

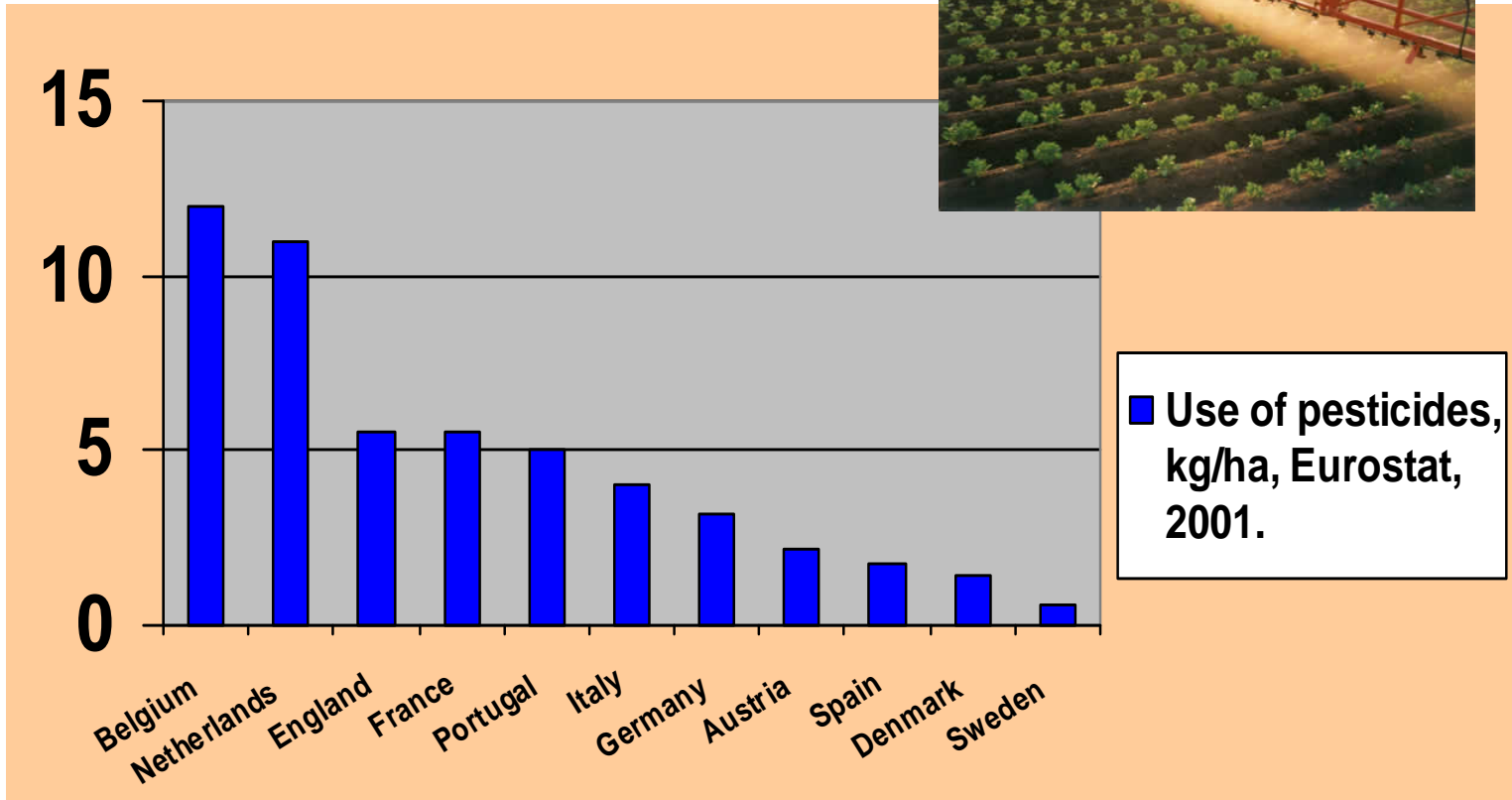
PESTICIDES POLICY IN THE NETHERLANDS



