



## *Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action National*

### *NAPAN Task Force*

## **Belgian action plan to reduce the risks and impacts linked to pesticides**

**2013-2017**

The English version of the Belgian NAP is slightly adapted from original documents in order to allow a better comprehension.

The Belgian action plan to reduce the risk linked to pesticides is called NAPAN : Nationaal Actieplan/Plan d'Action National.

The NAPAN is composed of 184 actions that are complying with the pesticide risk management aspects as pointed out in the directive 2009/128/EC. For every action, an objective and an achievement indicator are defined.

It has been composed of the action plans of all involved competent authorities and hence comprehends a federal part and three regional parts.

The actions are referenced "Fed.", "VL", "Wal.", or "RBC" when they are assumed by, respectively, the Federal, the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region or the Brussels Region authorities.

Actions referenced "Bel." are assumed by all authorities with the support of the NAPAN Task Force which is the Belgian coordination committee.

Part I : the Federal Program for the Reduction of Pesticides 2013-2017

Part II: the Flemish Action Plan for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides 2012-2017

Part III : the Walloon Plan for the Reduction of Pesticides 2013-2017

Part IV : the Brussels Regional Program for the Reduction of Pesticides 2013-2017



# Part I

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

# The federal pesticide reduction programme

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2013-2017

The English version is adapted from original version in order to facilitate the communication.  
Original versions are available in [French](#), [Dutch](#), and German (from March 2014)



### **The federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017**

Adapted from the ANNEX I to the Royal Decision of 15 December 2013 on the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017.

#### A. Abbreviations and definitions

##### Abbreviations:

1. RD: Royal Decision ( adapted translation for "Arrêté Royal", in French and "Koninklijk Besluit" in Dutch)
2. NAPAN: *Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action National* (National Action Plan)
3. NTF: NAPAN Task force
4. FPRP: Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme
5. *ppp*: Plant protection product(s) as described in directive 2009/128
6. PBRP: Pesticide and Biocide Reduction Programme (see [www.prpb.be](http://www.prpb.be))

##### Definitions:

1. RD Sustainable Use: the Royal Decision of 19/03/2013 on the realisation of a sustainable use of plant protection products and additives.
2. Advisory Council of the NAPAN: the assembly of the parties participating in the NAPAN. Until the official set-up of the Advisory Council of the NAPAN, by way of transition the NTF will use the Advisory Council of the FPRP – as determined in article 4, § 4 of the framework resolution of the FPRP – for obtaining advice from the participating parties.
3. Members of the NTF: representatives of the sub-areas and the federal government.
4. NAPAN Task Force (NTF): coordinating body of the federal government and the Belgian sub-areas assigned to present the NAPAN to the government and ensure its coordinated implementation.
5. Participating parties: the Belgian associations involved in the NAPAN.
6. Framework RD FPRP : the Royal Decision of 04/09/2012 relative to the Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme, including their use in respect to the sustainable development.

## B. Introduction

The FPRP (Federal Pesticide Reduction Plan) is the federal Belgian Action Plan for the reduction of plant protection products (*ppp*) and biocides. It forms part of the NAPAN.

The NAPAN is the Belgian national action plan for the reduction of pesticides. NAPAN consists of the federal plan (FPRP), the Flemish regional plan, the Brussels regional plan and the Walloon regional plan. Each of these plans contains specific actions (with indication 'Fed.' for its federal level) and joint actions (with indication 'Bel.') that are set up in cooperation with the other members of the NAPAN Task Force (NTF). NAPAN is coordinated within the NTF under auspices of the Interministerial Conference for the Environment that has been extended to include all of the competencies that concern the NAPAN. The Belgian associations and stakeholders of the NAPAN offer guidance to the NAPAN in the Advisory Council of the NAPAN.

The legal framework and objective are described hereunder in section C. Section D explains the measures foreseen.

## C. Legal framework and Objective 2013-2017

### Legal framework

The FPRP 2013-2017 was the object of organised consultation in the scope of implementation of the section "Public participation in the detailed formation of the plans and programmes in relation to the environment" of the Act of 13 February 2006, with the exception of the part on the evaluation of the consequences for the environment.

After all, the prior analysis on whether or not the consequences of the FPRP 2013-2017 for the environment needed to be evaluated showed that a strategic environmental assessment SEA was not considered useful (Advice of 22 May 2012 of the Secretariat and the Presidency of the SEA Committee). On the one hand, the FPRP is restricted mainly to the instructions laid down in Directive 2009/128 (and this has found support from the European Commission) and on the other hand, none of the suggested measures offers the possibility of developing projects that could be subjected to a strategic environmental assessment.

For the *ppp*: EU Directive 2009/128 establishing a framework for Community action for the realisation of sustainable use of pesticides orders the Member States to develop a national action plan for the *ppp* and to incorporate therein any measures for reducing the risk and the use of those *ppp*. The action plan must be subjected to public consultation. By 26/11/2012 the action plan must be communicated to the Commission and the other EU Member States. The national action plan must contain quantitative objectives, measures and a calendar for implementation of the measures taken in view of the reduction of the risk and the consequences of the use of the *ppp*. The measures are listed hereunder per individual theme.

For biocides: the Act of 21 December 1998 on the product standards for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns and for the protection of the environment, public health and the employees requires the development of a reduction plan for biocides.

### General objective

The FPRP aims at reducing, by all means possible, the risks and consequences of the use of *ppp* and biocides for human health and the environment, including a reduction of the use and placement in the market of these products if reduction of such use is the suitable means to realise a reduction of the risk.

The placement in the market of each individual product is regulated via the EU Regulations 1107/2009 and 528/2012. The thematic strategy for a sustainable use of pesticides, from which Regulation 2009/128 and article 8bis of the Act on the product standards<sup>1</sup> are derived, complements these provisions. These complementary legal provisions define the general objective of the FPRP 2013-2017. In other words: it does not relate to the products that are considered individually based on their market access conditions, but it does relate to the other aspects concerning the management of the risks for public health or the environment, within the limitations of the federal competences.

The legality of Regulation 1107/2009 and its coherence with Directive 2009/128, which ground the framework RD of the FPRP, have already been checked at a European level.

The Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme comprises 41 actions referenced "Fed.". Six of them, carrying reference 'Bel.' have been implemented in coordination with the Regions.

Quantification of the general objective is hardly feasible. The actions aimed at achieving the objectives, on the other hand, are quantified and planned as much as possible.

Finally, it should be noted that the main competences in the field of the environment lie with the Regions.

#### D. Summary of the thematic measures

##### 1. Certification of the know-how of professionals working with *ppp*

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 1.1	Issuance of the Phytolicense.	<p><u>Taking into operation of the Secretariat for the Phytolicense.</u></p> <p>A Phytolicense is a knowledge certificate for all professional users, sellers and information providers on <i>ppp</i> for professional use. It was established by the RD Sustainable Use.</p> <p>The Secretariat for the Phytolicense will be operational as from 2013, its task being to supply, within the planned time periods, a Phytolicense to any applicant meeting the requirements laid down in the RD for the sustainable use of the above-mentioned <i>ppp</i> and additives.</p>	Compliance with the response terms as provided by the legislation.	As from 2013.

<sup>1</sup> Act of 21 December 1998 on the product standards for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns and for the protection of the environment, public health and the employees.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 1.2	Annual Report on Phytolice	<u>Drawing up an annual report.</u>  A report on the issuance of a Phytolice will be drawn up each year. Among other things, it will contain the statistics on the existing Phytolices, the follow-up of the permanent training programmes and the statistics on compliance with the response time periods as provided in the legislation.	Availability of the annual report.	As from 2016.
Fed. 1.3	The persons involved in the Phytolice will provide information on the rules that need to be followed.	<u>Implementation of information campaigns.</u>  An information campaign will be held in 2013 and 2015 which will provide information on the system of Phytolices via brochures and/or lectures. The campaigns will be supported by a system of FAQ on the internet.	The existence of two communication systems on Phytolices.	2013 and 2015.

## 2. Conditions for the sale of products

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 2.1	Introduction of a procedure establishing the "borderline cases".	<u>Adaptation of legislation.</u>  The legislation relating to <i>ppp</i> and biocides will be adapted to ensure that the "borderline cases" (products not defined as a <i>ppp</i> or a biocide but sold for that purpose nonetheless) do not escape the safeguards for human health and the environment provided by the relevant legislation.	Number of products to which the procedure applied / total number of "borderline cases".	2015
Fed. 2.2	Reduction of the risk for non-professional users of <i>ppp</i> .	<u>Assessment of the feasibility of a measure on the reduction of <i>ppp</i> for non-professional users.</u>  The objective of this study at least will be to define the required procedure and assess its impact on sustainable development. It will also deal with the relevant European coordination.	To avail of an analysis on the feasibility of the withdrawal.	2014



Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 2.3	Monitoring the biocides intended for professional use.	<p><u>Revision and implementation of the RD.</u></p> <p>Following the developments in Europe as regards the products for which a prohibition of free access for the general public is deemed necessary, the current system for professional use is being revised at present. Implementation actions will follow based on the result of said revision.</p>	Availability of adapted legislation.	2013 (revision).

### 3. Informing the general public

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Bel. 3.1 / Fed. 3.1	To guarantee, at the place of sale, the provision of well-balanced information to non-professional users about the proper conditions of use and the risks for public health and the environment.	<p><u>Study of an agreement at the level of the Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment</u> extended to the competences concerning the NAPAN in relation to the mandatory information at the place of sale.</p> <p><u>Well-balanced information for non-professional users must be available at every place of sale of <i>ppp</i> and biocides for non-professional users.</u></p> <p>In other words: general information about the risks for human health and the environment of the use of <i>ppp</i> and biocides, including the dangers, the exposure, the appropriate storage conditions and the instructions about handling, application and removal without risk, in accordance with the legislation on waste, and about the alternative options that pose a lesser risk.</p> <p>The action seeks to determine which minimum information should be available at the place of sale and which rules should apply as regards the provision of that information. No later than 2017 said information must be determined by the members of the NAPAN Task Force, each of them according to their individual competence. The Advisory Council of the NAPAN will be consulted on the issue.</p>	<p>Reaching an agreement.</p> <p>Information available at the place of sale.</p>	To be defined by the NAPAN.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 3.2	To guarantee, at the location of sale, well-balanced federal information to non-professional users about the proper conditions of use and the risks for public health.	<u>Adaptation of the legislation enforcing said information</u>  The federal legislation will be amended as from 2013 as regards the information on the competences.	The legislation has been adapted.	2013
		<u>Well-balanced federal information for non-professional users will have to be available at the place of sale of <i>ppp</i> and biocides for non-professional users.</u> In particular this should include: general information about the risks to human health of the use of <i>ppp</i> and biocides, including the dangers, the exposure, the appropriate conditions for storage and the handling conditions that should be observed. The action involves the definition of the minimum information that should be available at the place of sale and the methods based on which the information should be provided. The information will be defined no later than in 2014. The mandatory federal information will be defined by the federal government in cooperation with the Advisory Council of the FPRP.		As from 2014.
Fed. 3.3	Placing the available documentation on the internet for the purpose of informing the population.	<u>Placement on the website, as soon as possible, of the available information on <i>ppp</i> and biocides.</u>	Updating the websites at least every six months.	As from 2013.
		<u>A revision of Fytoweb</u> will give it a more user-friendly interface and will allow for displaying, if necessary, the data with additional information that is printed on the label. The assessment method of the recognitions of <i>ppp</i> will be explained to the general public in an understandable manner.	New website Fytoweb available.	2015
Fed. 3.4	Reissue of the brochure "Unwanted guests in your house or garden?"	<u>Reissue; reprint.</u>  Reissue of the brochure "Unwanted guests in your house or garden?" so as to update it in collaboration with the parties involved in the FPRP. Printing the new issue.	New brochure available in Dutch, French and German.	2014

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 3.5	Distribution of the simplified information to the public.	<u>Meeting the public.</u>  Distribution of FPRP-related information to the general public at shows, salons, large events and environmental festivals.	Number of shows visited and number of brochures handed out.	As from 2013.

#### 4. Monitoring cases of intoxication

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 4.1	Development of a method for monitoring cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> among professional users.	<u>Method.</u>  A method for building reliable statistics in Belgium will be developed. The study will be based on optimum use of the existing monitoring tools, such as the anti-poison centre and, if possible, the professional networks such as the Phytolice network.	A monitoring method adapted for Belgium has been developed.	2013
Fed. 4.2	Monitoring cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> among professionals.	<u>Monitoring cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> among professionals.</u>  Implementing the method described in action Fed. 4.1 and building representative statistics.	Availability of an insight into cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> among professionals.	As from 2014
Fed. 4.3	To have available a tool for monitoring cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> and biocides among non-professional users.	<u>Monitoring cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> and biocides among non-professional users.</u>  In 2014, cases of acute intoxication from <i>ppp</i> and biocides among non-professional users will be monitored in accordance with the toxicovigilance study carried out in the scope of the PRPB in 2007 and 2011.	Representative statistics are available.	2014
Fed. 4.4	Inventory on chronic intoxication of populations exposed to the risks of <i>ppp</i> and biocides.	<u>Developing the framework to enable an objective understanding of the complex issue of chronic intoxication and allow for itemization of the priorities (monitoring, prevention, etc.)</u> based on the developments at (European) international level as well as on the target groups and active substances.	Submitting a work plan.	2015

5. Inspection of the application equipment for *ppp*

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 5.1	Inspection of all spraying equipment for <i>ppp</i> for professional use.	<p><u>Availability of a method for adapted inspection.</u></p> <p>Technical inspection of all the spraying equipment mentioned in the RD of 13 March 2011. A specific inspection method is required to ensure inspection of all types of spraying equipment. A method is not yet available for certain types of equipment, e.g. devices intended for ultra low volume applications, foggers, and devices for the application of <i>ppp</i> as a solid substance. While awaiting specific inspection methods, this equipment therefore will not yet be inspected.</p>	Publication of a method for inspection in the RD of 13 March 2011.	As soon as this has been worked out in detail in Belgium or in Europe.
Fed. 5.2	Exemption from inspection of certain spraying equipment for <i>ppp</i> .	<p><u>Accounting for the exemptions.</u></p> <p>Accounting for the spraying devices that have been exempt from inspection. Article 8 of Directive 2009/128 on the introduction of the technical inspection of spraying devices allows the Member States to depart from the systematic inspection for certain types of devices based on a risk analysis for human health and the environment, including an evaluation of the usage level of the material. The RD of 13 March 2011 currently includes an inspection exemption for knapsack sprayers and lance sprayers. The inspection exemption for knapsack sprayers and lance sprayers and any other types of spraying equipment must be accounted for.</p>	Submission of a file to the European Commission.	Methods to be decided by the European Commission.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 5.3	Raising awareness among professional users of <i>ppp</i> .	<p><u>Providing information on the proper use of spraying equipment which has been exempt from inspection.</u></p> <p>Professional users will have to be informed of the necessity of regularly changing parts and of the specific risks associated with the equipment that has been exempt from inspection. The Federal Agency for Safety of the Food Chain will take charge of informing professional users accordingly in due time.</p>	Availability of the informative document.	2016
Fed. 5.4	Auto-check of spraying equipment for <i>ppp</i> .	<p><u>To define in the auto-check guides which inspections should be performed on the spraying equipment.</u></p> <p>Calibration and regular technical inspections of the materials used for <i>ppp</i> (auto-check). This will be provided for in the guides for auto-checks and the Phytoliceance.</p>	Amendment of the auto-check guides and material taught in the scope of the Phytoliceance.	25 November 2015 (coincides with the date for implementation of the Phytoliceance)
Fed. 5.5	Mutual recognition of inspections of the spraying equipment (for <i>ppp</i> ) with the bordering neighbour countries.	<p><u>Establishment of agreements.</u></p> <p>Mutual recognition of the inspections. A device which passes an inspection in another Member State should be usable in Belgium as long as the inspection certificate is valid and provided that the three-year inspection interval applicable in Belgium, is not exceeded. Similarly, equipment approved in Belgium should also be usable in other Member States. Agreements with the neighbouring countries will be made to concretise this principle.</p>	Bilateral agreements with all the neighbouring countries.	2016
Fed. 5.6	To impose the presence of deflectors on pneumatic precision sowing machines for sowing seeds treated with <i>ppp</i> .	<p><u>Adapting legislation.</u></p> <p>As from 2010, pneumatic sowing machines for sowing seeds treated with <i>ppp</i> must be equipped with deflectors. Improved legislation to simplify the monitoring of the obligation was foreseen. Given the complexity and the duration of such legal procedures, a provision of two years must be made for their implementation. Hence, the action aims at adapting the legislation in 2015 in order to avail of a legal basis allowing for subsequent introduction of the checks of these devices.</p>	Publication of a legal basis.	2015

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
		<u>Introduction of the checks</u> depending on the legislation.	Effective checks.	Starting from the publication of the legal basis.

#### 6. Aerial spraying *ppp*

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 6.1	Enhancing the restriction on aerial spraying of <i>ppp</i> .	<u>Entry into force of the legislation.</u>  The RD "Sustainable Use" constitutes a general prohibition on aerial spraying of <i>ppp</i> in Belgium. It does, however, allow for deviation in extreme circumstances, subject to drastic conditions which are effectively monitored by the administration.	Strict compliance of the conditions in case of allowed deviation from the general prohibition.	As from 2013.

