Experiences in Belgium

Federal pesticides reduction program

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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

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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 then 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 then 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 a 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

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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)

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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)