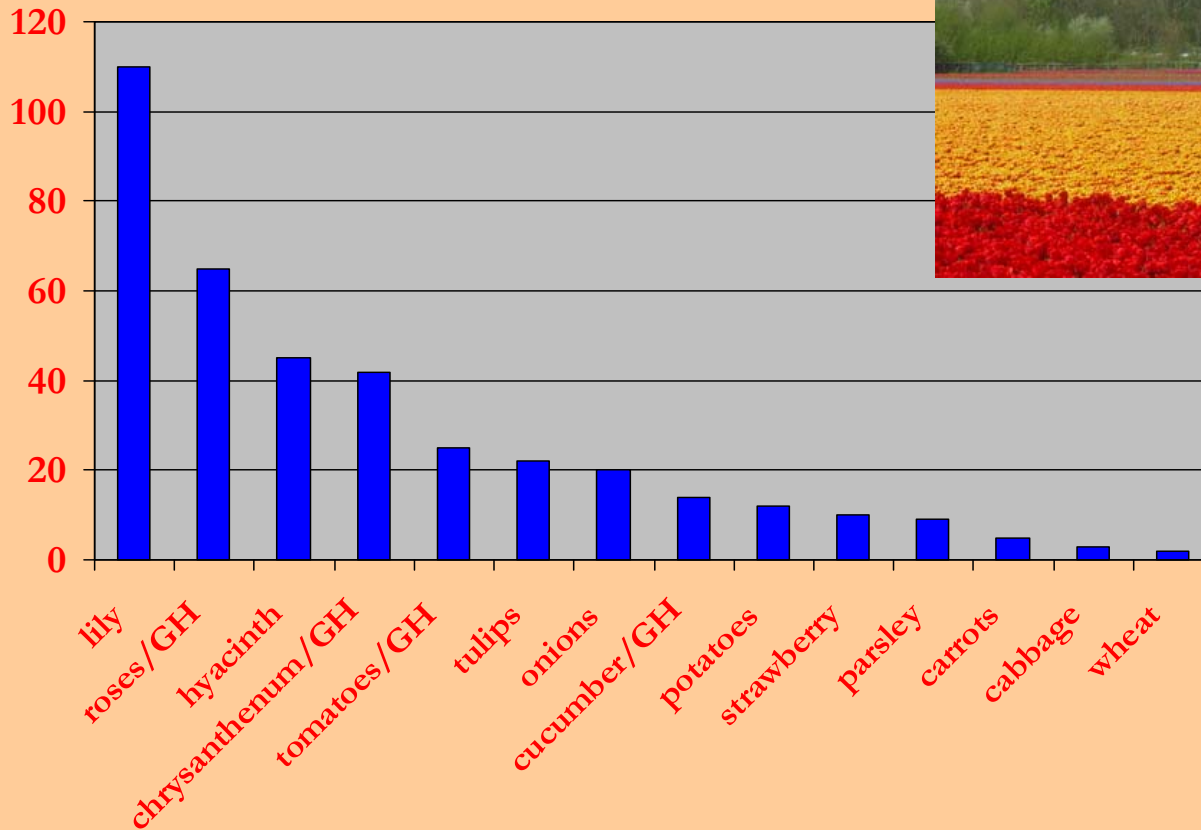
Hans Muilerman



Dutch agriculture high input type.