#### 7. Protection of specific areas against *ppp*

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 7.1	Reducing exposure to <i>ppp</i> among citizens living close to locations of application.	<u>Feasibility study regarding several reduction measures</u>  For this matter, which involves numerous users of <i>ppp</i> , it is essential to examine the feasibility of various measures limiting the use of the products prior to their imposition.  First of all, after having verified its usefulness, the feasibility study will cover an inventory and an evaluation of the existing means in the recognition of <i>ppp</i> . It will also contain an at least theoretical evaluation of the real exposure situations. The study will have to consider several action options for which the representative advice from the stakeholders as well as an evaluation of the economic and social impact, among other things on agriculture, will have to be available.  The feasibility study would be a subject of consultation with the Regions in order to arrive at practical solutions for the purpose of protecting the citizens living in <i>ppp</i> distribution areas.	Availability of the report of the study.	2015

8. Using professional *ppp*

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Bel. 8.1 / Fed. 8.1	Room for the storage of plant protection products: optimising control so as to encourage non-compliant professional users to apply the law.	<u>The <i>checklists</i> will be adjusted.</u>  Extreme care in the management of <i>ppp</i> storage sites, including, in particular, the observance of the legal provisions, is of the greatest essence. From the moment of entry into force of the RD Sustainable Use, the overall information about the obligations will be distributed to the professional users and the <i>checklists</i> adjusted accordingly.	Inclusion of the new monitoring criteria in the <i>checklists</i> .	As from 25/11/2015.
Fed. 8.2	Improving the packaging of <i>ppp</i> to limit the loss of product.	<u>Finding ad hoc solutions.</u>  The packaging of <i>ppp</i> for professionals is often the cause of point source pollution. The possibilities to limit this risk will be studied together with the parties involved and the solutions will be applied as necessary.	Report on the search for solutions.	2015

## 9. Bee protection.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 9.1	Monitoring the effects of <i>ppp</i> and biocides on bees.	<u>Participation to the coordination of the federal initiatives.</u>  Bees' health is a theme for which several federal competences exist which are performed by various departments. The service Pesticides and Fertilizers will actively participate to the federal coordination initiatives to make them more efficient. As a minimum result, a synthesis of these activities will be produced in 2013, 2015 and 2017 following the publication of the results of monitoring the exposure of bees to insecticides of the neonicotinoid family.	The collaboration to the coordination of the monitoring efforts.	2013, 2015, 2017

10. Observatory for *ppp* and biocides

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Bel. 10.1 / Fed. 10.1	Harmonisation of the methods, standards and reports on contamination from <i>ppp</i> of (surface and underground) waters at a regional, national and European level.	<u>Study into the feasibility of the harmonisation.</u>  The protection of water against <i>ppp</i> is laid down in several laws at a European, national and regional level, each of which generates a series of obligations in terms of monitoring, standards and reports. The complexity of the application of these obligations calls for harmonisation. The action will aim at preparing, before 2017, an inventory of all of the obligations and at identifying the aspects that could be harmonised. If possible, harmonisation should already be introduced.	Availability of the feasibility report.	2017
Fed. 10.2	To avail of detailed sales statistics concerning <i>ppp</i> .	<u>Detailed description and quality check of the sales statistics concerning <i>ppp</i>.</u>  Sales statistics on <i>ppp</i> must be prepared and verified to comply, as from 2012, with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) no. 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides. The statistics cover the active substances sold in Belgium. As from 2015 we will be able to make a clear distinction between products sold for professional use and other products.	Annual publication of the statistics in accordance with Regulation 1185/2009.	As from 2013.
Fed. 10.3	Estimate of the exposure of the Belgian population to <i>ppp</i> residues via the consumption of vegetables and fruit and of the resulting risk.	<u>Informing the target groups.</u>  Combining the monitoring of <i>ppp</i> residues in food (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain - FAVV) with monitoring the eating pattern of the Belgians (Scientific Institute of Public Health) provides indications on the exposure of the population to <i>ppp</i> via the consumption of fruit and vegetables. The resulting index, which will be compared to the daily acceptable dose, gives information about the risk arising from the intake of <i>ppp</i> residues in the food commonly consumed in Belgium. The study, carried out by the FAVV, will be published annually.	Publication of the exposure.	2016



Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 10.4	Consolidation of the figures on the use and sales of <i>ppp</i> outside agriculture.	<p><u>Crossing the data on sales and use of <i>ppp</i> outside of agriculture.</u></p> <p>There is too little knowledge about the use of <i>ppp</i> outside of agriculture. In the scope of a project co-financed by EUROSTAT for an amount of EUR 125K, a methodological study on monitoring this data was launched in 2011. As from 2014 the first results of this study should enable crossing the data on the use outside of agriculture with the figures on sales of <i>ppp</i> to amateur users.</p>	Correlation of sales and use, valid for 90% of the products which can be compared by means of this tool.	As from 2014.
Fed. 10.5	Monitoring highly alarming <i>ppp</i> (in terms of article 3 § 3 of the Framework RD FPRP).	<p><u>Detailed presentation of the annual statistics on the sale and use of these alarming <i>ppp</i>.</u></p> <p>This involves monitoring the use in Belgium of plant protection products that qualify for substitution according to the list of active substances to be established by the European Commission based on article 80 (7) of Regulation 1107/2009. For the criteria that may be applied unambiguously, another list will be prepared of active substances that do not meet the requirements of Annex II, points 3.6 to 3.8 of Regulation 1107/2009. If necessary, special measures may be established for the prohibition of the relevant plant protection products.</p>	Annually available statistics on sales and use.	As from 2013 for sales; as from 2016 for use.
Fed. 10.6	To avail of harmonised index figures concerning the risk of <i>ppp</i> for public health and professionals.	<p><u>Calculation of the risk indexes of <i>ppp</i> for health.</u></p> <p>As soon as the harmonised European risk indicator as well as the statistics concerning the use of <i>ppp</i> in agriculture (as from 2015) will become available it will be possible and mandatory to calculate and publish the harmonised risk indexes for Belgium. At a federal level the indexes concerning public health will be calculated. Collaboration with the Regions will be pursued for the collection of data concerning the use of <i>ppp</i>.</p>	Publication of the European harmonised index figures concerning the evaluation of the health risks of <i>ppp</i> .	As soon as this indicator and the data concerning use are available.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 10.7	Knowledge of the Belgian biocide market.	<p><u>Compilation and consolidation of the sales data.</u></p> <p>Knowledge of the Belgian biocide market. Every year several indicators on the placing on the market of biocides are published. They are based on the annual declarations of allowed and registered products in Belgium. Data on the biocides as well as on the active substances are available. The report serves as a reference for creating a more detailed presentation of several indicators with respect to the risks, the use and the impact of biocides on health and the environment.</p>	<p>Annual publication of the data.</p> <p>To become a preferred partner in Europe in the field of biocide usage.</p>	As from 2013.
Fed. 10.8	Consolidation of the national sales data for biocides through comparison with the markets in the neighbouring countries.	<p><u>Establishment of a network for the (voluntary) exchange of data with the neighbouring countries: markets and policy measures with respect to risk management</u></p> <p>Comparison of the data in the report (see Fed. 10.6) with the available statistics in the neighbouring countries will enable an analysis of the differences found in Belgium between the consumption and production of biocides. This will allow for the creation of a more efficient monitoring strategy and for focussing the awareness campaign on certain applications.</p>	<p>Availability of the statistics.</p> <p>Integrating pertinent information into the FPRP.</p>	2013

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Fed. 10.9	To avail of an overview of statistics that are characteristic of the issue concerning <i>ppp</i> and biocides.	<p><u>Bundling and/or detailing a series of indexes in two scorecards</u> (one for <i>ppp</i> and one for biocides).</p> <p>Managing the risks of <i>ppp</i> and biocides requires the availability of representative statistics in relation to various parameters that are relevant for the issue at hand. The action aims at bundling the available indexes into a scorecard. At a federal level it involves detailed information about the market of <i>ppp</i> and biocides and about supervision of this market. It also involves information in relation to public health. More in particular, it involves the information collected based on the actions Fed. 1.2, 4.2, 4.3, 9.1, 10.1 to 10.7.</p> <p>As far as <i>ppp</i> are concerned, at least the proportion of products for non-professional users and of products for professional users will be included, as well as the development of the market of biopesticides.</p>	Publication of useful numerical data for the exercise of federal powers.	2016

#### 11. Monitoring the FPRP and the NAPAN

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Bel. 11.1/ Fed. 11.1	Coordinated national report.	<p><u>Coordination of the report within NTF.</u></p> <p>At the end of the programme in 2017 a national report will be prepared and published coordinating the specific reports of the NTF members.</p>	Publication of a national report.	2017
Bel.11.2 / Fed. 11.2	Coordination of the NAPAN.	<p><u>Defining and applying the operation of the NTF.</u></p> <p>As from 2013, every NTF member will cooperate in the NTF to ensure coordination of the NAPAN. The operation of the NTF for the 2013-2017 period will be laid down in an ad-hoc agreement no later than 2013.</p>	Operation of the NTF secretariat and of the NAPAN Advisory Council.	2013-2017.

Ref.	Objective	Measure	Indicator	Term
Bel. 11.3/ Fed. 11.3	To actively involve the public in all decision-making relating to NAPAN.	<u>Consultation of the public on NAPAN 2018-2023.</u>  At the 2017 review of the NAPAN for the purpose of determining its actions in the period 2018-2023, the public will be consulted in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 13 February 2006 on the assessment of the consequences for the environment of certain plans and programmes and the participation of the public in the development of the plans and programmes relating to the environment.	Report on the consultation of the public.	2017
Fed. 11.4	Updating the FPRP in view of the necessary adjustments.	<u>Adjustment of the Act on Product Standards; interim evaluation of the FPRP.</u>  An interim evaluation of the FPRP will be carried out in 2015. The FPRP will be updated accordingly as necessary. A report will be prepared about the evaluation. An amendment of the Act of 21/12/1998 on the product standards will be required to extend the current 2-year update period of the federal programme to 2.5 years.	Publication of the amended Act.	2014
			Availability of an evaluation report	2015
Fed. 11.5	To guarantee the operation of the FPRP bodies with decision-making power.	<u>Maintaining the functioning of the decision-making bodies of the FPRP</u>  At a federal level the FPRP operates with two bodies with decision-making power: the Bureau for administrative matters and the Strategic Committee for policy matters.	Operation of the Bureau and the Strategic Committee.	As from 2013
Fed. 11.6	To direct the monitoring campaigns in accordance with the objectives of the FPRP for <i>ppp</i> .	<u>The monitoring proposals will be evaluated and incorporated into the monitoring programme.</u>  If possible, the federal monitoring bodies will synchronise their inspection campaigns with certain FPRP actions. The adjustments will be requested and dealt with at the consultation meetings between the federal administrations in view of establishing the monitoring programmes.	Consultation meetings in relation to application of the measure.	As from 2013

## Part II

GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

# Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

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2012-2017

The English version is adapted from original version in order to facilitate the communication.  
Original versions are available in [Dutch](#).



GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

# Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

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2012-2017

Approved by the Government of Flanders on 1 March 2013

The reason for this action plan is the Framework Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides which entered into effect in 2009 (Directive 2009/128/EC). This draft action plan outlines the actions for which the Government of Flanders has competence, as well as the actions that are organised together with the federal government.

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## 1. Introduction

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides has made the use of national action plans compulsory. The enclosed draft Flemish Action Plan is Flanders' contribution to this national action plan. It specifies objectives and measures that are in line with the Flemish competences and Flemish policy. In view of mutual coordination, the other Belgian authorities concerned were consulted with at great length. This consultation took place within the NAPAN Task Force, for which the Government of Flanders already appointed representatives from the Flemish administration on 26 February 2010. For Flanders, these include, amongst others, the Department of Environment, Nature and Energy, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Welfare, Public Health and Family. The Flemish Environment Agency is represented here as well. The present draft was created with the participation of the representatives of these same Flemish authorities, but other authorities were involved as well, such as the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) and the Agency for Nature and Forests. The design of the preliminary draft is mainly owing to the efforts made by the Flemish Environment Agency, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Environment, Nature and Energy.

Other Flemish action plans were also considered in the draft, such as the river basin management plans implementing the EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC), and the action plan to the Regional Environmental Policy Plan.

When the action plan was drawn up, account was taken of the health, socio-economic and environmental effects of the planned actions. It was also tried to take heed of the positions of the relevant groups of stakeholders.

In order to guarantee public participation, the draft action plan was publicised in a proper manner and people were then given thirty days to submit their remarks and objections to the authorities concerned. This public consultation ran from 16 October 2012 through 15 November 2012.

The actions are targeted, amongst others, on pesticide vendors, professional and non-professional users (like agricultural and horticultural farmers, processors, garden services, garden designers and maintainers,...), public services and the public. For this purpose, the draft plan also contains the various objectives regarding environment and health.

A number of actions are not only situated at the Flemish level, but were agreed as joint actions within the aforementioned NAPAN Task Force. Therefore they are also mentioned in the action plan of the federal government. If there is a link with actions that are situated at another level of government, this is indicated further on in the text of this draft.

In the action plan, 'pesticides' is understood to mean: 'plant protection products' and 'biocides'. Under the heading 'biocides' several products can be found, such as disinfectants, wood preservatives, parasiticides, rodenticides (against rodents, such as mice and rats), antifouling products, etc.

By 'plant protection products' is meant any products that protect plants against pests and diseases and prevent undesired growth of plants, such as herbicides. For a good understanding it should be indicated that the regional authorities are not authorised to decide whether or not a specific product can be marketed in our country/Region. This falls within the competence of the federal government which issues the relevant authorisations. This authorisation may specify additional criteria which the product is to meet in terms of composition and packaging, the applications for which authorisation is given, the application method and frequency (such as a buffer zone to be respected, the fact that the product is only to be applied in specific spots,...), etc. The product label should also give accurate and complete information in line with this authorisation. For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Chemicalsubstances/Biocids/index.htm>

<http://www.fytoweb.fgov.be/indexNL.asp>

## 2. Certification of the expertise of professional users of plant protection products

### Existing legislative framework

03/03/2004 - Flemish Parliament Decree on the subsidisation of more sustainable agricultural production methods and the recognition of centres for more sustainable agriculture.

04/06/2004 - Government of Flanders Decision on the allocation of grants for after-school training initiatives in the agricultural sector.

27/11/2007 - Ministerial Order on the allocation of grants for after-school training initiatives in the agricultural sector.

### Amendments to the legislative framework

Amendment to the Government of Flanders Decision to create the possibility to approve and subsidise training programmes lasting less than 20 hours.

Amendment to the Ministerial Order to make it possible to approve the content of programmes.

The amendments to the legislation are due to be introduced in the second half of 2013.

### Focus of this plan

In the framework of the federal legislation, the so-called phytolice (this is amply part of the federal action plan) is currently being prepared. This licence includes a certificate for professional users, distributors and advisers of plant protection products. The Royal Decision concerned will introduce an important amendment to the existing federal Decisions and will provide for the following phytolices: "Distribution/Advice Products for Non-professional Use", "Assistant Professional Use", "Professional Use" or "Distribution/Advice". The conditions for the application, granting and renewal of a phytolice will also be entered in this Royal Decision. The continuing and basic training provided for in the relevant federal Decision in view of obtaining the phytolice will be organised through the centres recognised by the Sustainable Agricultural Development Division of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in accordance with the Government of Flanders Decision on the allocation of grants for after-school training initiatives in the agricultural sector. When the grant is awarded, it is made sure that the mandatory training subjects, as set out in Annex I of Directive 2009/128/EC, are provided for in the training (it is regulated here, among other things, that alternative and environment-friendly types of plant protection should be broadly discussed). Teachers must not have any connections with commercial companies when they give the training.

The Division issues the certificates when the course participant has passed the course test and attended at least 75% of the course lessons.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 2.1	Organising the basic training for obtaining the phytolice	Number of organised training courses and participants	Recognition of training centres and specifying the content of the training	2013-15	Current operational cost
VL 2.2	Organising continuing training	Number of training activities and participants	Recognition of training activities through recognised training centres	2013 and next	Current operational cost

### 3. Products for non-professional users and information to the general public

#### Existing legislative framework

##### *Collection of pesticide packaging*

Pesticides and their packaging are regarded as Small Hazardous Waste. If it is of domestic origin, such waste is collected selectively through the collection of small hazardous waste that is organised in each Flemish municipality. Companies too must store and make available their small hazardous waste separately. However, they usually cannot use the domestic waste collection services for this purpose, but must call in the services of professional waste collectors. In this case this waste is referred to as small hazardous waste of similar industrial origin. Similar in terms of nature and quantity with small hazardous waste of domestic origin.

##### *Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction*

In the Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction awareness-raising among citizens and in-house personnel (of the public authorities) is legally embedded in the reduction programmes (Flemish Parliament Decree of 21 December 2001 and implementing order of 19 December 2008, Art. 3, §1: tracks 1 and 3). Public authorities which still decided to use pesticides after 2004 had to submit this reduction programme.

#### Amendments to the legislative framework

##### *The Flemish Parliament Decree on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides as ratified by the Government of Flanders on 8 February 2013.*

Article 5 of the Flemish Parliament Decree specifies the objective, which is to protect human health and the environment against the risks of pesticide use. The following hierarchy is followed at all times:

- 1° preventing the use of pesticides;
- 2° using alternative control methods;
- 3° using chemical agents in a way that carries the lowest risk to human health and the environment.

Article 9 of the Flemish Parliament Decree stipulates that the Government of Flanders shall inform the general public about:

- the use of non-chemical control methods;
- the effects and risks of pesticides to human health, the environment and non-target organisms
- the disposal of waste resulting from the use of pesticides.

Raising awareness in those who design and maintain grounds is crucial in order for the pesticide-free management of grounds to be successful.

#### Existing plans

##### *Cooperation agreement between Government of Flanders and municipalities and provinces (2008-2013)*

One of the actions regarding water from the cooperation agreement that is to take place on an annual basis is to raise awareness in citizens, either about sustainable water use or pesticide reduction. The grant which the Flemish Region allocates to municipalities is dependent on the implementation of a whole series of actions, including this awareness-raising action.

Article 5 of the Flemish Parliament Decree of 21 December 2001 mentions that the Government of Flanders awards financial incentives to municipalities to set up information campaigns to reduce household pesticide use. These incentives are translated in the theme 'Water' of the cooperation agreement with the municipalities (2008-2013).

In accordance with the cooperation agreement (theme Water) it is the provinces' duty to raise awareness among municipalities and to support them in reducing pesticide use. In addition, the province lends its support to regional awareness-raising actions around pesticide reduction.

#### *Existing channels for raising awareness and disseminating information*

Raising the awareness of the general public and giving them information is done through:

- The 'zonder is gezonder' [in English this stands for: 'without (pesticides) is healthier'] campaign: the website [www.zonderisgezonder.be](http://www.zonderisgezonder.be) provides information to both public authorities and citizens.
- Awareness-raising and information via environmental health experts and the LOGOs, i.e. the local health consultation.
- Publication of information through Steunpunt Milieu en Gezondheid, i.e. the Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health. Awareness-raising and information about pesticides as small hazardous waste through intermunicipal authorities, municipalities and the relevant sector.

### **Focus of this plan**

#### *Awareness-raising and information campaigns*

Developing a targeted and appropriate communication and information campaign is a major focus in this plan. Awareness and information campaigns are mounted in accordance with a graduated system (laid down in Article 5 of the Flemish Parliament Decree on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides) with the highest priority on top, namely:

- (1) to prevent the use of pesticides as much as possible;
- (2) to use alternatives;
- (3) and, in the last instance, to correctly use chemical agents.

To raise awareness, existing initiatives are first of all built on, namely:

- The 'zonder is gezonder' campaign: the website [www.zonderisgezonder.be](http://www.zonderisgezonder.be) provides information to both public authorities and citizens.
- Awareness-raising and information via environmental health experts and the LOGOs, i.e. the local health consultation.
- Publication of information through the Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health
- Awareness-raising and information about pesticides as small hazardous waste through intermunicipal authorities, municipalities and the relevant sector.

Because of the extension of the target group following the transposition of the European Directive, an adjusted and targeted awareness campaign is required. Although private gardens generally fall outside the scope of Directive 2009/128/EC, private individuals will be included as target group in this awareness campaign.

### **Joint initiatives**

At each point of sale of plant protection products and biocides, balanced information will have to be available for non-professional users. In other words: general information about the risks of the use of plant protection products and biocides to human health and the environment, among other things about risks, exposure, proper storage conditions and instructions for the use, application and disposal without causing any danger, in conformity with the legislation on waste, as well as about alternative solutions that entail a smaller risk.

The action consists of determining which information is to be available as a minimum at the point of sale and which are the further rules for providing this information. The information will be determined by the members of the NAPAN Task Force, each in keeping with his or her own competences. The Advisory Council of the NAPAN Task Force will be consulted with on this matter.

