Some of these restrictions are meant to become national law in accordance with the implementation of the new framework directive. However, this proposal is pending and will only be continued after formation of a new federal government.

As explained in PAN Europe's Best Practice NAP (http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/NAP_best_practice.pdf) the Flemish region of Belgium passed a law on pesticide reduction in December 2001.

The decree says that Public Authorities can not use pesticides in public areas;

- zero use starting from 1 January 2004;
- if this is not possible, a gradual reduction until zero use by 31 December 2014;
- this date is linked to the European Water Directive starting 1 January 2015.

Public Areas mean parks; green areas for traffic roundabouts; green areas in cities; all area less than 6 meters from surface water or marshes; streets, markets, parking lots, etc. and all other areas where a public authority is owner and user.

The Flemish government is assisting district authorities in this process via an advisory website: www.zonderisgezonder.be

On this website, one can find the technical checklist on pesticide prevention http://www.zonderisgezonder.be/archief/2009/leidraad-pesticidentoets-2009

The Flemish Administration on Nature & Forest (ANB) has a very sustainable policy on green areas in town centres, called 'Harmonisch Park- en Groenbeheer' (HPG). They developed good technical instruments and give courses. This policy helps implement green spaces without pesticides, as a voluntary measure.
(www.harmonischparkengroenbeheer.be)

So far, 9 out of 308 Flemish communities have reached zero use of pesticides. Many are on the way of reduction, yet success of pesticide use reduction at the local level depends largely on political willingness to make this happen.

A good example of a city having done a lot of campaigning is Ghent. They have explained their way of dealing with things on local television. They also have made efforts to convince people not to use pesticides in their gardens. They have had a project revising the gardens of 280 households. Some 10 ecological landscape designers were involved in advising these households.

For more information see: http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/NAPs.html

International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) to come up with a IPM manual – of interest for all involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive.

Competent authorities in Member States faced with the task of implementing the Sustainable Use Directive and establishing National Action Plans are starting from many different levels of experience and expertise.
The IBMA-IPM group considered what information was available for this and decided that though much was known about IPM and reducing the use and reliance on chemical pesticides for plant protection, it was not easily available. There was general agreement amongst the group with the principles and definition of IPM stretching back several decades. It is reassuring when the EU Commission through DG Sanco, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and the IOBC (International Organisation for Biological Control) who all have near identical understandings of what is IPM and how should it be used, hold opinions similar to our own organisation. A leaflet with concrete information and experts to consult is produced and will soon be available in several languages for use by members, governments, NGOs, farmers and interested parties. Gathering the IPM expertise as case studies in an extended publication and creating an informative web resource will be the next phase to provide real examples, where truly integrated systems of control based on the pillars of prevention, monitoring and suppression, have been used commercially to achieve economic plant protection. Under this system chemical pesticides are used after considering whether other IPM tools such as physical barriers, predatory mites and insects, natural products, microorganisms and pheromones are available to do the job.

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