Horticulture (40% of agri-value) most polluting sector



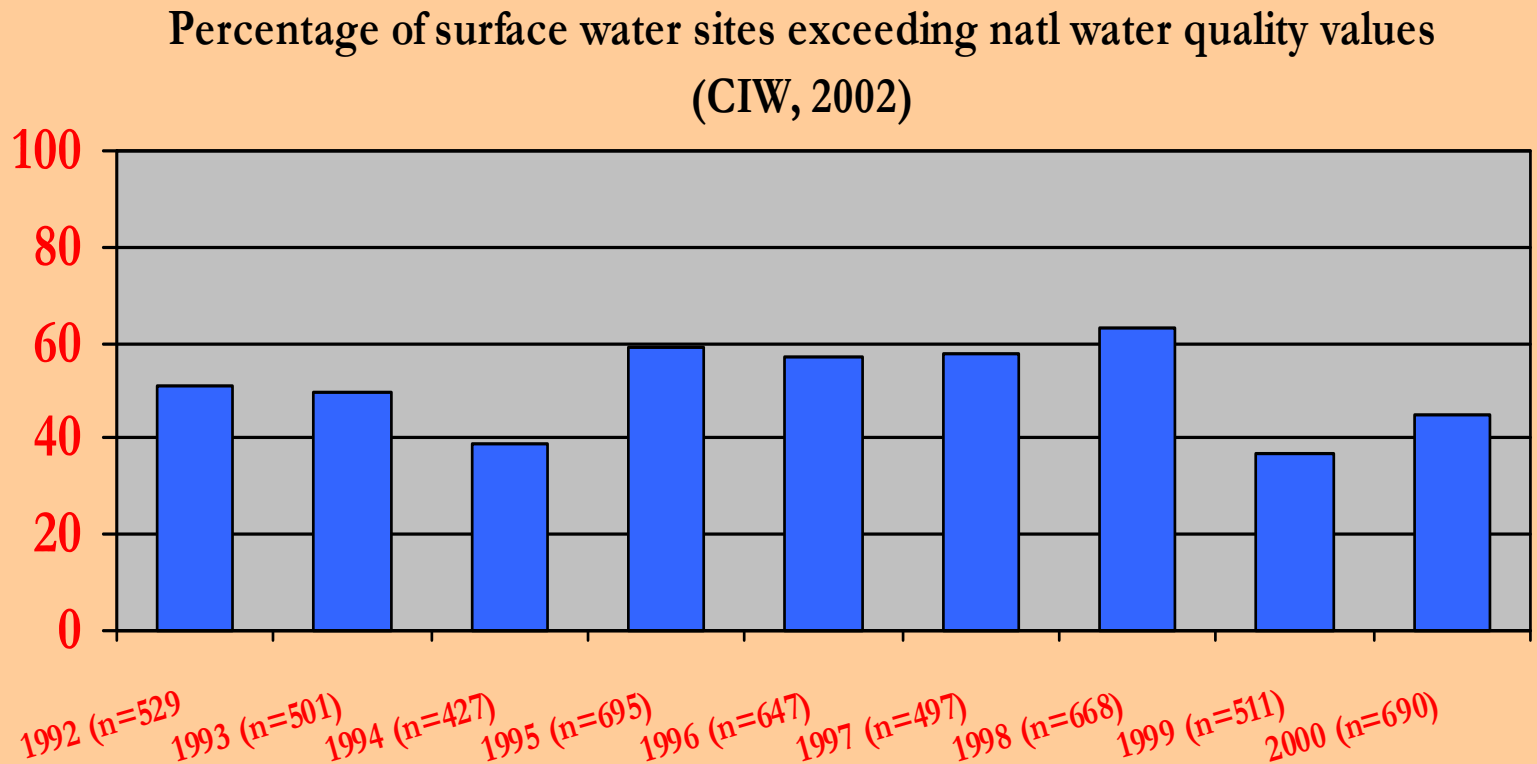
■ Use of pesticides in kg/ha, CBS, 2000.