**Actions**

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 3.1	Promoting the use of alternatives	Number of unique visitors on the website Number of citizens reached	Awareness campaign through, among other things, the website <a href="http://www.zonderisgezonder.be">www.zonderisgezonder.be</a> , via municipalities and provinces, VVOG, the campaign "Week without Pesticides", through sectoral organisations and civil society	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.2	Explaining the risks of pesticide use to human health	Number of citizens reached	Awareness campaign through the website <a href="http://www.zonderisgezonder.be">www.zonderisgezonder.be</a> , LOGO, environmental health experts and via municipalities and provinces	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.3a	Promoting organic vegetable and ornamental gardens	Number of citizens reached	Awareness campaign through the website <a href="http://www.zonderisgezonder.be">www.zonderisgezonder.be</a> , "Week without Pesticides" campaign,	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.3 b	Code of good practice for gardening (with section on pesticides)	Study in view of the development of the code	The Environment and Health Service of the Department of Nature, Environment and Energy is to start a joint study together with OVAM	2013	Budget for TWOL, i.e. applied scientific research into the environment
VL 3.4-a	Promoting the pesticide test	Number of organisations reached	Guide and its publication through sectoral organisations, website, ...	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.4-b	Promoting the pesticide test among designers	Number of workshops	(1) Giving guest courses/workshops at schools (higher education, secondary education) that provide training programmes in the green sector (2) Giving presentations/workshops for garden architects, landscape architects, architects	Running	Current operational cost

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 3.4-c	Guideline for pesticide test	Publication	Evaluation and optimisation of the pesticide test (among other things to examine whether it is advisable to extend the pesticide test to grounds where the use of pesticides is prohibited)	In late 2016	Current operational cost
VL 3.5	Promoting the pesticide-free management of sealed surfaces (among other things, through an adjusted design of sealed surfaces)	Number of organisations reached	Guide and its publication through sectoral organisations, website <a href="http://www.zonderisgezonder.be">www.zonderisgezonder.be</a> , ...	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.6-a	Increasing the maximum tolerance for weed growth - 2012-2013		Awareness campaign through municipalities and provinces - included in the core of the cooperation agreement	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.6-b	Increasing the maximum tolerance for weed growth - 2014-2017		Awareness campaign simultaneously through the Government of Flanders and the municipalities and provinces	To be launched	Current operational cost
VL 3.7	Collecting packaging and expired products through the small hazardous waste collection	Number of kilograms of collected packaging and expired products	Awareness campaign, among other things, through OVAM, community recycling centres, the website <a href="http://www.zonderisgezonder.be">www.zonderisgezonder.be</a> , LOGO, environmental health experts and via municipalities and provinces	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.8.	Tackling problem species* through prevention, alternatives and, in the last instance, pesticides	Publication of guide	Design of guide in consultation with several users, and people who are (potentially) exposed.	Running	Current operational cost
VL 3.9	Evaluation of the different sub-terrain types specified in the Decision on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.	Evaluation completed	Evaluation of the workability of the different sub-terrain types	In late 2016	Current operational cost

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
Bel 4.1 <sup>1</sup>	Guaranteeing users of non-professional products balanced information at the point of sale about the good conditions for use and the risks to public health and the environment	Information available at the point of sale	Agreement at the level of the ICLNAPAN and adjustment of the Royal Decision of the federal reduction programme	2013	/

\*Problem species: plants and animals that are difficult to control. For instance: Japanese knotweed, American bird-cherry, giant hogweed, brown rat,...

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<sup>1</sup> This joint actions (with indication 'Bel.') are set up in cooperation with the other members of the NAPAN Task Force (NTF). Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.3.1 (see for more information about this joint action p.5 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).

## **4. Monitoring of poisoning incidents and chronic exposure**

### **Existing legislative framework**

The Flemish Parliament Decree of 21 November 2003 on Preventive Health Policy lays down the main lines of the preventive health policy in Flanders. The Flemish Human Biomonitoring Programme was made mandatory through this Decree.

### **Existing plans**

For the first Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health 2002-2006, human biomonitoring was carried out in 8 regions in Flanders, including rural areas and the fruit region, which are ecologically stressed to a different degree. No specific recruitment was done for certain sectors and by distance from the home to agricultural areas, for instance. Measurements were carried out of three age groups, namely newborns and their mothers, youngsters aged between 14 and 15, and adults between the ages of 50 and 65. Biomarkers were measured for exposure, including to DDE and HCB, as well as impact markers.

In the second Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health 2007-2011 a Flemish reference for human biomonitoring was carried out, followed by human biomonitoring in two hot spots. The exposure biomarkers included the following pollutants: HCB, DDE and a number of metabolites of organic phosphorus pesticides, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), ethylene thiourea (ETU), metabolites of fungicides and of pyrethroid.

The third generation Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health runs from 2012 through 2015. The multi-annual programme of this centre of expertise includes a Flemish reference for human biomonitoring and biomonitoring at a hot spot. A participatory procedure was designed for the selection of biomarkers to be monitored. Following the results of the first centre of expertise, measures were developed for DDT and chlorinated compounds in rural areas in the Action Plan on Chlorinated Compounds.

### **Focus of this plan**

A number of pesticides also go through the selection procedure for the selection of biomarkers in the third biomonitoring programme. During the selection they will also be monitored in the next biomonitoring programme.



**Actions**

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 4.1	Examining the possibility of including biomarkers for pesticides in the next Flemish biomonitoring programme	Going through the selection procedure	Pesticides also go through the selection procedure for the selection of biomarkers for the third biomonitoring programme on the basis of validation dossiers which indicate that the required measurements are finalised	2012	Current operational cost
VL 4.2	Measuring pesticides through biomonitoring of newborns and their mothers	Biomonitoring	Measuring pesticides through biomonitoring of newborns and their mothers (in the context of the Flemish Centre of Expertise on Environment and Health). Results to be used in information campaigns and sheets with practical tips for reducing exposure	2013 - 2014	Current operational cost

## 5. Protection of the aquatic environment and drinking water

### Existing legislative framework

#### *Flemish Parliament Decree on Integrated Water Policy*

The Flemish Parliament Decree on Integrated Water Policy (Articles 9 and 10, 2°) lays down a number of rules regarding riparian zones and the use of pesticides in these riparian zones. For instance, the application of pesticides, with the exception of rodenticides, is prohibited in riparian zones. If the riparian zone only includes the slopes, the application of pesticides is prohibited within one metre inland from the top edge of the slope of the surface water body.

The Flemish Parliament Decree also stipulates that programmes for monitoring in surface water and groundwater are to be drawn up in order to know the status of the water, which also includes pesticide monitoring.

#### *Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction*

The Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction implicitly mention the protection of the aquatic environment. The run-off into surface water, for instance, is minimised as a result of the prohibition on the use of pesticides on sealed surfaces in the public space. Furthermore, a prohibition of the use of pesticides will also enter into force in Type III groundwater protection zones from 1 January 2015 onwards.

In case of acute and reasonably unforeseeable pests that endanger human health or the environment or in case of situations that pose or may pose a serious threat to human safety and for which no effective alternative control measures are available either, this prohibition may temporarily be derogated from, provided the water manager of the riparian zone notifies the competent administration of this in advance.

#### *The Groundwater Decision*

The prohibition of the direct and indirect discharge, disposal, storage on or in the soil, application and transport of pesticides in type II and III protection zones is laid down in the Government of Flanders Decision of 27 March 1985 regulating operations within water catchment areas and protection zones.

#### *Environmental quality standards in surface water and groundwater*

Environmental quality standards, which are entered in the Vlarems legislation, apply in surface water to a number of pesticides, including the substances that are identified as priority (hazardous) substances in the Water Framework Directive (abbreviated as WFD). For other active substances which were not entered in the Vlarems legislation, it is aimed to avoid exceedances of the predicted no-effect concentration (PNEC) and the maximum admissible concentration (MAC) (cf WFD, Annex V, 1.2.6).

The drinking water standard (100 µg/L) applies to all active substances in groundwater.

#### *Drinking water quality monitoring*

In implementation of the Drinking Water Decree (Government of Flanders Decision of 13 December 2002), drinking water companies frequently monitor the presence of pesticides in the supplied drinking water. In consultation with the sector a pesticide monitoring programme was started to monitor about 35 individual active substances on a regular basis.

### Amendments to the legislative framework

#### *Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides*

As a result of the Directive, a new Flemish Parliament Decree on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides was adopted. The Decision specifies the prohibition of pesticides or the restrictions on the use of pesticides for the management of grounds for non-agricultural and non-horticultural activities (procedure still running). For the public authorities the existing Flemish Parliament Decree on Pesticide Reduction of 21 December 2001 and the implementing order of 19 December 2008 continue

to be valid until 1 January 2015. For the new target group a minimum use (with the exception of verges/banks where a prohibition is in place) will apply from the entry into force of the Decision until 1 January 2015. From 1 January 2015 onwards, additional prohibitions will be effective (for instance for vulnerable groups). In the transposition explicit account has been taken of Article 11 of the Directive: Pesticides can still be used under specific conditions. This is the case for two types of derogations:

1° if no adequate non-chemical control methods are available for:

- a) pests that pose a risk to human health or hygiene;
- b) pests that pose a risk to the environment, biodiversity or livestock;
- c) situations that pose or may pose a serious threat to human safety;

2° when a pesticide-free management entails disproportionately high costs.

A type 2 derogation is not allowed for groundwater protection zones.

The Decision further specifies the procedures for obtaining a derogation. Therefore, providing a fixed set of objective criteria for drawing up the list which is to be annually defined, as suggested by the councils, is currently impossible. Consequently, in anticipation of such criteria, the necessary caution will be exercised when drawing up the list. The idea is indeed to define criteria for drawing up and adjusting this list at a later stage. The composition of such a set of criteria is also entered as one of the actions in the action plan. The objective of the Flemish Parliament Decree to only allow the use of pesticides in exceptional circumstances is maintained.

#### *The Groundwater Decision*

The prohibition of the direct and indirect discharge, disposal, storage on or in the soil, application and transport of pesticides in type II and III protection zones, as laid down in the Government of Flanders Decision of 27 March 1985 regulating operations within water catchment areas and protection zones, continues to be valid. The adjustment includes the division into different target groups. In addition, it offers the possibility to prohibit pesticides which cause problems for the production of drinking water.

#### **Existing plans:**

##### *River basin management plans (2009-2015) in transposition of Framework Directive 2000/60/EC*

In order to achieve good status for a water body, actions were included, among other things, to prevent or reduce pollution of surface water and groundwater caused by pesticides. The measures regarding pesticides in these river basin management plans were evaluated for the present action plan and retained, whenever relevant, although sometimes in a slightly adapted form. These actions will in their turn be evaluated in view of the next river basin management plans.

##### *Source dossiers and water safety plans*

Measure 25 of the Flemish Environmental Policy Plan 2011-2015 pertains to the protection of drinking water catchment areas. This set of measures coincides with Flanders in Action's key project 44-2 "Implementatie concept 'Waterveiligheidsplannen' in de drinkwatervoorziening – opmaak brondossiers als eerste stap" ("Implementation of the concept of water safety plans in drinking water supply - drawing up source dossiers as a first step").

#### **Focus of this plan**

The Flemish Parliament Decree on Integrated Water Policy and the resulting river basin management plans constitute the basis of this section. However, a de-phasing exists with the river basin management plans. That is why a mid-term evaluation was carried out for this plan of the measures regarding pesticides, which were subsequently adjusted, if necessary. The measures in the programme of measures for the river basin management plans were evaluated in terms of their effectiveness and relevance for this plan. This plan examines, among other things, the desirability and/or feasibility to make certain measures (which are currently voluntary) mandatory in order to realise the objectives of the WFD and the Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. The plan also pays attention to improving the enforcement of existing legislation, in particular with regards to the safeguarding of buffer zones in agricultural and horticultural activities along watercourses.

In addition, studies are currently being carried out with regard to groundwater in order to be able to assess the spatial distribution of pesticides in the different phreatic aquifers, so that groundwater zones that are vulnerable to pesticides can be accurately designated. These studies should enable to develop targeted actions for groundwater vulnerability zones in the future. The intended vulnerability zones are not necessarily related to the protection zones for the production of drinking water.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 5.1	Protecting surface water	Included in cross-compliance list	Enforcement of 1m buffer zone in horizontal crops included in cross-compliance for direct income support	In late 2014	Current operational cost
VL 5.2	Protecting surface water	% violations	Enforcement of the buffer zones through cross-compliance for direct income support	Max. 10% violations in 2016	Current operational cost
VL 5.3a	Protecting surface water used for drinking water production	Publication of legal basis	Updating Vlare II Annex 2.3.2. / environmental quality standards for surface water used for drinking water production	2015	Current operational cost
VL 5.3b	Protecting surface water used for drinking water production	Publication of legal basis	Demarcating protection zones for the use of pesticides to protect drinking water abstraction	2015	Current operational cost
VL 5.4	Protecting surface water	Publication of legal basis	Making the 3m buffer zone mandatory for vertical crops along surface water	2016	Current operational cost
VL 5.5a	Protecting surface water	Study completed	Examining the possibility of making the use of clean water tanks mandatory	In late 2013	Current operational cost
VL 5.5b	Reducing drift	Study completed	Examining the possibility of making the use of drift-reducing nozzles and end nozzles mandatory for one or several crops	In late 2013	Current operational cost
VL 5.6	Protecting surface water	Publication of legal basis	Developing legal initiatives when it is opted to make the use of drift-reducing nozzles and end nozzles and/or a clean water tank mandatory.	In late 2015	Current operational cost
VL 5.7	Protecting surface water	% erosion-susceptible fields with measures to combat erosion	Combating erosion at the source and through the construction of obstacles	Running	Current operational cost

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 5.8	Protecting groundwater	Number of phreatic groundwater bodies (23) that were studied	Performing geostatistical analyses to obtain a comprehensive picture of the spatial distribution of pesticides and their metabolites for each phreatic groundwater body (cf. the Groundwater Directive)	31/12/2015	Current operational cost
VL 5.9	Protecting groundwater	Vulnerable zones are indicated for the whole area	Scientifically underpinned (leaching, retention capacity) designation of groundwater zones that are vulnerable to specific pesticides or groups of pesticides	25% in 2016	Current operational cost
VL 5.10 .a	Raising the awareness of professional users for a sustainable use of pesticides	Number of professional users reached	Disseminating code of good agricultural practices: Promoting the use of drift-reducing nozzles and the correct use and installation of a clean water tank on sprayers		Current operational cost
VL 5.10 .b	Raising awareness for the installation and use of biological purification systems	Number of awareness actions	Organising advisory activities regarding the correct use and installation of biological purification systems and filling points  Completing the practical guide on good agricultural practices partim crop protection with biological purification systems	2013	Current operational cost
VI 5.11	Protecting groundwater used for drinking water production	Annual publication of report	Annual evaluation of the active substances in the raw water of the groundwater protection zones	From 2013 onwards	Current operational cost
VI 5.12	Monitoring of objectives	European indicators	If indicators are available at the European level from which the NAPAN Task Force proposes a selection to be applied, the Government of Flanders will use these indicators	As soon as indicators are available at the European level	Current operational cost

## 6. Protection of nature and vulnerable groups

### Existing legislative framework

#### *Flemish Ecological Network (FEN)*

Within the FEN a prohibition of the use of pesticides applies. However, a number of derogations are allowed. Plant protection products may be applied on utilised agricultural areas, on the condition that the Flemish Parliament Decree on Manure provides an exemption from the prohibition of manure application, as well as in gardens of private individuals. Authorities are also still allowed to use plant protection products if this is provided for in their plans for reducing pesticide use by public services in the Flemish Region. As long as no products or methods are available that are more ecologically justified and are equally efficient, pesticides can still be used to control American bird-cherry, Japanese knotweed and other invasive exotic species until 31 December 2014.

#### *Flemish Parliament Decree on Forests*

The use of pesticides is prohibited in forest reserves. It is only allowed for a methodical and combined mechanical-chemical control.

In the proximity of watercourses, additional restrictions apply for pesticides: they must not be applied, for instance, to the banks of the watercourses themselves (Decision on Banks and Verges, Art. 2).

#### *Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction*

In the Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on Pesticide Reduction, the protection of nature and vulnerable groups is also considered in the reduction of pesticide use. In order to protect nature, a prohibition has been included of the application of pesticides to the edges of roadways, verges/banks and other terrains that are part of the road or belong to it, such as motorways, waterways and railways. In addition, a prohibition is also in place in nature and forest areas or vulnerable areas, such as valleys and source areas. In order to protect vulnerable groups, a prohibition is also in effect in public parks and gardens.

In case of acute and reasonably unforeseeable pests that endanger human health or the environment or in case of situations that pose or may pose a serious threat to human safety and for which no effective alternative control measures are available either, this prohibition may temporarily be derogated from, provided the competent administration is notified of this in advance.

### Amendments to the legislative framework

#### *Draft Decree on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides for Non-agricultural and Non-horticultural Activities (procedure still running)*

As a result of the Directive, a new Flemish Parliament Decree and Government Decision on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides are drawn up. The Decision specifies the prohibition of pesticides or the restrictions on the use of pesticides for the management of grounds for non-agricultural and non-horticultural activities. For public authorities, the existing Flemish Parliament Decree on Pesticide Reduction of 21 December 2001 and the implementing order of 19 December 2008 continue to be valid until 1 January 2015. For the new target group, the Decision will be effective immediately: for them the minimum use (with the exception of verges/banks for which a prohibition is in place) applies until 1 January 2015. As of 2015, additional prohibition provisions will be in force.

The prohibition of the use of pesticides is taken from the Decision on Verges and Banks and included in the Decision on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides for Non-agricultural and Non-horticultural Activities.

The different types of areas that are accessible to the general public and vulnerable groups are subdivided into 4 sub-area types. This subdivision took place on the basis of the vulnerability of the target group and the number of times the areas are entered. The definition of 'vulnerable group' is as follows: "people who require specific attention where it concerns the evaluation of acute and chronic effects of pesticides for human health". The types of areas used by the general public and vulnerable groups are subdivided in accordance with the vulnerability of the target group.

A prohibition is in place for areas near childcare facilities, schools and institutions for nursery, primary and secondary education, part-time education in the arts and pupil guidance centres. A minimum use is allowed for all other sub-areas that are not situated in protection zones for the abstraction of drinking water. As indicated earlier, a prohibition of the use of pesticides will be in force for all public services from 1 January 2015 onwards.

### Focus of this plan

The first action plan will concentrate on raising the awareness of the target groups in a targeted manner, whilst focussing on the administrators of the areas visited by vulnerable groups.

### Joint initiatives

Feasibility study in consultation with the Regions to examine practical solutions so that account is taken of the protection of people living in the neighbourhood of areas where plant protection products (hereafter abbreviated as ppp) are sprayed. In this study several possibilities for action will have to be considered which will require the advice from all the parties involved, as well as an evaluation of the socio-economic impact.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 6.1	Protecting nature areas	Publication of legal basis	Making the 1m buffer zone for horizontal crops and the 3m buffer zone for vertical crops adjacent to nature areas mandatory	2016	Current operational cost
VL 6.2	Protecting vulnerable groups	Publication of legal basis	Making the 1m buffer zone for horizontal crops and the 3m buffer zone for vertical crops adjacent to gardens and houses mandatory	2016	Current operational cost
VL 6.3. a	Protecting vulnerable groups	Publication of legal basis	Prohibition of the use of pesticides on grounds of public services and childcare facilities, nursery schools, primary schools and secondary schools* from 1 January 2015 onwards. Minimum use of pesticides on other grounds that are accessible to the general public.	2013	Current operational cost
VL 6.4	Protecting vulnerable groups	Number of reached organisations	Targeted awareness-raising among administrators of school grounds and childcare facilities through sectoral organisations	Whole period	Current operational cost

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
Bel. 9.1 <sup>2</sup>	Buffer zone for the use of ppp in the proximity of houses	Publication of the legal provision	Adjustment of the Royal Decision on the Sustainable Use of PPPs.	From the entry into effect of the Royal Decision on the Sustainable Use of PPPs.	Current operational cost

\* Secondary schools: a derogation will be allowed for agricultural and horticultural education on the plots where pupils practise their skills.

## 7. Application of professional plant protection products and the correct disposal of resulting waste streams

### Existing legislative framework

The cooperation agreement of 4 November 2008 on the prevention and management of packaging waste, which is on an equal footing as a Decree/order in the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels-Capital Regions, regulates the obligations of all companies that place packaging on the Belgian market, the so-called packaging fillers. The cooperation agreement transposes Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, as amended by Directive 2004/12/EC. This agreement obliges each packaging filler to provide proof that specific quantities of the packaging waste it is responsible for are recovered and recycled. The packaging filler can either individually fulfil this obligation or assign a recognised body to meet this obligation in keeping with Articles 7 and 8 of the agreement.

In the field of industrial packaging waste (including packaging waste of phytosanitary products), the non-profit organisation VAL-I-PAC is the only body that has been recognised by the Interregional Packaging Committee. Packaging fillers which do not want to meet their return obligation themselves are obliged to join this recognised body for the return of their industrial packaging. They pay the recognised body, which is a non-profit organisation that is specifically recognised by the government to fulfil the return obligation, a contribution that is in proportion to the amount of packaging that is placed on the market and to the materials used.

The non-profit organisation PhytofarRecover was established to collect packaging and residues of plant protection products and expired plant protection products for the phytosanitary industry. In accordance with Article 3 of its articles of association it aims "to organise and manage, in the interest of its members, its affiliated members or its beneficiaries, the collection and processing of packaging of plant protection products used for professional purposes and residues of plant protection products, such as products that have expired or are not to be sold or used."

The members of the non-profit organisation PhytofarRecover, i.e. the producers of plant protection products for professional use, are subject to the provisions of the cooperation agreement. PhytofarRecover has set up a specific circuit of selective collection among farmers, the total real cost of which is paid for by its members. Currently, the packaging is incinerated with energy recovery. However, the possibility of recycling all or part of the selectively collected packaging is being examined. In practice, PhytofarRecover has set up an efficient recovery system of packaging waste among professional users of plant protection products. As a result of this, more than 90% of the used packaging is collected.

<sup>2</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan this joint action was not maintained as one of the joint Belgian actions (2013-2017).



The members of PhytofarRecover are affiliated with Val-I-Pac. They report annually to both PhytofarRecover and Val-I-Pac. In order to make this double reporting easier, practical agreements have been made between both bodies. Thanks to their Val-I-Pac membership, the members of PhytofarRecover fulfil their return obligation for packaging waste. Given the specific circuit for the selective collection of this packaging, PhytofarRecover reports directly to the inspection authority that was set up in the framework of the cooperation agreement, namely the Interregional Packaging Committee (IPC). The IPC verifies the accuracy of the collection and processing (incineration with energy recovery) statistics.

Professional users other than farmers must also separate their unused plant protection products and packaging and make them available separately to professional collectors.

### **Amendments to the legislative framework**

Vlarem I and Vlarem II: draft Government of Flanders Decision amending the Government of Flanders Decision of 6 February 1991 laying down the Flemish regulations for the environmental licence and the Government of Flanders Decision of 1 June 1995 containing general and sectoral provisions on environmental health, as regards the treatment of residual fluid originating from the cleaning of equipment used for plant protection products and the related cleaning site.

The provisions put forward in this draft are part of the various efforts to prevent pollution of point sources of surface water by pesticides. It is also the final piece in the application of good agricultural practices in this context. By using these good practices it is aimed to reduce the environmental impact of pesticide use as much as possible. However, sometimes residues on spraying equipment cannot or could not be avoided. Effective filtering systems are available for treating residues contaminated by plant protection products.

In the first instance a regulation is provided here for filtering that is based on microbial activity through a biological purification method. Furthermore, a regulation is put in place for a physicochemical filtering process. The latter functions on the basis of the application of chemicals, flocculation, sedimentation and filtering. This system has a large capacity, which makes it more suitable for contract sprayers. Finally, a regulation is also introduced for installations for cleaning spraying equipment used for the application of pesticides (however, this does not apply to hand-held and knapsack spraying equipment).

### **Other existing initiatives**

Chapter 4 of the practical guide on the good agricultural practice "plant protection" discusses the safe, efficient and environment-friendly use of plant protection products. It treats the main points of focus during, before and after spraying and touches upon both the spray mixture and the correct disposal of packaging and residues.

### **Focus of this plan**

When spraying equipment is filled and cleaned on a sealed surface, the surface water may be polluted with plant protection products. This pollution may be prevented by catching the rinse water. Residues from plant protection products can be disposed of by means of biological purification systems. Apart from the biological purification, which ensures the microbiological degradation of plant protection products, the residual water can also be purified in a physicochemical manner. The different biological purification systems will be demonstrated and publicised among professional users of pesticides. For this purpose, demonstrations, study days and articles are planned in the specialist trade press, with an eye to raising as much awareness as possible.

### **Joint initiatives**

Enhancing the inspection of storage facilities for plant protection products, in order to encourage professional users that are not in compliance with the norms to apply these norms correctly.

It is indeed absolutely necessary for storage facilities of plant protection products to be managed with the greatest care. In particular the legislative provisions must be respected. As soon as the Royal Decision on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products becomes effective, the main lines of the

information about the obligations will be transmitted to professional users and the control checklists will be adjusted accordingly.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 7.1	Regulation on the disposal/purification of residual fluids from the application of plant protection products and on the cleaning of spraying equipment used for the application of pesticides	Promulgation of the relevant legislation	Adjustment of Vlarem I & II (both for biological and physicochemical purification)	In late 2012	Current operational cost
Bel. 10.1 <sup>3</sup>	Room for the storage of plant protection products: enhanced inspections, so as to encourage agricultural holdings that are not in compliance with the norms to apply these norms correctly	Incorporation of the new control criteria into the checklists	The control checklists will be adjusted on the basis of the provisions in the Royal Decision on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products [following] an information campaign	From the entry into effect of the Royal Decision on the Sustainable Use of PPPs	Current operational cost

<sup>3</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.8.1 (see for more information about this joint action p.11 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).

## 8. Integrated pest management (IPM)

Integrated pest management is a method to protect crops against the harmful effects of diseases and pests, and is aimed at a minimal use of chemical plant protection products. In order to achieve this, any possible pest control methods are used, such as biological, physical and mechanical pest control methods. These are preferred to chemical methods. Interventions are only allowed when the economic damage threshold is exceeded. In order to realise a minimal treatment preventive measures are taken, such as crop rotation, variety choice and fertilisation. Observations and scientifically sound warnings indicate whether control methods are needed. If necessary, proper action is taken, with priority given wherever possible to non-chemical methods. IPM must guarantee a sustainable and responsible use of plant protection products.

### Existing legislative framework

26 March 2004 - Government of Flanders Decision for the recognition of the integrated production method for stone fruit and of producers that cultivate in keeping with this method, Belgian Official Journal of 10 June 2004

13 February 2003 - Ministerial Order laying down the specifications and the parcel register on the integrated production method of stone fruit, Belgian Official Journal of 7 March 2003, amended by the Ministerial Order of 17 September 2004, Belgian Official Journal of 15 October 2004

13 February 2003 - Ministerial Order laying down special conditions for the recognition of inspection bodies regarding the integrated production of stone fruit, Belgian Official Journal of 7 March 2003

12 December 2008 - Government of Flanders Decision on organic production and labelling of organic products

16 September 2005 - Ministerial Order laying down the rules regarding derogations for seed and seed potatoes in the organic production method

7 February 2006 - Ministerial Order amending the Ministerial Order of 16 September 2005 laying down the rules regarding derogations for seed and seed potatoes in the organic production method

28 November 2006 - Ministerial Order amending the Ministerial Order of 16 September 2005 laying down the rules regarding derogations for seed and seed potatoes in the organic production method

22 June 2009 - Ministerial Order implementing Articles 7, 9, 10, 11 and 48 of the Government of Flanders Decision of 12 December 2008 on organic production and labelling of organic products

### *Basic laws:*

Law of 28 March 1975 on the trade in agricultural, horticultural and sea fisheries products, Belgian Official Journal of 25 April 1975

Law of 11 July 1969 on pesticides and raw materials for agriculture, horticulture, forestry and livestock farming, Belgian Official Journal of 17 July 1969

Law of 28 March 1975 on the trade in agricultural, horticultural and sea fisheries products, Belgian Official Journal of 25 April 1975

Government of Flanders Decision amending the Government of Flanders Decision of 14 May 2004 on the allocation of optional grants to Practical Centres engaged in agricultural and horticultural information and development

3 March 2004 - Flemish Parliament Decree on the subsidisation of more sustainable agricultural production methods and the recognition of centres for more sustainable agriculture.

Subsidised warning services: PCA, KBIVB, Pcfuit, LCG and PCS for potatoes, beetroot, chicory, fruit, grains, rape seed, flax and ornamental horticulture respectively. The warnings for different vegetable crops are organised by the producers' association with a grant received in the context of the common market organisation for fruit and vegetables.

Government of Flanders Decision amending the Government of Flanders Decision of 14 May 2004 on the allocation of optional grants to Practical Centres engaged in agricultural and horticultural information and development

**Adjustments to the legislative framework (1 January 2014)**

In keeping with Directive 2009/128/EC, Member States must make sure that the principles of IPM are applied by all professional users. To that end, a Government of Flanders Decision is currently under preparation that will include this obligation. Together with the professional sector, sector-specific IPM guidelines are being drawn up that are in conformity with Annex III of the Directive.

**Focus of this plan**

It goes without saying that raising the awareness of professional users is an important point of focus in this plan. Two practical guides on good agricultural practices for plant protection and water have already been developed at an earlier stage. The practical guide on plant protection will be fully adjusted to IPM. The guidelines specified for each crop will be included in this guide. They will also be part of the quality specifications of the agricultural sector and be monitored in a similar way. In order to raise the awareness of professional users and to provide them with information, demonstration projects will be carried out for the different crops as of 2013. Agricultural and horticultural farmers can evaluate the possibilities of IPM for their crops on the basis of demonstrations on trial plots. Apart from these demonstrations, several seminars, courses and articles will be planned in the specialist agricultural press. IPM will be part of the basic and continuous education regarding the phytoliceance. IPM advisers must hold the "distributor/adviser" phytoliceance in order to have the guarantee that they have sufficient expert knowledge.

**Actions**

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 8.1	Making general IPM principles mandatory	Publication of legal basis	Legislation which obliges all professional users to apply the general IPM principles	1/01/14	Current operational cost
VL 8.2	Guidelines are developed for the most important crops	Number of guidelines that are developed	Development of guidelines for IPM application. The guidelines contain the general IPM principles for each sector, as set out in Directive 2009/128/EC.	1/01/14	Current operational cost
VL 8.3	Development and maintenance of observation and warning systems (abbreviated as o&w)	10 o&w systems are developed	Development of observation and warning systems for each crop	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.4 a	Raising the awareness of professional users		Sustainable use of plant protection products	Running	Current operational cost
VL 8.4 b	Raising the awareness of agricultural and horticultural farmers	Number of demonstration activities and number of participants	Demonstration projects for arable farming, vegetable cultivation, Belgian endive, viticulture, ornamental horticulture	2013-2014	368,722 € (70% Flanders, 30% Europe)

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 8.5	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of ha of organic agricultural production	Aid per hectare for organic agricultural production	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.6	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of ha under mechanical weed control	Aid per hectare for mechanical weed control	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.7	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of ha participating in the Flemish Environmental Plan for Ornamental Horticulture	Environment-friendly ornamental horticulture	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.8	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of ha of plots concerned	Pheromone technology for stone fruit cultivation	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.9	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of ha with field edge management	Field edge management through the construction of buffer strips	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.10	Supporting IPM objectives via agri-environmental measures and management agreements	Number of agreements regarding small landscape elements	Planting and maintenance of small landscape elements to promote biodiversity	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.11	IPM objectives through aid from the Flemish Agricultural Investment Fund*	Number of applications that were treated	Mechanical or thermal weed control or haulm destruction (hoeing machine, swing mower, inter-row rotary cultivator, finger harrow, haulm chopper, weed or haulm burner, soil steam sterilisation machine)	31/12/16	Current operational cost

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 8.12	IPM objectives through aid from the Flemish Agricultural Investment Fund*	Number of applications that were treated	Systems for minimising pesticide use or pesticide loss. This mainly concerns advanced spraying machines for which there is a clearly demonstrable drift reduction compared to conventional spraying equipment	31/12/16	Current operational cost
VL 8.13	Raising awareness about the application of good agricultural practices in order to protect and promote useful organisms and in particular bees and other pollinators	Number of awareness actions	Organising advisory activities (brochures, practical guide on plant protection, demonstration, meetings,...)	From 2013 onwards	Current operational cost

\*Subject to entry of these investments in the Flemish Programme Document for Rural Development from 2014 onwards

## 9. Harmonised legislation

### Joint initiatives

Several legislations at the European, national and regional levels are in place for the protection of water against plant protection products (abbreviated as ppp). Each of these legislations generates a series of obligations in terms of monitoring, standards and reports. Due to the complexity of the application of these obligations harmonisation is required. The action will be aimed at inventorying these obligations and identifying aspects that can be harmonised.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
Bel. 12.1 <sup>4</sup>	Harmonisation of methods, standards and reports regarding contamination by ppp of (surface and underground) water bodies at the regional, national and European levels	Feasibility report	Study into the feasibility of the harmonisation	?	Current operational cost

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<sup>4</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.10.1 (see for more information about this joint action p.12 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).

## 10. Monitoring of NAPAN

### Joint actions

At the end of the programme in 2017, a national report will be drawn up and published which will coordinate the specific reports from the members of the NAPAN Task Force (hereafter abbreviated as NTF).

From 2013 onwards, each member of the NTF will participate in the NTF to guarantee the coordination of NAPAN. The operation of the NTF for the period 2013-2017 will be determined by means of an ad hoc agreement at the latest in 2013. The operation of the NTF secretariat and the NTF Advisory Council will indicate the success of this coordination during the period 2013-2017.

Upon the review of NAPAN in 2017 to determine the actions of NAPAN for the period 2018-2023, the population will be consulted in conformity with the provisions of the legislation regarding the evaluation of the consequences for the environment of certain plans and programmes and the public consultation in the development of environmental plans and programmes.

### Actions

Ref.	Objective	Indicator	Measure	Term	Budget
VL 10.1	Carrying out a mid-term evaluation of the action plan	Completion of the mid-term report	Mid-term evaluation and relevant reporting, and update of the action plan, if necessary	In late 2015	Current operational cost
Bel. 13.1 <sup>5</sup>	Coordinated national report	Publication of a national report	Developing a joint plan at the level of NTF	2017	Current operational cost
Bel. 13.2 <sup>6</sup>	Coordination of NAPAN	Operation of NTF secretariat; NTF Advisory Council	Determination and implementation of NTF activities for the period 2013-2017	2013-2017	Current operational cost
Bel. 13.3 <sup>7</sup>	Involving the population actively in decision-making regarding NAPAN	Report on public consultation	Public consultation on NAPAN 2018-2023	2017	Current operational cost

<sup>5</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.11.1 (see for more information about this joint action p.15 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).

<sup>6</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.11.2 (see for more information about this joint action p.15 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).

<sup>7</sup> Due to developments after the conclusion of this Flemish action plan the number of this action changed to: Bel.11.3 (see for more information about this joint action p.16 of the federal pesticide reduction programme for the period 2013-2017).



## Part III

GOVERNMENT OF WALLONIA

# Programme for the Reduction of Pesticides

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2013-2017

The English version is adapted from original version in order to facilitate the communication.  
Original versions are available in [French](#) and in [German](#).



# Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (WPRP)

## Foreword

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## Foreword

The usage of and exposure to pesticides or their residues brings risks for both the environment and health.

In order to better regulate this usage, in 2009, the European Union adopted Directive 2009/128/EC, establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

One of the hands-on sections of this directive involves the drafting of a national action plan in each Member State, known as the NAPAN in Belgium (Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action National).

The Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (WPRP) represents the Walloon contribution to this NAPAN, which will also comprise three other sections: federal, Flemish and Brussels. After adoption, this programme will be re-assessed every 5 years.

This programme includes the provisions used to achieve the risk reduction targets for pesticides defined in the directive. Implementation of this programme will particularly lead to the management of public areas without plant protection products from June 2019, by reinforcing the protection of surface water and groundwater against contamination by pesticides, via the specific protection of the most vulnerable members of the public in terms of pesticides (children, pregnant women, patients, the elderly, etc.)...

This WPRP was the subject of the public enquiry held between 11/02/2013 and 27/03/2013.

We should all consider ourselves as responsible for protecting our environment!

José Renard, a.i. Managing Director.

## Part 1: The current situation and prospects

### *Introduction*

#### 1. A bit of history

Plant protection products have been used since before time as proved by the use of sulphur mentioned by Homer (750 B.C.) and the use of arsenic, recommended as an insecticide by Gaius Plinius Secundus in the 1st century A.D.

During the 15th century, chemical products based on lead, arsenic and mercury were applied to crops to eliminate harmful organisms. In the 19th century, use of inorganic chemistry became critical as vital agricultural crops suffered from serious epidemics. In 1845, the potato blight epidemic (*Phytophthora Infestans*) caused serious famine in Ireland and substantial damage throughout Europe. Cereals suffered the same fate with rust infestations (*Puccinia*).

In the first half of the 20th century, the development of synthetic organic chemistry led to the introduction of a large number of compounds. We could mention pyrethrins extracted from dried *Chrysanthemum* flowers (1924) and rotenone extracted in the 1930's, from the roots of various plants with the genera *Deris*, *Lonchocarpus* and *Tephrosia*. The organic insecticides from this period primarily consisted of organochlorine compounds such as DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane - an insecticide used to combat many harmful insects, as well as mosquitoes carrying malaria).

During the second half of the 20th century, the scarcity of cheap labour for weed removal led to the introduction of selective weed killing. Improvements in plant protection have already contributed to improving agricultural yield and regularity. Plant protection products have proved highly effective and reliable in a significant number of cases, over large surface areas.

However, the systematic usage of these products has been reconsidered with the growing awareness of the risks they can potentially generate for the environment, biodiversity and human health.

Therefore, at the start of the new academic year for 2012-2013 at the faculty of Gembloux Agro Bio Tech<sup>1</sup>, the effectiveness of the risk assessment methods used for the approval of pesticides was shook up by Professor Schiffers. New technologies can be used to detect extremely small traces of pesticide residue and observe their effects on animals and their metabolisms. According to Professor Schiffers, current methods fail to take the products added (e.g. wetting products, emulsifiers) to the active ingredient in order to create a pesticide sufficiently into consideration. The "cocktail"

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.gembloux.ulg.ac.be/lecon-inaugurale-de-la-rentree-academique-2012-2013-par-le-professeur-bruno-schiffers/>

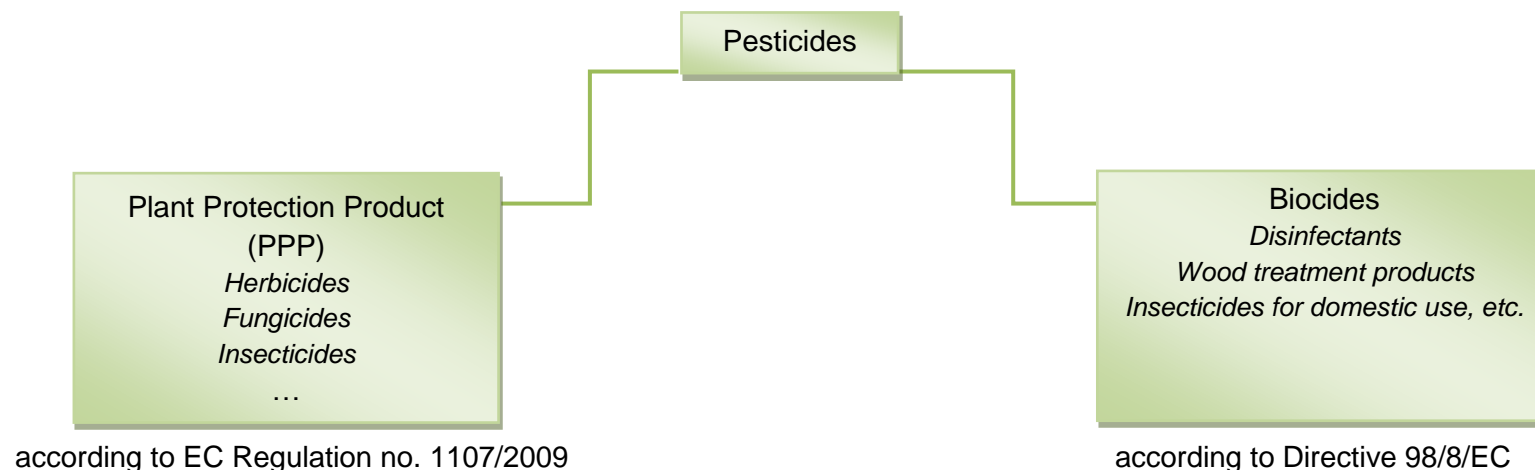
effect (synergies and interactions between several active ingredients) is not sufficiently taken into account. A recent report by the French Senate also considered these matters<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, several articles refer to and propose alternative methods, which have also been developed and modernised and which can be used to produce equivalent yield to conventional agricultural without using pesticides.