Pesticide use reduction policy in the Netherlands (1)

- **First attempt: national covenant between farmers, chemical industry and ministries to reduce use for 50% in the period 1990-2000.**
- **Also regulation on soil fumigants limiting their use to once in 4/5 years time**
- **Covenant failure because farmers not aware of the covenant nor instructed nor stimulated**
- **Regulation more successful but 50% reduction not realised**
- **Government though claimed 50% reduction “since 1984”.**

Analysis water pollution by regional authorities

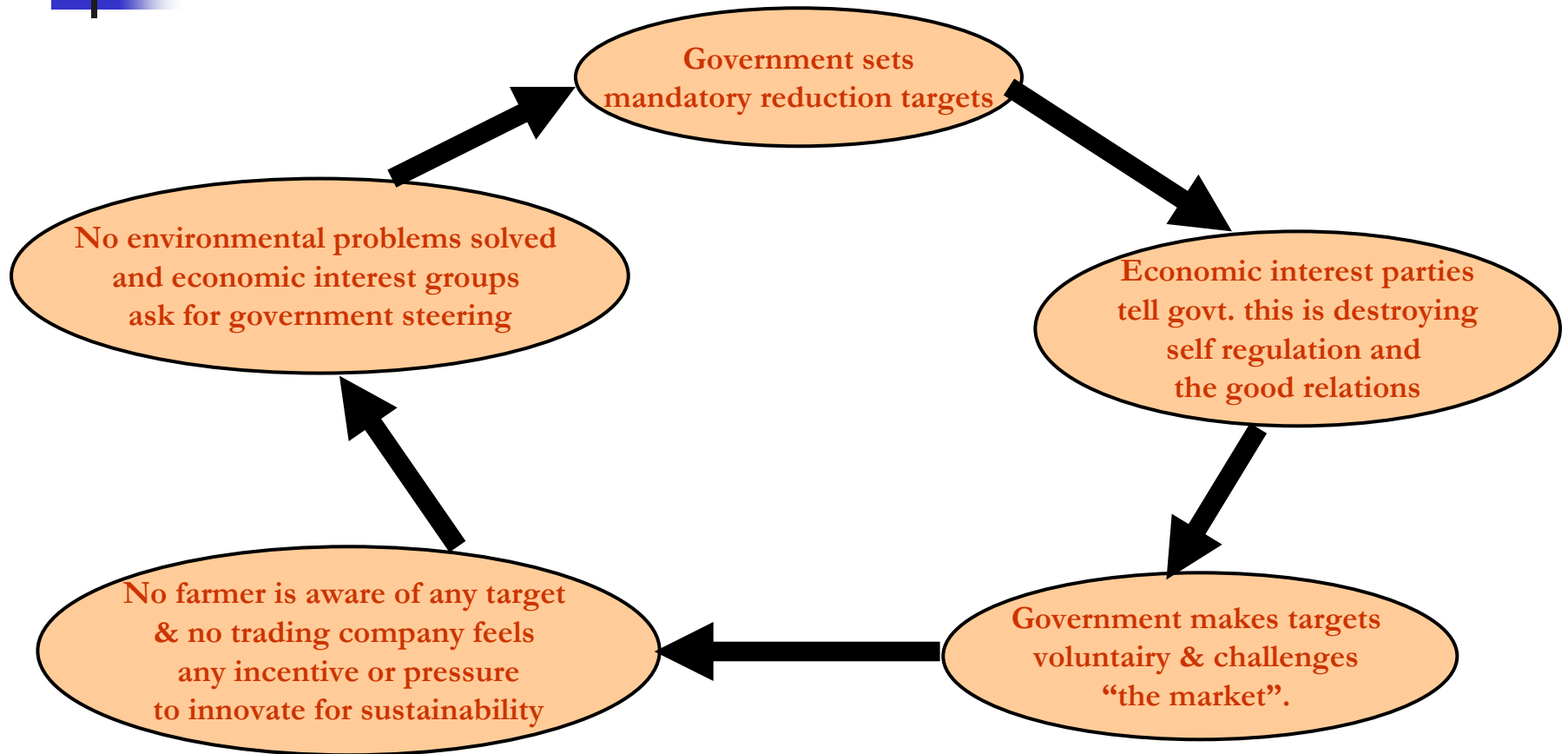


Pesticide use reduction policy in the Netherlands (2)