Society is therefore starting to legitimately reconsider this key issue in view of the increased use of alternative methods and progressive withdrawal from pesticide usage.

## 2. Pesticides and plant protection products

The term "pesticide" refers to all plant protection products and biocides.



A plant protection product (PPP) or phytopharmaceutical or phytosanitary product. A product of natural origin or chemically prepared, which is used to combat diseases or pests causing harm to plants or even to eliminate the plants or undesirable organisms. This includes herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and growth regulators...

In Belgium, and therefore also in Wallonia, it has been decided to use European terminology in order to ensure consistent legislative texts. According to the Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (WPRP), the terms "plant protection product" and "pesticides" will therefore be used according to the

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.senat.fr/notice-rapport/2012/r12-042-2-notice.html>

provisions on PPP alone or both PPP and biocides. In fact, Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides clearly specifies that the directive only initially applies to PPP. The scope will be extended to biocides in the future. When reassessing the WPRP (after 5 years), its extension to biocides may be planned.

### 3. Legislative framework

The European Parliament and the Council adopted the "Pesticides package" in 2009. This package consists of 2 directives and 2 regulations aiming to give real form to the targets of the Topical Strategy for pesticide use which is compatible with sustainable development, as described by the European Union in 2006.

#### The "Pesticides package"

1. EC Regulation no. 1107/2009 of 21 October 2009 on the placing of plant protection products (PPP) on the market (replacing Directive 91/414/EC);
2. Directive 2009/128/EC of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides ;
3. EC Regulation no. 1185/2009 of 25 November 2009 on statistics on pesticides;
4. Directive 2009/127/EC of 21 October 2009 amending Directive 2006/42/EC concerning machinery for pesticide application.

### a. EC Regulation no. 1107/2009

According to EC Regulation no. 1107/2009 on the placing of plant protection products on the market, the marketing authorisation:

❖ for the active ingredient = European competence



❖ for the product sold = national competence



The main contributions of this regulation, with reference to Directive 91/414/EC<sup>1</sup> related to the establishment of stricter exclusion criteria for the approval of active ingredients in terms of risks to human health and the environment. The regulation also provides for the recognition of plant protection products with a zone-based approach<sup>3</sup>. Plant protection products containing active ingredients likely to involve a high risk for human health or the environment must be regularly assessed by Member States in view of replacement by products containing low-risk active substances, or non-chemical prevention/abatement methods.

New rules have been laid down on the classification, packaging, labelling and advertising of products.

### b. Framework Directive 2009/128/EC

Framework Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (also known as the Pesticide Framework Directive) is transversal. Seven Federated entities are required for transposition purposes, i.e. the Federal State, the 3 Regions and the 3 Communities.

Belgium consists of a Federal state consisting of communities and regions. Belgium is divided into 3 Communities on the basis of language and culture and into 3 Regions on the basis of territory.

Competences have been allocated to the different Federated bodies on this basis. Some competencies can occasionally require several levels of authority. In this case, they are known as mixed competences.

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<sup>3</sup> The European Union has been divided into 3 zones for the marketing of PPP: a north zone, a central zone and a south zone. Belgium is part of the central zone extending from Ireland to Romania. For information, France is part of the south zone. A PPP approved in a member state in the zone can be mutually recognised in all Member States, within the same zone.



**Federal competences:**

- ✓ placing on the market (approval, sale) of plant protection products
- ✓ Issuing and monitoring of the phytolices
- ✓ technical inspections of sprays (in practice, regional centres inspect sprays (the CRA-W in Wallonia))
- ✓ aerial spraying,...

**Regional competences:**

- ✓ pesticide use
- ✓ protection of the environment (water, air, soil, Natura 2000, etc.)
- ✓ integrated pest management
- ✓ basic training (part-time) and continuous training for phytolice holders,...

**Community competences:**

- ✓ basic training (school and full-time) for phytolice holders

**Mixed competences:**

- ✓ health (information and awareness campaigns, monitoring of intoxication, etc.)
- ✓ public information, handling and storage of pesticides,...

In the context of the transposition of this directive, the Walloon Government revised regulations on the application of plant protection products in public areas. The main points of these new legal texts apply to:

- prohibition to apply plant protection products from 1 June 2014. However, some exemptions may be granted, between 2014 and 2019, for certain surfaces and for some types of plants in order to allow the use of plant protection products as a last resort;
- mandatory use of integrated pest management;
- definition of buffer zones;
- proof that the applicator and service manager hold adequate knowledge of pesticides;
- provisions aiming to protect vulnerable groups and on the use of a register recording chemical treatments applied in accordance with the application of Regulation 1107/2009;

The texts aiming to transpose this directive were definitively adopted in July 2013.

The focal point of the implementation of this directive consists of the drafting and preparation of a national action plan - NAPAN (*Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action Nationale*). This plan consists of a federal plan (the FPRP<sup>4</sup>), the Flemish regional plan (VADP), the Brussels regional plan (Regional pesticide reduction plan) and the Walloon regional programme (*Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme*). The Walloon pesticide reduction programme will be re-assessed every 5 years.

"Belgium is a Federal state consisting of communities and regions. "

Article 1 of the Belgian Constitution revised in 1993 and coordinated in 1994.

#### **4. Current situation for the use of PPP**

##### **a. Within Europe**

According to the figures published by Eurostat, France is one of the leading consumers of plant protection products in Europe, followed by Italy, Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom. However, if we consider uses with reference to the Utilised Agricultural Area of each Member State, it would appear that the five highest consumers are Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy.

Generally, countries have varying user profiles for plant protection products, mainly depending on climatic conditions. Few fungicides and insecticides are used in cold countries (Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Ireland). On the other hand, consumption of these products is high in countries in southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and France) due to widespread vegetable crops, arboriculture and vineyards.

The following table illustrates the distribution of the consumption of plant protection products (expressed as tons of active ingredients) per country on the basis of OECD figures.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Chemicalsubstances/PRPB/Publieke\\_raadpleging\\_FRPP/index.htm?fodnlang=fr](http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Chemicalsubstances/PRPB/Publieke_raadpleging_FRPP/index.htm?fodnlang=fr)

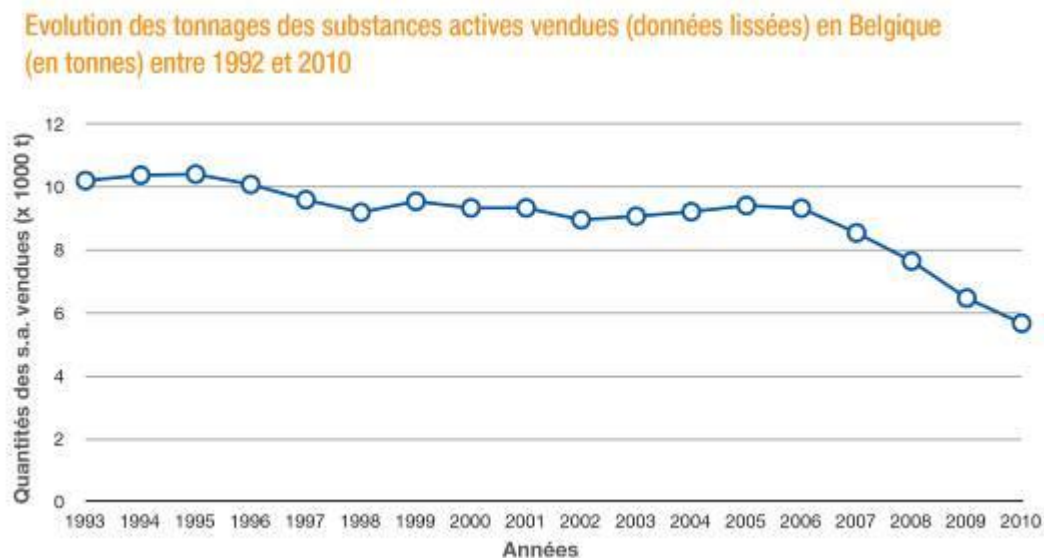
Table: Consumption of plant protection products (expressed as tons of active ingredients) per country and per product category

PESTICIDE USE (a, b), most recent year available							tons (active ingredients)
	Year/ Année	Total Pesticides	Insecticides	Fungicides/ Fongicides	Herbicides	Other pesticides/ Autres pesticides	
Canada	* 2006	36573	1288	3723	28712	2851	
Mexico/ Mexique	* 2006	44765	14641	..	30124	..	
USA/ Etats-Unis	* 2001	306175	33112	19051	196405	57606	
Japan/ Japon	* 2006	59565	22554	24559	12016	436	
Korea/ Corée	* 2004	23910	8367	7220	5655	2668	
Australia/ie	* 2006	35901	8036	2572	24789	503	
N.Zealand/ N.Zélande	* 2007	4939	299	1359	3077	204	
Austria/ Autriche	* 2005	3405	274	1650	1466	15	
Belgium/ Belgique	* 2006	6943	812	2351	3009	771	
Czech Rep./ Rép. tchèque	* 2006	4589	182	927	2639	841	
Denmark/ Danemark	* 2006	3212	57	536	2479	140	
Finland/ Finlande	* 2006	1645	40	261	1274	70	
France	* 2006	71700	2100	36000	23100	10500	
Germany/ Allemagne	* 2007	32683	1092	10942	17147	3502	
Greece/ Grèce	* 2006	10320	2540	4600	2250	930	
Hungary/ Hongrie	* 2004	9941	1728	2517	4758	939	
Iceland/ Islande	* 2003	4	-	-	3	-	
Ireland/ Irlande	* 2003	2913	42	627	1854	390	
Italy/ Italie	* 2006	81450	10947	50749	8924	10831	
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Netherlands/ Pays-Bas	* 2007	10740	1499	4709	2736	1796	
Norway/ Norvège	* 2007	751	10	103	572	66	
Poland/ Pologne	* 2007	15303	553	4697	8435	1618	
Portugal	* 2005	16346	425	12366	1751	1804	
Slovak Rep./ Rép. slovaque	2006	2985	222	432	1413	917	
Spain/ Espagne	* 2006	40595	13695	13090	11002	2808	
Sweden/ Suède	* 2007	2136	54	220	1809	53	
Switzerland/ Suisse	* 2006	1359	105	638	595	21	
Turkey/ Turquie	* 2006	16470	6668	5228	4023	551	
UK/ Royaume-Uni	* 2006	24305	1075	5308	12284	5637	

**Source:** Pesticide consumption in Europe - OECD, 2008, OECD environmental data (Agriculture): Compendium 2008, 30p.

## b. Within Belgium

The number of active ingredients available on the Belgian market dropped from 344 to 277 between 1992 and 2010. The quantities of active ingredients sold in Belgium dropped by 46% between 1992 and 2010.

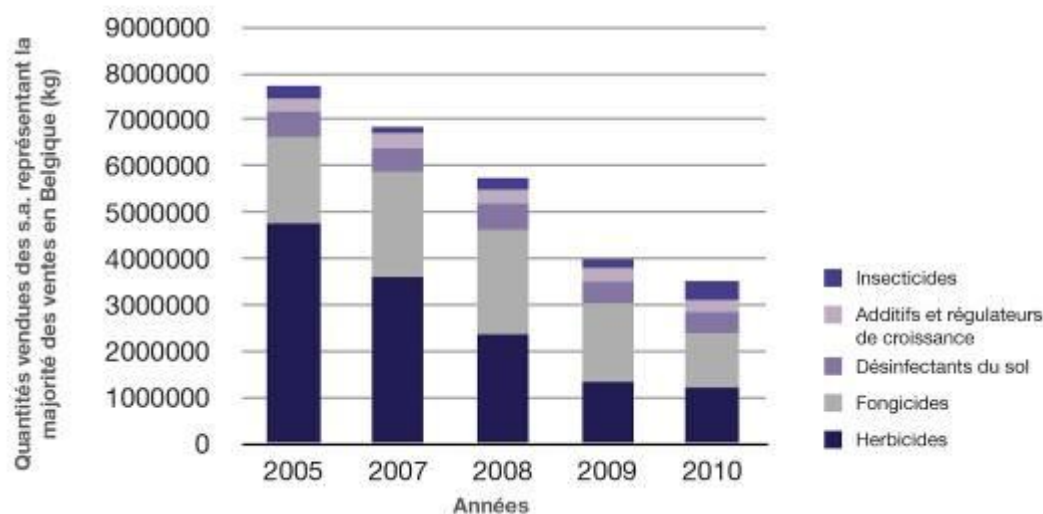


Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

Variation in terms of active ingredients sold (smoothed data) in Belgium (in tons) between 1992 and 2010.  
Quantity of a.i. sold / Year

The highest quantity of products sold in Belgium for the period between 1992 and 2010 (with the exception of 2009) related to the "herbicide" category. From 2005 to 2010, the total quantities of herbicides sold at national level dropped significantly (-74.5%) due to the withdrawal of sodium chlorate from the Belgian market and to the drastic reduction in sales of iron sulphate (-88%) and glyphosate (-56%).

Evolution des quantités totales vendues (en kg) des substances actives représentant la majorité des ventes en Belgique par catégorie de produits en 2005 (n=7.729.975 kg), 2007 (n=6.841.056 kg), 2008 (n=5.739.599 kg), 2009 (n=3.981.356 kg) et 2010 (n=3.513.368 kg)



Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

Variation in total quantities sold (in kg) of the active ingredients representing most sales in Belgium per category in 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Highest sales in Belgium for quantities of a.i. sold / Insecticides — Additives and growth regulators - Soil disinfectants - Fungicides - Herbicides

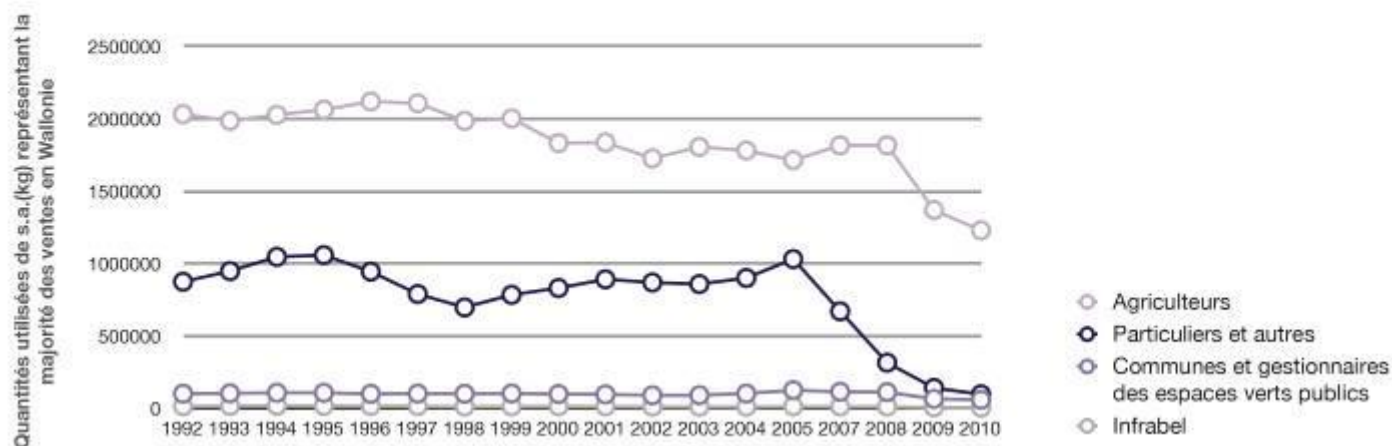
### c. Within Wallonia

Plant protection products are used in many widely-varying ways. In Wallonia, these products are used by a wide range of potential users, such as farmers, public authorities, railway network managers, amateur gardeners, etc.

For the period between 1992 and 2010, the estimated quantities of active ingredients used in Wallonia showed a downhill trend, particularly for the "Farmers" and "Individuals" categories.

The quantities of active ingredients representing most sales in Wallonia and used by the different business segments dropped over time.

Répartition entre les différents types d'utilisateurs des quantités estimées de substances actives qui représentent la majorité des ventes en Wallonie

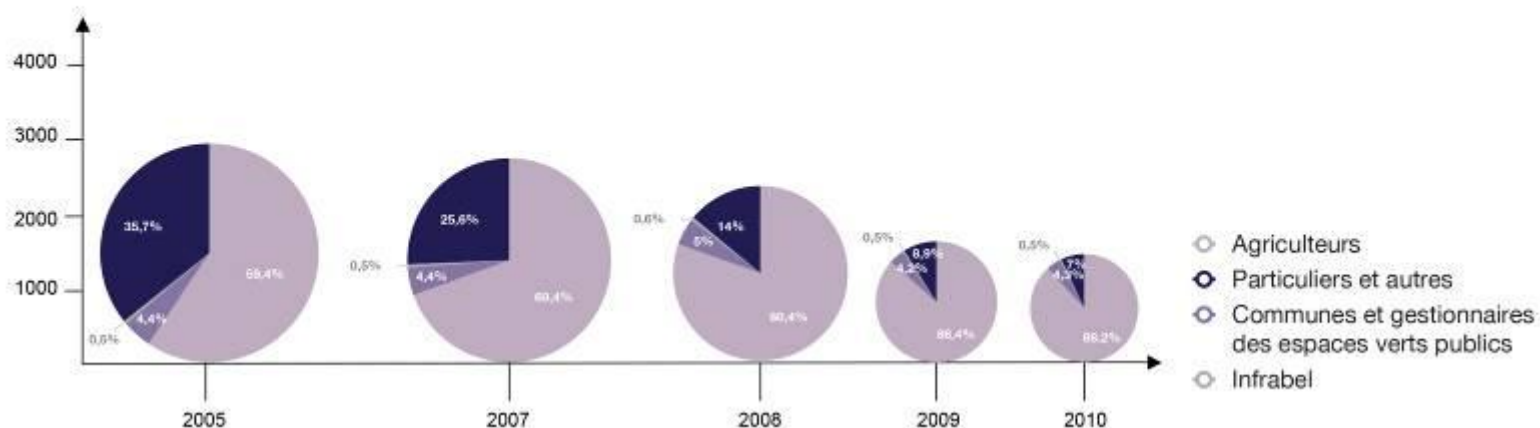


Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

Distribution between the different types of users in terms of the estimated quantities of active ingredients representing most sales in Wallonia

Quantities used of a.i. representing most sales in Wallonia / Farmers — Individuals and others — Municipalities and managers of green public areas - Infrabel

Répartition des quantités estimées de substances actives (représentant la majorité des ventes en Wallonie) utilisées entre les différents types d'utilisateurs pour les années 2005 (n=2.886.932 kg), 2007 (n=2.617.328 kg), 2008 (n=2.259.661 kg), 2009 (n=1.585.316 kg) et 2010 (n=1.394.666 kg) en Wallonie



Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

Distribution of the estimated quantities of active ingredients (representing most sales in Wallonia) used by the different types of users for the years 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 in Wallonia.

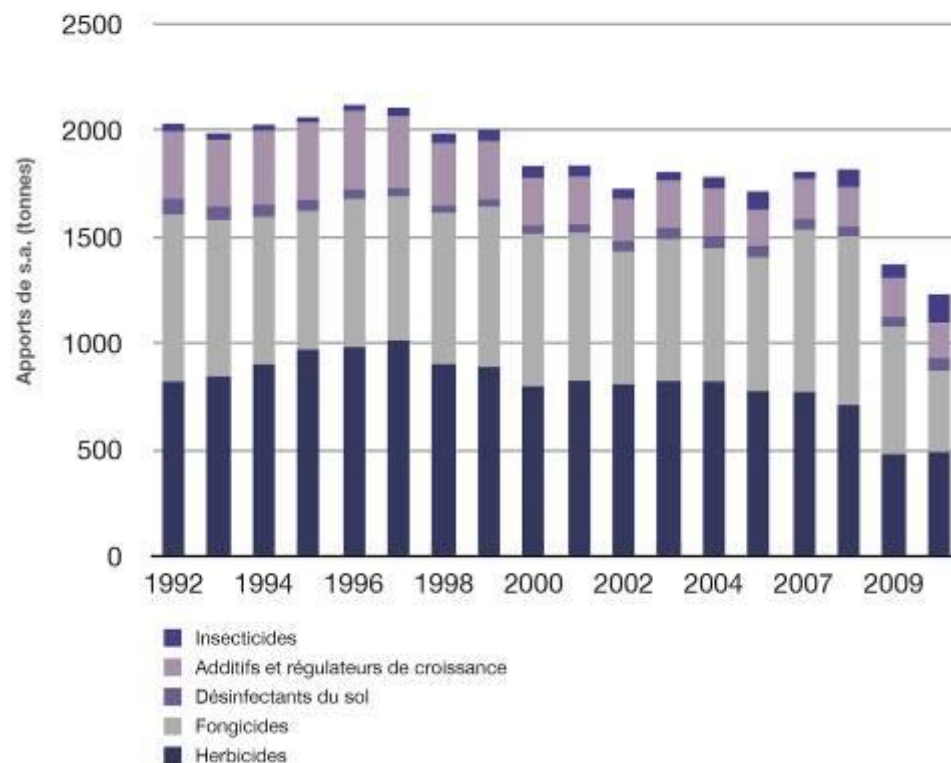
Farmers — Individuals and other — Municipality and managers of green public areas - Infrabel

Farmers represent the category with the highest consumption. This category is followed by individuals, public authorities and professionals taking care of green areas, with managers of the railway network coming in last.

Between 2005 and 2010, the proportion of active ingredients intended for use by individuals fell steadily (i.e. a reduction of 28.7%). This decrease was caused by the reduction in iron sulphate and glyphosate sales as well as the withdrawal of sodium chlorate, three active ingredients which were highly popular with individuals. These three active ingredients alone indeed represented 96% of this reduction. However, if the amount of active ingredients used is calculated per surface unit, it becomes clear that trends are very different. In fact, with this approach, this application represents 2.61 kg/ha of utilised agricultural area (UAA) versus approximately 10 kg/ha on average for the treatment of private property (gardens, parks, etc.).

The diagram shown opposite demonstrates the most frequently used product categories (expressed in tons) for all agricultural crops. If we consider this diagram, it would appear that fungicides and herbicides are the two most frequently used product categories in the agricultural sector.

Evolution des apports des substances actives les plus vendues (exprimées en tonnes) par catégorie de produits (insecticides, herbicides...) sur l'ensemble des cultures agricoles considérées dans la clé de répartition pour la période comprise entre 1992 et 2010 en Wallonie



Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

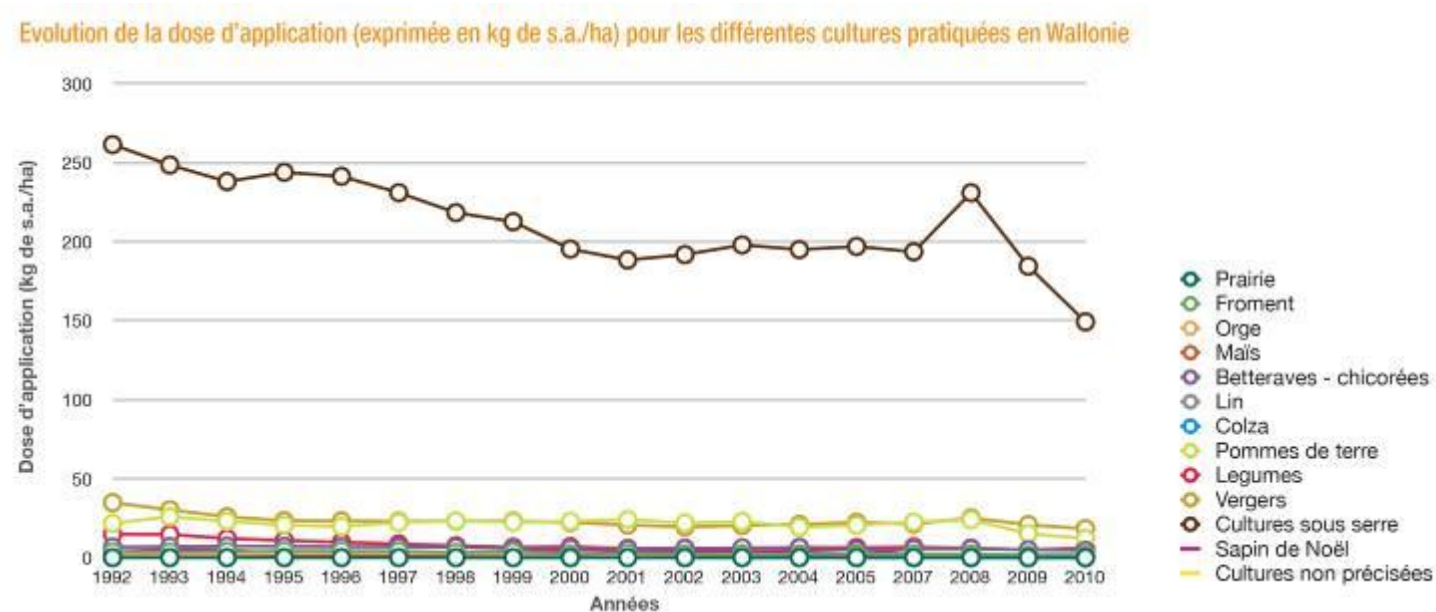
Variation in the applications of the most frequently sold active ingredients (expressed in tons) per product category (insecticides, herbicides, etc.) for all agricultural crops taken into consideration in the distribution code for the period between 1992 and 2010 in Wallonia.

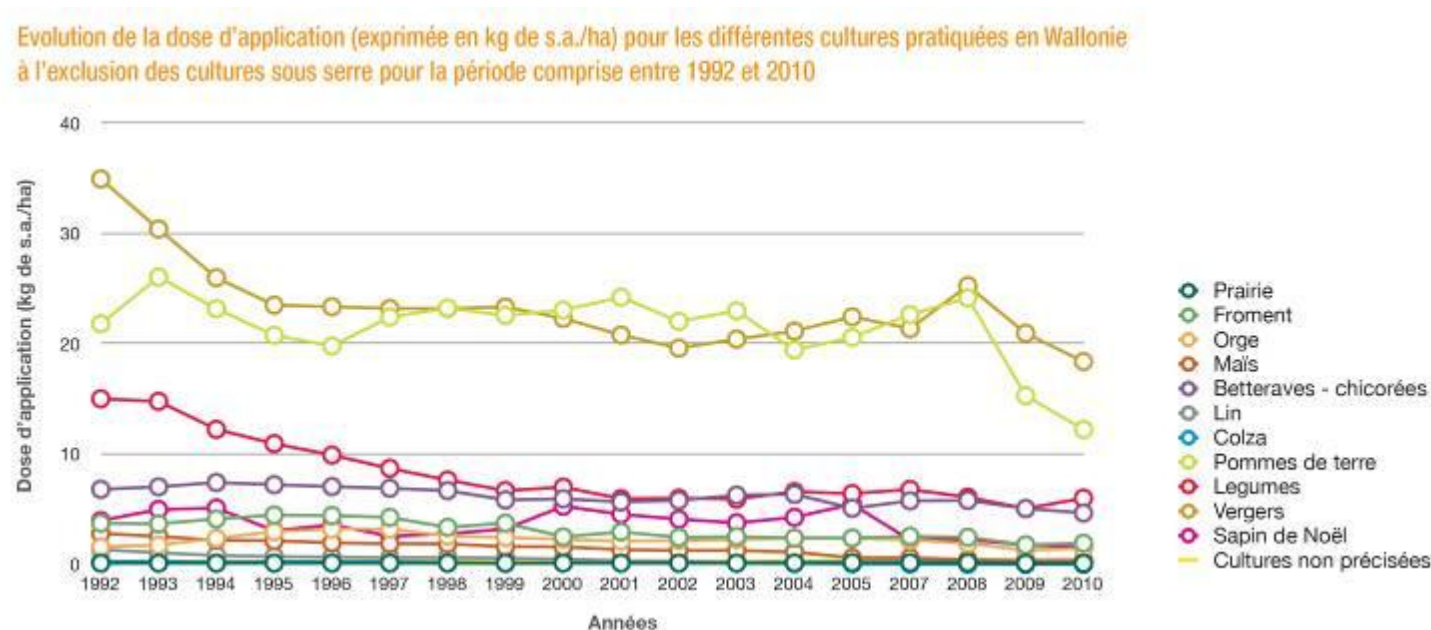
Applications of a.i. (tons) / Insecticides — Additives and growth regulators - Soil disinfectants - Fungicides - Herbicides

Applications on farmland in Wallonia fluctuate depending on the year and depending on the product category. In fact, as previously mentioned at European level, the application of active ingredients on each agricultural crop specifically depends on climatic factors, particularly for potatoes.



The dose of active ingredients applied represents the mean quantity of active ingredients applied per hectare of crop (expressed in kg/ha). It is important to take note that the dose of active ingredients applied (kg/ha) in Belgium is identical to that applied in Wallonia.





Source: CRP (2012) ; SPW-DGARNE-DEE-DESU ; SPW-DGARNE-DEMNA-DEE (In "Les Indicateurs clés de l'environnement wallon 2012" - Key indicators for the Walloon environment 2012)

#### Variation in the dose applied (expressed in kg of a.i./ha) for the different crops grown in Wallonia

Variation in the dose applied (expressed in kg of a.i./ha) for the different crops grown in Wallonia, excluding crops grown in greenhouses for the period between 1992 and 2010.

Dose applied (kg of a.i./ha) / Grassland — Common wheat — Barley — Corn — Beetroot - Chicory — Flax — Rapeseed — Potatoes — Vegetables — Orchards — Christmas trees — Unspecified crops

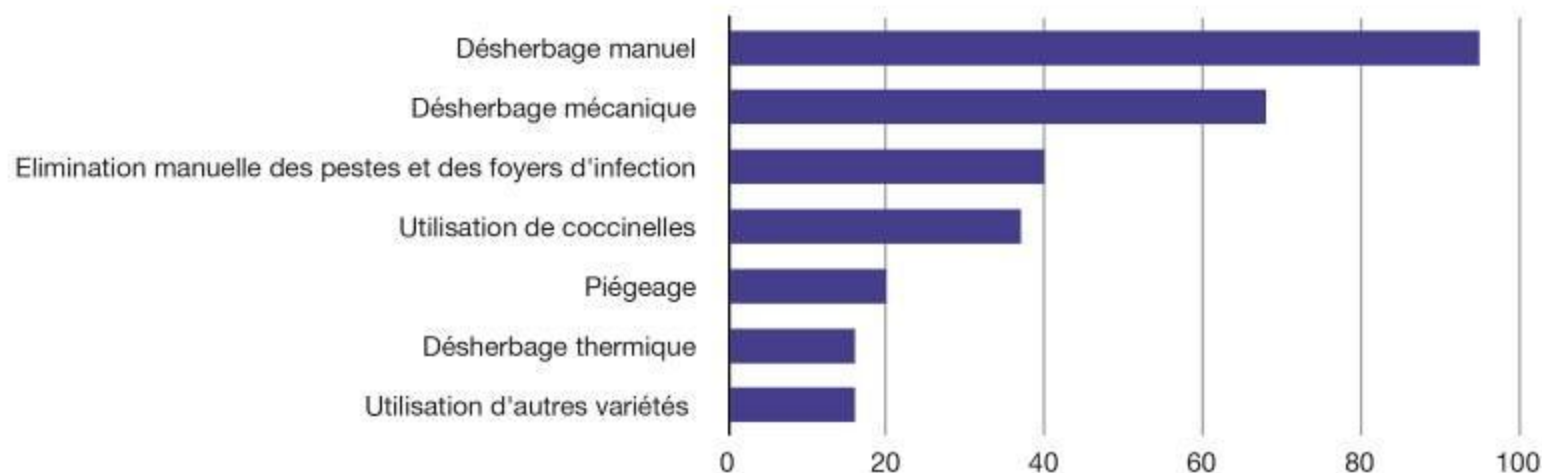
The doses of active ingredients applied to the different crops grown in Wallonia are higher than those applied to crops in greenhouses, followed by orchards and potatoes.

The doses of active ingredients applied per hectare demonstrate that this figure dropped over the same period for most crop categories in Wallonia and Belgium.

In the context of the upcoming Analytical report 2013-2014 on the condition of the Walloon environment, a two-part survey was carried out in the year 2011, targeting a panel of 1702 Walloon households in order to determine if they did or did not use plant protection products (PPP) and to identify the alternative methods used.

According to the first half of the questionnaire, almost 60% of the 950 households in the panel filled out the questionnaire. Slightly over half of all Walloon households with a garden (756 households) and which take care of their own gardens (655 households), generally use PPP (339 households). For the second half of the survey, 39% of the 525 Walloon households with a garden use PPP (205 households).

52% des non utilisateurs de « PPP » utilisent des **méthodes alternatives**, principalement des méthodes manuelles, suivies ensuite des méthodes mécaniques et biologiques



52% of those not using PPP use alternative methods, mainly manual methods, followed by mechanical and biological methods.

Manual weed removal — Mechanical weed removal — Manual elimination of pests and infections — Use of ladybirds — Trapping — Thermal weed removal — Use of other varieties.

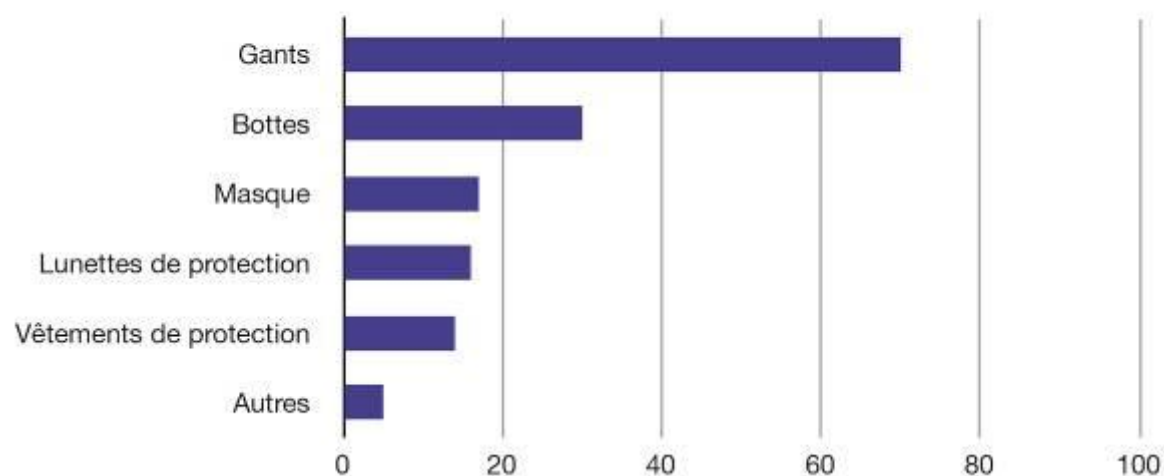
The most frequently used precautions when handling products are gloves and boots.

Gloves — Boots — Mask — Protective goggles — Protective clothing — Other

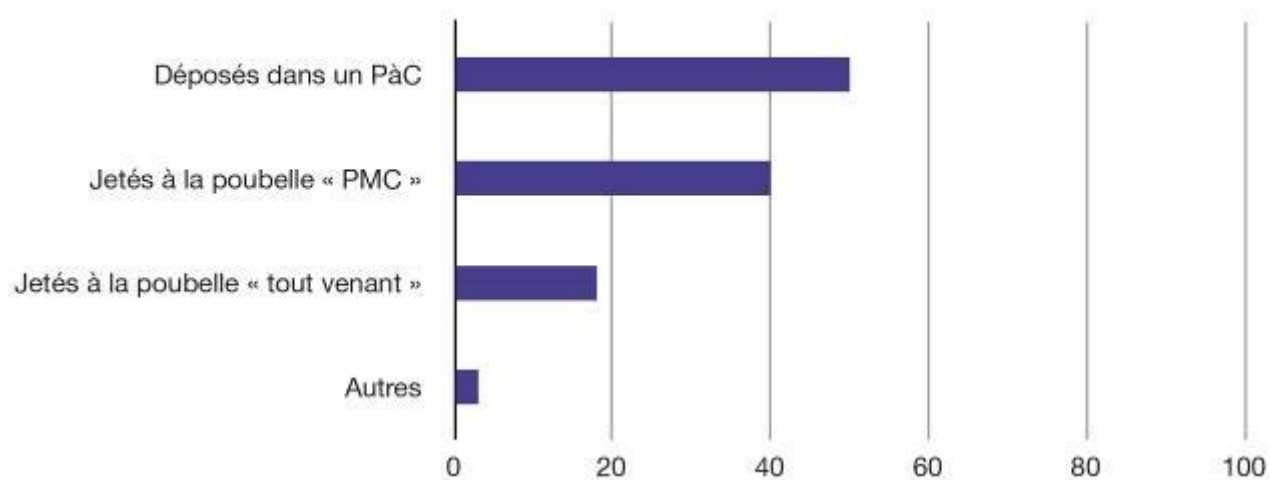
Almost 50% of users dispose of their packaging at a collection site after use and 40% use a bin for ordinary household waste

Disposed of at a collection site — in a bin for ordinary household waste - in a crusher - Other

Les précautions les plus populaires de manipulation des produits sont les gants et les bottes



Près de 50% des utilisateurs déposent les emballages dans un parc à conteneurs (PàC) après usage et 40% à la poubelle « PMC »



Source: SPW-DGO3-DEMNA (GfK panel): Surveys targeting Walloon households in order to determine their level of consumption of plant protection products, 2010.

## ***Impact on water quality***

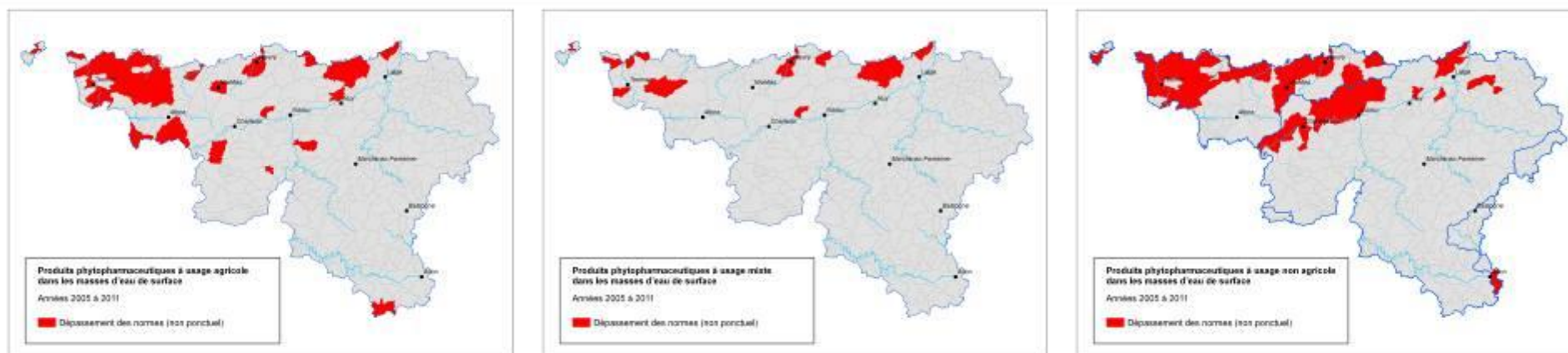
### **1. Surface water**

The main target of the water framework directive is to achieve the good ecological and chemical status of the different water bodies in river basins. The Direction des eaux de surface (DEE, DGARNE - Surface water division) monitors surface water, more specifically chemical elements and physico-chemical characteristics, and the Département de l'Etude du milieu naturel et agricole (DGARNE - Department of studies for agriculture and the natural environment) monitors biological aspects. The reference laboratory of the ISSeP takes samples and conducts analyses.