- Regulation on buffer zones (2000) along water courses, width of buffer zone depending on crops and on machinery (result of NGO-campaigning & court cases)
- Second attempt reduction policy 2002-2004: national covenant between farmers, chemical industry and ministries to reduce risk for surface water in the period 2004-2020 by 95%.
- IPM accepted as national policy; full description made for all crops
- NGO's at first instance part of covenant. Trade off was: regulation on IPM with mandatory practices cropwise vs. essential uses of pesticides for farmers. Farmers organisation pulled the plug one year after signing.
- 'Green front' backed farmers.
- Only remaining part: yearly IPM-plan for every farmer and logbook (registration of events not according to plan + use of pesticides).
- Govt. evaluation in 2006 claimed: already 85% risk reduction achieved.

The analysis: Agriculture's vicious circle

(University of Wageningen, 2007).

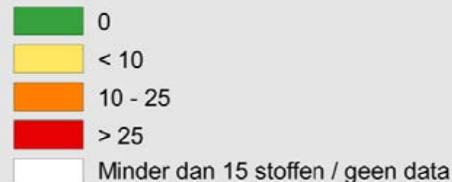
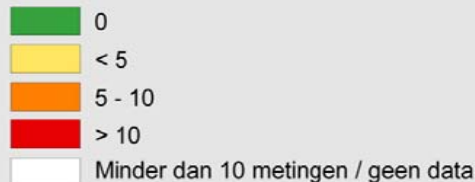
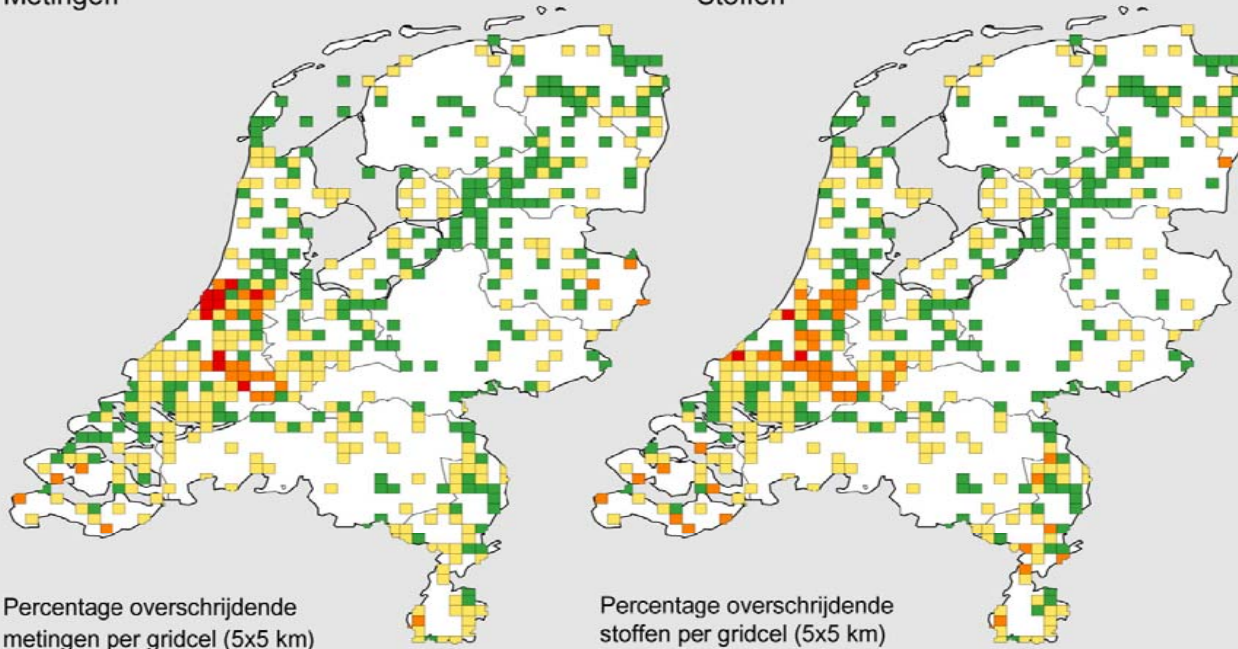


Present situation: still lot of pollution

Overschrijding Maximaal Toelaatbaar Risico (MTR)
gewasbeschermingsmiddelen in oppervlaktewater 2003/2004

Metingen

Stoffen



NL.