The following main active ingredients have been found in recent years in surface water in Wallonia:

- mainly herbicides, including isoproturon, linuron, and atrazine
- lindane and dimethoate - insecticides
- some ingredients, which have long been prohibited, but persist strongly: lindane (prohibited since 2001), atrazine (prohibited since 2004) and diuron (prohibited since 2007)

The general situation (per type of plant protection product: agricultural, mixed and non-agricultural) is illustrated on the 3 maps shown below. Water bodies shown in red have punctually exceeded standards between 2005 and 2011 (i.e. at least 2 years of surplus over the 7-year period).



Source: SPW-DGO3-DEE-Direction Eaux de surface

## 2. Groundwater

The analysis of the heritage status of groundwater for the period 2007-2010 reveals that 10 water bodies (out of the 33 in Wallonia) suffer a proven risk of contamination by plant protection products, to varying degrees. Four water bodies are the most affected, i.e. those with the poorest quality indexes<sup>5</sup>, for the entire aquifer. More specifically, the water bodies of “Sables du Bruxellien”, “Sables des Flandres”, “Craies du Bassin du Geer” and “Sables Bruxelliens de Haine & Sambre” are the most affected. Contamination is generally less intense and more local for the 6 other water bodies affected. Groundwater in Ardenne, and the deepest captive groundwater overlain by a clay layer (e.g. Calcaires du Tournaisis) is relatively well protected.

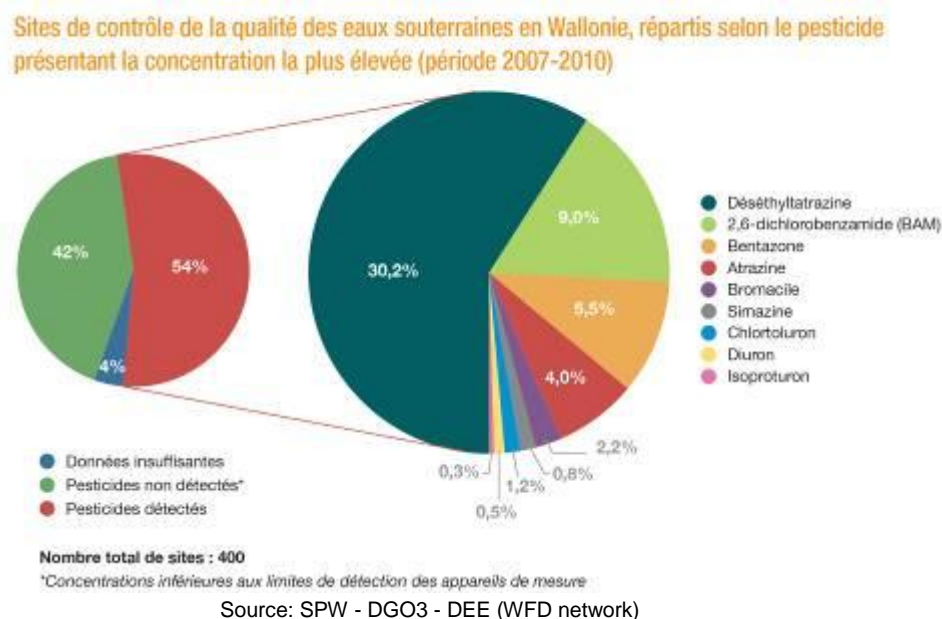
Atrazine and its main metabolite (desethylatrazine), bentazone and 2.6-dichlorobenzamide (BAM) are the most problematic molecules as they are present in the highest concentrations at half of the sites where the quality of groundwater is checked. The use of most of these active ingredients (used for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes) has been prohibited for many years, but they are particularly long-lived and mobile in soils and aquifers<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> SEQESO quality index for "pesticide" alteration (< 60) calculated on the basis of the mean annual concentrations of the 9 most problematic PPP in Wallonia (atrazine, desethylatrazine, simazine, diuron, isoproturon, chlortoluron, bromacil, bentazone and 2.6-dichlorobenzamide). Source: *Etat des nappes d'eau souterraine de Wallonie 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Direction de l'Etat environnemental et Direction des eaux souterraines (*State of groundwater in Wallonia 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Directorate of the environmental and Directorate of groundwater)

<sup>6</sup> For more information, consult the *Etat des nappes d'eau souterraine de Wallonie 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Direction de l'Etat environnemental et Direction des eaux souterraines (*State of groundwater in Wallonia 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Directorate of the environmental and Directorate of groundwater) available from <http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/eso/atlas/index.htm>.

With reference to groundwater intended for human consumption, the DGARNE requires that water operators search and carry out analyses for around 100 phytosanitary products in the raw water, in application of Directive 98/83/EC of the Council, of 3 November 1998, on the quality of water intended for human consumption. The results of these analyses indicate that herbicides (used for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes) are responsible for most pesticide problems faced by water operators<sup>7</sup>.

However, these problems arise less frequently than problems relating to the excessive presence of nitrate: volumes of potentially drinking groundwater with a risk of nitrate pollution (content > 37.5 mg/l) are indeed 7 times more extensive than volumes affected by PPP. Furthermore, breaching of thresholds set in standards on the concentration of plant protection products in raw water led water operators to treat or cease production at 46 groundwater catchment sites between 1993 and 2010, representing 5.4 % of the total annual production of water distributed in Wallonia.



Sites where the quality of groundwater is checked in Wallonia, distributed according to the pesticide with the highest concentration (period 2007-2010)

Inadequate data — Pesticides not detected\* - Pesticides detected

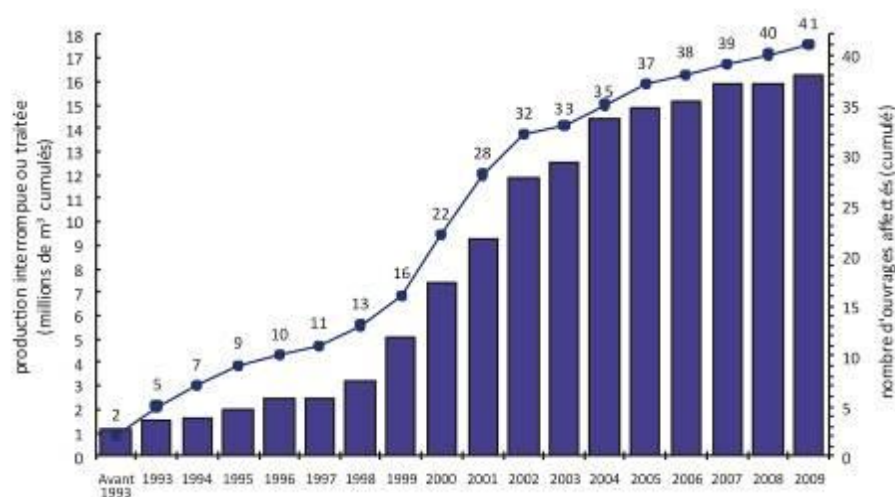
<sup>7</sup> For more information, consult the *Etat des nappes d'eau souterraine de Wallonie 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Direction de l'Etat environnemental et Direction des eaux souterraines (*State of groundwater in Wallonia 2012*, SPW-DGARNE- Directorate of the environmental and Directorate of groundwater) available from <http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/eso/atlas/index.htm>.



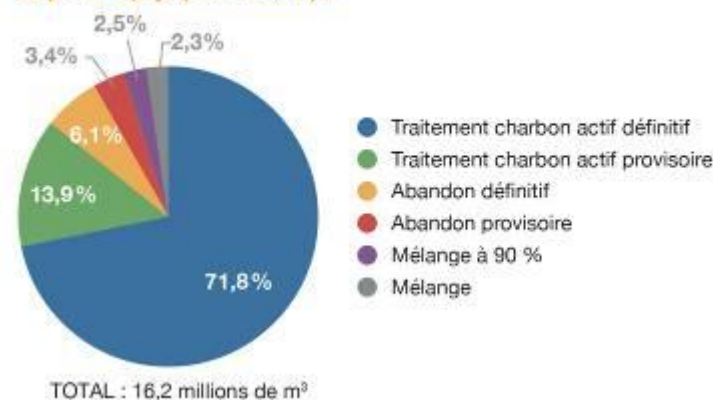
Total number of sites: 400 - \*Concentration less than the detection limits of measuring devices

After particularly expensive specific treatment to make the drinking water (adsorption of activated carbon) little of the  $\pm 85\%$  of the volumes affected of the potential drinking water obtained was ultimately distributed due to the presence of PPP. It is also important to take note that the number of catchment areas and volumes of potentially drinking water affected by the presence of plant protection products has generally stabilised since 2004.

Impact des PPP sur la production d'eau potable issue des eaux souterraines en Wallonie (période 1993-2009), et types de mesures appliquées



Types de mesures appliquées pour les captages d'eau souterraine impactés par la présence de produits phytopharmaceutiques



Source: SPW-DGO3-DEE-Direction des Eaux souterraines, 2011, Etat de la qualité des eaux distribuées par le réseau public en Wallonie (SPW-DGO3-DEE-Directorate of groundwater, 2011, State of the quality of the water distributed by the public network in Wallonia).

Impact of PPP on the production of drinking water obtained from groundwater in Wallonia (period 1993-2009), and types of actions applied

Production interrupted or water treated (millions of m³ in total)

Types of actions applied for the catchment of groundwater affected by the presence of plant protection products

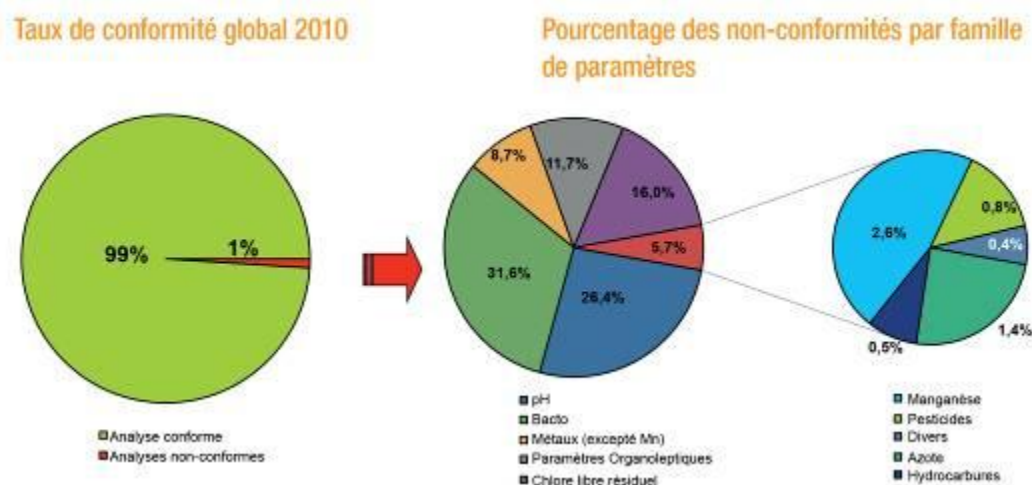
Definitive treatment with activated carbon — Temporary treatment with activated carbon — Definitive abandon — Temporary abandon — 90% mixing - Mixing / Total: 16,2 million m³

### 3. Drinking water



The drinking water distributed via networks represents one of the food products subject to the strictest checks in Wallonia, with over 39,000 checks annually. These checks are carried out from catchment to the tap. The water distributed must meet the quality requirements inherent to European and Walloon legislation. Therefore, the water must not contain any micro-organism, parasite or other substance (including PPP) representing a potential danger for human health. The water must also comply with a series of standards on potability<sup>8</sup>.

Globally, the drinking water in Wallonia is of excellent quality and 98.8% complies with the applicable standards. Non-regulatory concentrations of PPP in "tap water" only represented 0.0035 % of the causes of non-conformity detected in analyses carried out in 2009.



Source: DGARNE, March 2011

Overall level of conformity 2010

Percentage of non-conformities per family of parameters

<sup>8</sup> For more information, consult the "La qualité des eaux distribuées par le réseau public en Wallonie 2011", SPW-DGARNE- Direction de l'Etat environnemental et Direction des eaux souterraines (The quality of water distributed via the public network in Wallonia 2012", SPW-DGARNE- Directorate of the environmental and Directorate of groundwater) available from [http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/eso/eau\\_distribution/index.htm](http://environnement.wallonie.be/de/eso/eau_distribution/index.htm).

## ***Impact on biodiversity***

The species in the environment do not live independently. Each organism interacts with other organisms which are themselves affected positively or negatively by yet more organisms. These living beings, the environment and the different natural processes occurring in the environment, represent the "biological diversity" known as biodiversity. The fauna, the flora, the bacteria and the environment each represent a link in a chain.

If a plant protection product is used for a given target, it may have unintentional effects on other organisms, not targeted. In fact, the ingredient used can have the required effect on organisms causing harm to the crop, but also on various physiological functions of other living beings, not targeted. In order to reduce the undesired effects of PPP on the environment to a minimum, studies on eco-toxicity and behaviour in the environment (rate of degradation and mobility in the soil, rate and means of decomposition in water and air, etc.) must be carried out and are required for the report to be submitted for assessment in the context of the placing on the market of the product.

Even if the sale of a product has been authorised, all action must subsequently be taken during use to avoid the dispersal of the product in air, water or soil and to protect this natural ecosystem and maintain its ability to adapt to the environment.

Wallonia accords great importance to maintaining biodiversity via the implementation of various projects:

*"Bords de route - Fauchage tardif " (Roadsides - Late mowing) operation: After prohibiting the use of herbicides on roadsides in 1984, Wallonia launched a management programme for these environments in 1995: the "Bords de routes" (roadsides) convention encourages road managers to approach the roadsides of municipal roads ecologically in order to ensure that wildlife feel at home there. Over 75 % of Walloon municipalities currently apply late mowing. Roadsides cover an estimated surface area of 20,250 ha in Wallonia.*



*The Maya plan: The Plan Maya operation aims to promote plantations of "honey" species, encouraging the development of pollinating insects, which play a key role in the fecundation and reproduction of over 80% of the plant species required for the survival of many animal species. End-2012, 207 municipalities and Provinces were involved in this operation. The operation has also been open to amateur gardeners since 2013.*

(Source: SPW portal)



## ***Impact on health***

Using plant protection products has substantially contributed to improving agricultural yield and has led to significant progress in the control of food resources. However, their usage can lead to the presence of pesticide residue<sup>9</sup> in harvests and expose consumers to health risks. Consumer food is the main means of exposure to this pesticide residue. For this reason, legislative texts<sup>10</sup> lay down Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)<sup>11</sup> for the composition of all fresh vegetable and animal products. These MRL are intended to protect consumer health.

The assessment of the active ingredient includes the characterisation of dangers attributable to its intrinsic properties and an assessment of risks, taking the claimed usages listed in an eco-toxicological database into consideration. However, some unintentional effects may appear for plant protection products. Acute effects can be differentiated from chronic effects. Acute effects appear suddenly and develop rapidly. They are generally caused by short-term exposure to a high dose. They generally disappear spontaneously at the end of exposure. Chronic effects come with persistent clinical symptoms, which develop over a longer period. They are often caused by a low level of exposure, but over an extended period. They can arise several decades after exposure (latency period) and are generally irreversible without treatment.

The main knowledge available on the acute effects of pesticides in mankind has been obtained from observations made by professionals and cases of intoxication documented by poison centres. Most epidemiological studies on chronic effects are carried out by professionals using pesticides in the context of their work.

On the other hand, the long-term effects of chronic exposure are more difficult to appraise, particularly in terms of the population at large. This is true for many reasons: pesticides include a high number of compounds with a plethora of usages from different chemical families with a range of toxicological effects. Interaction between compounds, or the "cocktail effect" is also poorly documented.

One other difficulty relates to the multifaceted character of pathologies. The multiple means of exposure (ingestion, inhalation, cutaneous contact) and types of exposure (primary if the products are used, secondary if the products are present in the environment) must also be taken into consideration. The low levels of contamination generally detected also make it difficult to quantify the exposure of the population.

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<sup>9</sup> Pesticide residue: substance found in or on a food product subsequent to the application of plant protection products.

<sup>10</sup> Regulation no. [396/2005/EC](#) of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive [91/414/EEC](#) and the Royal order of 29 September 2008 repealing the Royal order of 13 March 2000 defining maximum residue content of pesticides in or on food.

<sup>11</sup> MRL= Maximum Residue Limit: maximum legally-defined quantity of a given component that may be present in food (expressed in µg/kg of product).

Finally, past exposure must often be characterised, due to the delayed effects of pesticides, representing an additional difficulty for studies. However, works published in recent years highlight the delayed effects on health, and mainly mention cancer as well as neurological effects (such as Parkinson's disease) and reproduction and development disorders. A French decree, which took effect on 7 May 2012, henceforth officially recognises Parkinson's disease as a professional agricultural disease linked to the use of pesticides.

Some French farmers have also created an association, known as Phyto-Victimes, to highlight illnesses caused by recurrent exposure to pesticides and to assist farmers suffering from serious diseases (cancers, neuro-degenerative diseases) in view of ensuring their rights are enforced. To give just one example, in February 2012, a farmer in La Charente won a court case against a plant protection product firm found liable for his intoxication by herbicide vapours. In April 2012, the French State was ordered to pay compensation to a farmer in Meurthe-et-Moselle suffering from a myeloproliferative disorder caused by exposure to benzene.

## Part 2: Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (WPRP)

### *Targets for 2013-2017*

The main target of Directive 2009/128/EC is to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and effects of pesticides on human health and the environment. This Directive also aims to encourage the use of integrated pest management against crop enemies and alternative techniques and methods, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

To this end, Wallonia has developed a pesticide reduction programme (WPRP) including 37 initiatives strictly allocated to regional competences and 6 initiatives applied throughout Belgium. The latter will be implemented via the NAPAN Task Force<sup>4</sup>.

Particularly on the basis of the Declaration of Regional Policy 2009-2014, Wallonia aims to:

- renovate regulations on the management of public areas in depth in order to eliminate the use of plant protection products ("zero PPP") by managers of public areas (municipalities, other authorities, etc.) from 01/06/2019;
- protect vulnerable groups<sup>12</sup> in public and private areas used by the general public;
- improve the knowledge and tracking of the acute and chronic effects of pesticide use on applicators, but also on local inhabitants;
- extend and amplify awareness campaigns for professional and amateur users focusing on the dangers of pesticide use;
- take concrete action to protect surface water and groundwater, aiming to reduce the percentage of cases where the thresholds of standards are exceeded in order to achieve all of the environmental targets of the management plans for River Basin Districts (in application of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for a community water quality).

The initiatives within the programme must enable Wallonia to progressively achieve the targets in the initial Federal pesticide and biocide reduction plan with a 50% reduction in environmental impact for non-agricultural use and a 25% reduction in environmental impact for agricultural use as well as successive plans.

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<sup>4</sup> NAPAN Task Force: see description in point 10

<sup>12</sup> Vulnerable groups (as per the EC Regulation 1107/2009): persons needing specific consideration when assessing the acute and chronic health effects of plant protection products. These include pregnant and nursing women, the unborn, infants and children, the elderly and workers and residents subject to high pesticide exposure over the long term.