Pesticides in
surface water
2003/2004.

Nr. pesticides
analysed: 225.

Nr. samples:
>50.000.

5x5 km grid

Left:
Nr of analysis,
above limit
Red > 10

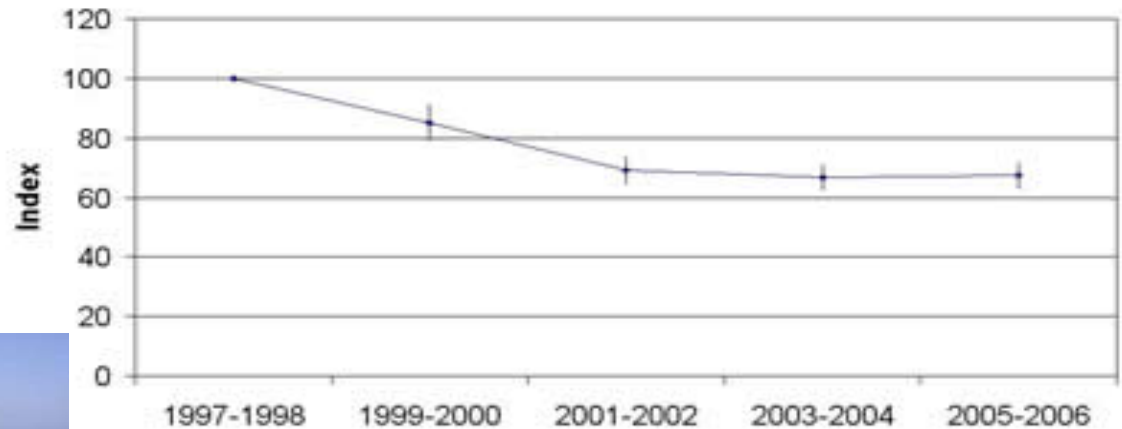
Right:
Nr. pesticides
above limit.

No real improvement in water pollution anymore

[change in % exceedances since 1997 (=100%)].

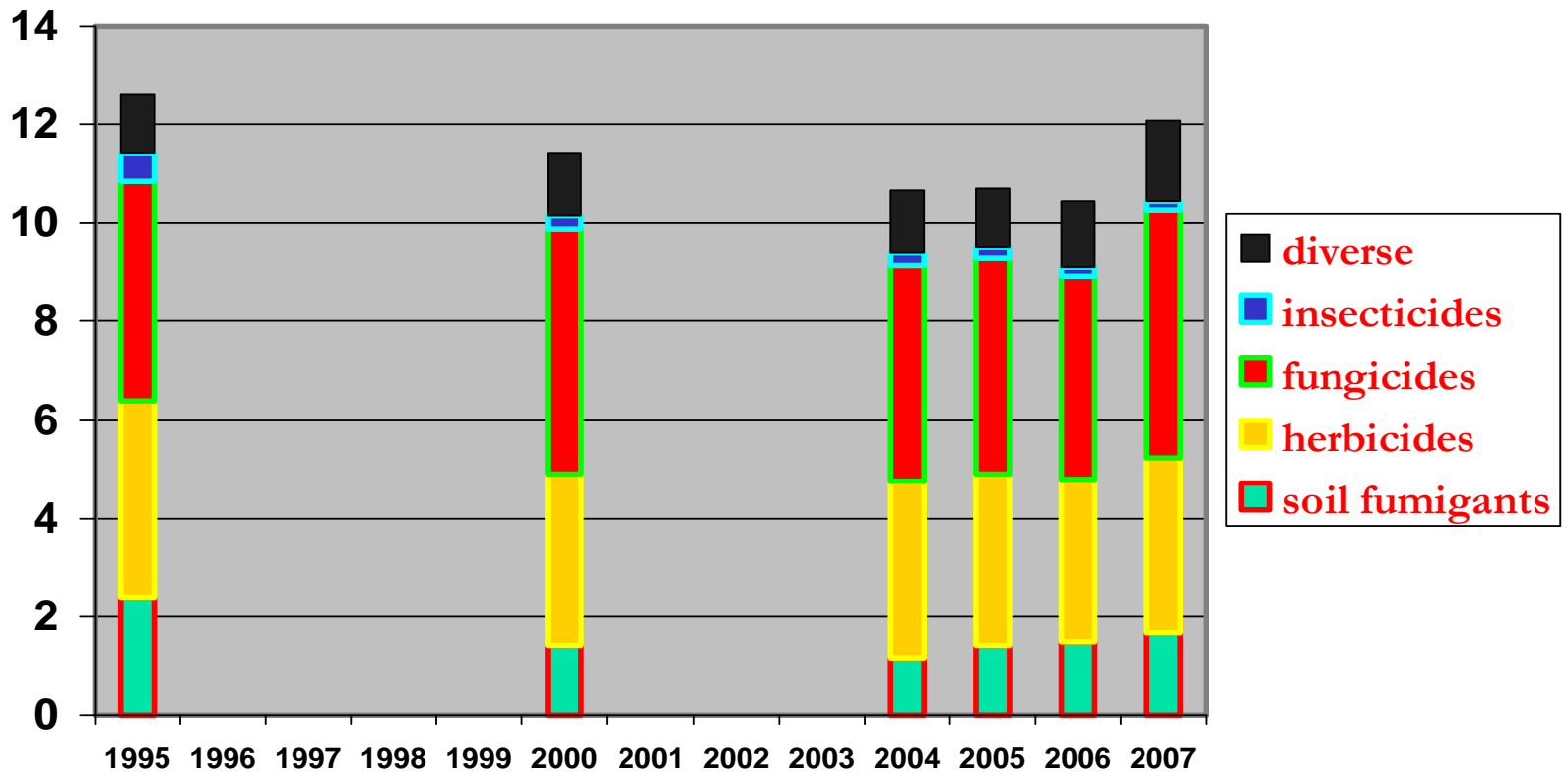
Ecotoxicologische norm (MTR)

Veranderingen in het percentage overschrijdende stoffen
1997-1998=100



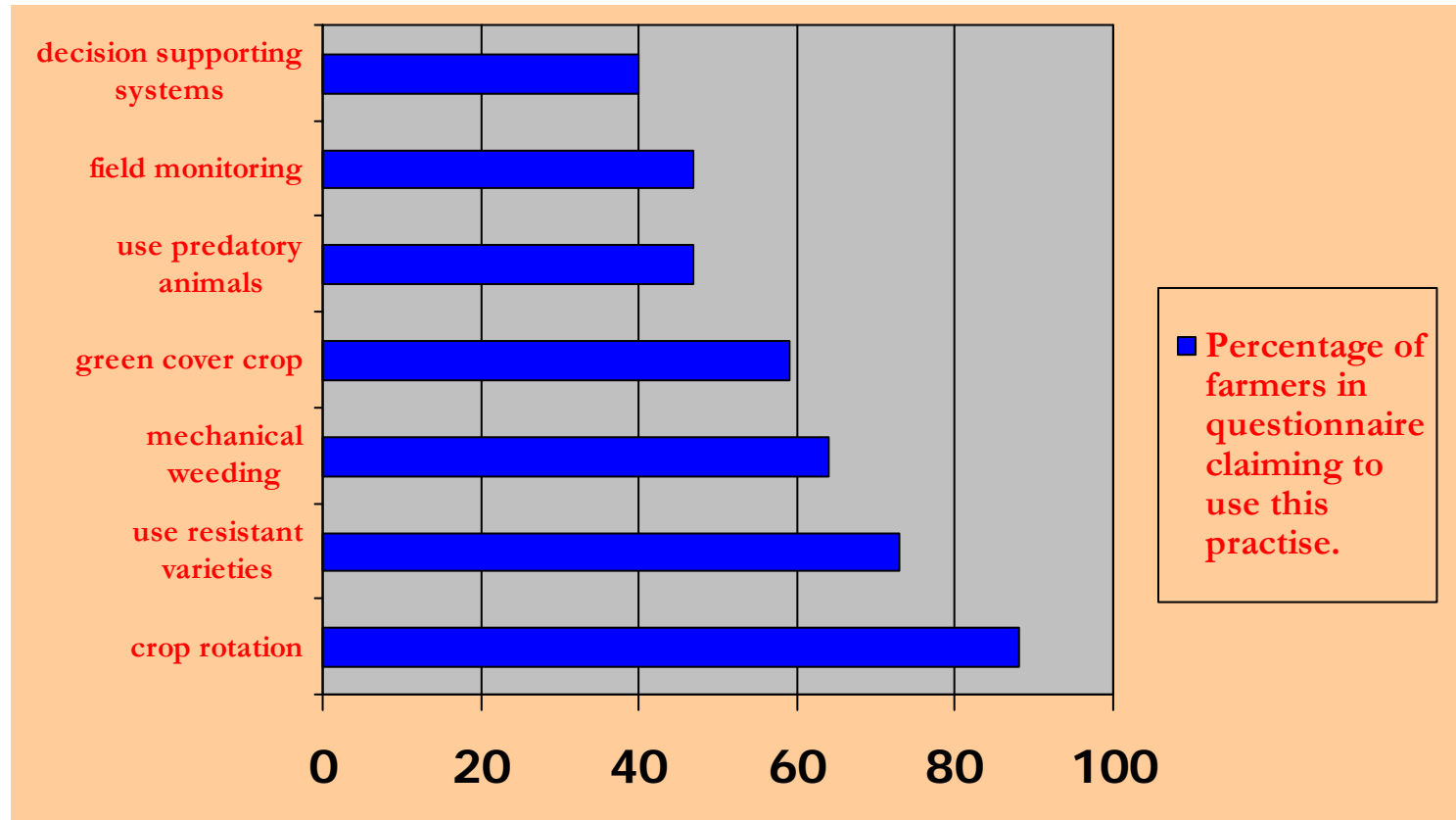
Use of pesticides even rising again?

(Mkg. per year, Natl. Env. Planning Bureau, 2009).



Need of defining IPM practices thoroughly

(LEI questionnaire 410 farmers, 2006)



Market focussed on health and residues

(and first of all on price of course)

- Global GAP certificates dominant >2000 in an attempt to prevent further food scandals (NL is trade hub)
- NGO-campaign “Know What You Eat” since 2002 (weetwatjeeet.nl)
- Individual supermarkets focussed on residue control, Super de Boer aiming at residue-free in 2010, Albert Heijn on IPM to control residues, and Lidl/Aldi German system % of MRL's.



Conclusion.



- On political level: 'Green front' still in charge and happy to keep farming performances as they are
- Government finds image building (policy is successful) more important than content (environmental problems solved)
- Farmers don't see so much of an environmental problem or a need for change
- Regulation for sure most effective route to pesticide use reduction (soil fumigants, buffer zones)
- Beware of risk reduction indicators
- Supply chain separated world and fighting their own battle
- Need of creating new 'sense-of-urgency' on importance of pesticide use reduction (involve citizens)
- Need of combining forces of market and government (regulation, subsidising, supply chain management).