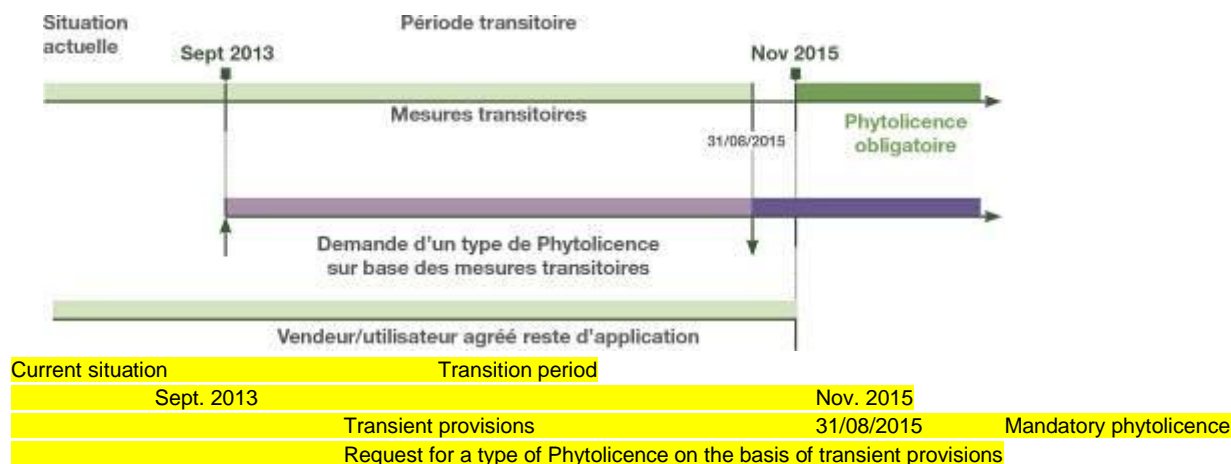
## Summary of initiatives per topic

Preliminary comment: National initiatives (identified below with a Bel.X.X. code) are mentioned in this programme for information. A public enquiry has already been carried out for these initiatives in the context of the Federal pesticide reduction programme (FPRP).

### 1. Certification of the knowledge of professional PPP users

Article 5 of the Pesticide Framework directive requires that all professional users, distributors and the advisers must be provided with appropriate "initial" and "permanent" training, ensuring that they acquire and, subsequently, refresh an appropriate level of knowledge in terms of the storage, use and management of pesticide residue and the effects of pesticides on health and the environment. A certification system proving an adequate level of knowledge must also be implemented for professional users, distributors and advisers.

In Belgium, this certificate is known as a "phytolicence", and will be mandatory from 25/11/2015, with a period of validity of 6 years. A transition period will run up to 31/08/2015, enabling professionals to obtain the phytolice on the basis of their diploma or if they can prove adequate professional experience. Once the phytolice has become routine, it will be obtained via initial training (full-time or as a part-time course). Phytolices will be renewed for a further period of 6 years, based on mandatory permanent training during the period of validity, in order to update the knowledge acquired.



Approved seller/user still required

The Communities (initial full-time training) and the Regions (initial part-time training and permanent training) are in charge of organising and providing training sessions meeting the requirements of the directive.

The regional PHYTO committee will be in charge of coordinating training for the WPRP pending the creation of the coordination umbrella structure (point 10 – page 53) which will be responsible for this task in the future.

**The training section of the Walloon pesticide reduction programme therefore aims to organise an initial training system with direct access to the phytoliceance and a permanent training system in order to refresh the knowledge of phytoliceance holders and renew their licences.**


Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 1.1	Ensuring that all target publics are aware of the requirements of the directive in terms of obtaining a phytoliceance and the implications in Wallonia	Future phytoliceance holders	Appropriate information accessible to all target publics	Distribution of information to the target publics (adapted to actions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a website</li> <li>• Publish information in specialised reviews</li> <li>• Organise information sessions</li> <li>• Create a hotline for all target publics in question in order to answer any questions</li> </ul>	2014-2015
Wal. 1.2	Existence of an initial training system with direct access to the phytoliceance	Future phytoliceance holders	Number of certificates issued for the successful completion of initial training (outside of the transition period) compared with the number of phytoliceance applications (initial applications) (as a %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a programme, consisting of a common core and specific sections for each sector</li> <li>• Register an adequate number of approved training centres</li> <li>• Register an adequate number of approved monitors</li> <li>• Create a knowledge assessment procedure for the skills acquired during the session</li> </ul>	25/11/2015
Wal. 1.3	Existence of a permanent training system for the renewal of phytoliceances	Phytoliceance holders	Number of requests to renew phytoliceances compared with the number of people successfully completing permanent training sessions (as a %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a programme, consisting of a common core and specific sections for each sector</li> <li>• Register an adequate number of approved permanent training sessions</li> <li>• Register an adequate number of approved monitors</li> <li>• Provide adequate information on available sessions</li> <li>• Create a knowledge assessment procedure for the skills acquired during the session</li> </ul>	25/11/2015



Wal. 1.4	Existence of an assessment and tracking system for monitors and initial and permanent training sessions	Training contributors	% homogeneous checks of training sessions (initial and permanent) and monitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess monitors equally</li> <li>Assess initial training sessions equally</li> <li>Assess permanent training sessions equally</li> </ul>	25/11/2015
Wal. 1.5	Existence of a coordination unit for the system as a whole	Phytolice holders	Access to adequate training for any phytolice applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a coordination umbrella system</li> </ul>	2014

### **FOCUS POINT 1: STRUCTURE OF THE DIFFERENT PHYTOLICES**

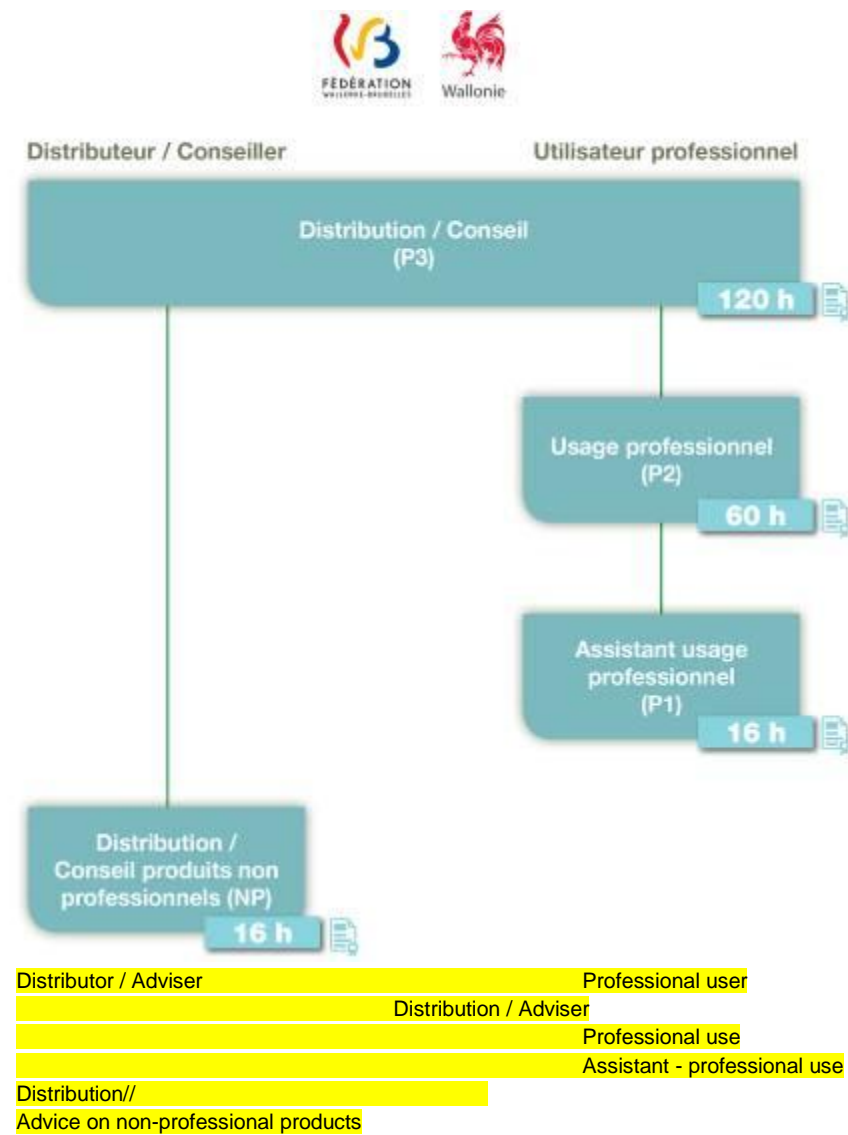
Henceforth, all users, sellers, distributors and advisers for plant protection products (PPP) must obtain a phytolice. A specific phytolice (with the respective specific training) will exist for each type of use:

- 
- **Phytolice 1 (P1) = Assistant - professional use** for the person applying PPP under the supervision of a P2 => e.g.: a municipal worker;
  - **Phytolice 2 (P2 including P1) = Professional use** for the person deciding to apply PPP => e.g.: a farmer, park manager, public area manager;
  - **Phytolice 3 (P3 including P2) = Distribution/Advisers** for those providing advice for and/or selling PPP => e.g.: a PPP seller in a distribution or garden centre.

The system is pyramid shaped: holders of a P3 phytolice benefit from complete authorisation (P3, P2 and P1), the P2 phytolice grants authorisations P2 and P1 and the P1 phytolice only enables the holder to apply PPP.

For example, a park or public area manager must hold a P2 phytolice to establish and check the spray plans carried out by its personnel which must hold a P1 phytolice for this purpose. However, this manager cannot either provide advice or sell PPP to a third party (a P3 phytolice is required for this purpose).

If we consider another example, a farmer requires a P2 to spray PPP on crops (selected products and doses = P2), but if this farmer sprays PPP on the premises of a third-party, and invoices these services and products (advice on and sale of PPP), a P3 will be required.



## 2. Non-professional products

The distribution of plant protection products uses in Wallonia demonstrates that, in 2010, 7% of these products were used on private property (key environmental indicators for Wallonia, 2012). Although amateur gardeners are punctual users of PPP, due to their large numbers, they represent significant users of plant protection products at national level. Furthermore, the nature of some surfaces treated (impermeable or little permeable) and sometimes a lack of knowledge, can harm the health of product applicators and their children and animals, consumers or the environment.

Non-professional uses of plant protection products are often inappropriate (no consideration of the alternatives, inappropriate decision of when to apply, and to what extent, recommended doses not kept to, untargeted application, product applied too frequently, rinsing water left to run down the drain, etc.). All of these acts could potentially cause damage to the environment, multiplying the effects of the products used without necessarily meeting the expectations of the user any better.

Ensuring awareness and providing information to non-professional users, as well as reducing pesticide use by these users would therefore appear as priority factors in order to reduce the pressure applied by these products on the environment.

In Wallonia, the application of the following initiatives will help to improve the awareness of individuals of the impact of the plant protection products use on public health and the environment.

### FOCUS POINT 2: The Natagora nature network

This network consists of a series of land plots (gardens, grassland , etc.) managed by each occupant in order to leave room for nature.

Thanks to a charter defining the approach, a website offering advice and the exchange of experience, and a label authenticating the initiatives and recognising the efforts made, members can join the Natagora nature network.

Just who are the members? Individuals (owners, tenants, farmers) or authorities (schools, companies or associations).

Five mandatory conditions must be complied with on the plot in order to be part of this project:

- respect the spontaneous nature of wildlife;
- do not allow exotic invasive species to spread;
- accord priority to indigenous plants which exist in the wild in the region;
- do not carry out any activities which destroy the natural environment;
- ban chemical pesticides.

**Actions aiming to guide and ensure the awareness of individuals or non-professional users in terms of good gardening practices**

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 2.1</b>	Annual issue of a guide to good gardening practices and distribution of this guide by municipalities	Individuals	Number of brochures printed and distributed  Number of municipalities helping to distribute and promote the brochure	<i>Creation of a guide to good gardening practices, particularly containing information on the responsible and reasonable use of PPP (identification of risks relating to the use of PPP for health and the environment, how to understand labels, protection equipment, PPP storage, elimination of empty packaging and residual products)</i>	Annually, at the start of the season (March)
<b>Wal. 2.2</b>	1° Ensuring the awareness of individuals in terms of alternative protection methods  2° Ensuring awareness, and encouraging individuals to adopt a more responsible attitude to PPP	Individuals	Number of leaflets printed and distributed  Number of visitors per site	<i>Creation and distribution of a leaflet explaining alternative protection methods</i>  <i>Management and updating of a section on the website dedicated to the PPP situation, and particularly providing information on awareness initiatives and ensuring responsible action (good practices, etc.)</i>	In progress
<b>Wal. 2.3</b>	Ensuring the awareness of individuals in terms of identifying the risks inherent to handling residual mixture and packaging	Individuals	Number of events or initiatives organised	<i>Awareness initiatives and ensuring responsible action by individuals:</i> - <i>identification of high-risk areas (for the storage, handling and use of PPP);</i> - <i>identification of the risks involved in recovering and eliminating residual PPP mixture after use, and eliminating empty packaging and residual PPP.</i>	From 2013

<b>Wal. 2.4</b>	Ensuring the awareness of individuals via events => provision of a stand at 50% of events	Individuals  Event organisers	Number of events where a stand has been provided for those organising awareness initiatives  Number of brochures distributed  Number of survey forms filled out	- <i>Ensuring the awareness of individuals at events, fairs, festivals, agricultural shows, etc.</i>  - <i>Encourage the organisers of such events to provide a clearly visible stand on "Good gardening practices"</i>	From 2013
<b>Wal. 2.5</b>	Increase the sharing of experience via "open garden" events	Individuals  Shared garden associations	Number of "open garden" events using good practices	Collect in and share the experience acquired by some amateur gardeners by encouraging discussion via a chat platform led by a partner	2015

### FOCUS POINT 3: 100% natural open gardens ...

This initiative was launched in the municipality of Grez-Doiceau, and five editions have been organised to date. The event is intended to encourage gardeners to layout and care for their garden in a more environmentally-friendly manner.

An annual visit is organised to these "100% nature" gardens in villages.

One single criterion applies to determine if amateur gardeners can open their gardens to visitors and share their passion for nature: the garden must be cared for in an eco-responsible manner, i.e. without the use of synthetic fertiliser or pesticides.

<b>Wal. 2.6</b>	Collect in as many expired products and/or products which are no longer approved as possible and send out awareness messages on good practices when eliminating residual products and PPP packaging	Individuals  Intermunicipal companies (collection sites)	Quantity of old products / packaging collected  Variation in the number of products (a.i.) collected when compared with previous operations  Number of participating municipalities  Number of collection sites involved  Impact of the operation in terms of changing practices	Organisation of a biannual collection campaign for old PPP and related packaging	Biannual since March 2012
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#### FOCUS POINT 4: Awareness campaign on the collection of old pesticides and their packaging

In the context of the 100% Nature plan, in order to encourage amateur gardeners to adopt a reasonable attitude and limit their impact on the environment, Wallonia, via the coordination unit of the "Regional PHYTO committee" and Adalia, in partnership with the Walloon intermunicipal waste management companies (COPIDEC), organised an initial awareness campaign for the collection of old pesticides and their packaging in March 2012, in the "Pesticide Action week". A reusable bag and a bag of flower seeds were distributed to incite people to take part. An awareness and information brochure on good gardening practices published by the coordination unit of the "Regional PHYTO committee" was distributed via the municipal services.

Old pesticides and related packaging can be disposed of at collection sites all year long (with chemical household waste).



### 3. Public information

Pursuant to article 7, § 1 of the directive, initiatives must be taken to distribute information and ensure that precise and balanced information is available on pesticides for the general public. This information must cover risks and any effects on human health, untargeted organisms and the environment, as well as the use of alternative non-chemical solutions.

Various regional initiatives have already been organised in terms of PPP and biocide information and awareness, targeting the general public and professional users, via publications and various partnerships subsidised by Wallonia. The actions shown in the following table aim to complete, extend and/or structure these initiatives using an overall and integrated approach.

#### Common action at national level

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Bel. 3.1	To guarantee, at the place of sale, the provision of well-balanced information to non-professional users about the proper conditions of use and the risks for public health and the environment.	Reaching agreement  Information available at the place of sale	<u>Study of an agreement at the level of the Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment</u> extended to the competences concerning the NAPAN in relation to the mandatory information at the place of sale.  <u>Well-balanced information for non-professional users must be available at every place of sale of <i>ppp</i> and biocides for non-professional users.</u>	To be defined at NAPAN level

Regional actions

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 3.1	Provide the target publics with a place to obtain official, central, neutral and objective information, accessible for all	Individuals  Phytolice holders  Vulnerable publics	Number of visits to the "PPP and biocides" pages of the Health-Environment portal  Link between the portal and partner sites	Distribute a map of players, via the SPW portal, providing information on PPP and biocides, the inventory of good practices, objective training on current knowledge of risks, and the actions taken by Wallonia and its partners.	2013-2014



Wal. 3.2	Develop structured, active and permanent communication in view of distributing information and ensuring awareness of the risk and alternatives, targeting the various target publics	Information relays	Communications plan	Assess, structure and coordinate the network used to distribute information to individuals and professionals. Current information/training systems will be completed or updated in order to include targets on the distribution of information on risks, the promotion of alternative techniques and reducing the use of PPP and biocides, aiming to change perceptions. The processing of requests for information from network members will be coordinated and adapted if necessary. A unique and free hotline number will be defined to collect in questions from professionals and individuals and dispatch these questions to the different services in question, based on the subject and/or the public in question	2013-2014
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In 2012, only 12.5% of the calls received by the SPW CPES (Permanent unit for Environment and Health) related to pesticides. All of these questions related to the use of pesticides in an agricultural context.

#### FOCUS POINT 5: Wallonia has organised the "Pesticide Action week" since 2008

In 2008, Adalia was entrusted with organising an initial campaign with the title "Pesticide Action week" throughout the Walloon region. In 2012, this operation was once again a complete success with almost 120 activities proposed. Based on the success of previous years, the DGARNE (General Directorate for Agriculture, Natural resources and Environment) of the Walloon Public Service (SPW) repeated the event in 2013 in partnership with the Region of Brussels-Capital. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition was held on 20 - 30 March 2013. Associations, public authorities, citizens, municipalities, etc. organised 10 days of awareness, training and information initiatives to demonstrate that pesticides are not essential.

(see site: <http://www.semainesanspesticides.be/>)

## FOCUS POINT 6: Actions within municipalities

MERCREDI 21 SEPTEMBRE 2011 | ARRONDISSEMENT DE PHILIPPEVILLE | 24 | 5

**WALCOURT** Fairoul

## Récompensés pour leur engagement

Samedi après-midi, des labels ont été remis aux citoyens qui se sont engagés à participer au projet pilote «Quartier en santé sans pesticide».

« Vincent PINTON

Nous dans une superbe vallée entourée entre France et Walcourt, le territoire de Walcourt se mobilise pour conserver sa qualité de vie. C'est pourquoi nous avons une équipe d'habitants qui ont pris conscience de la dangerosité de certains produits de traitement de nos jardins. Nous avons décidé de nous organiser pour limiter l'usage de ces produits. C'est pourquoi nous avons lancé le projet pilote «Quartier en santé sans pesticide». Les habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin ont été récompensés samedi après-midi par le maire de Walcourt, le conseiller communal et les membres du comité de quartier. Les habitants ont reçu un label «Quartier en santé sans pesticide» qui leur permettra de bénéficier de nombreux avantages. Le label est remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin. Le label est remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin. Le label est remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin.

Après cette remise de labels, le label «Village d'habitants» a été remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin. Le label est remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin. Le label est remis aux habitants qui se sont engagés à ne plus utiliser de pesticides dans leur jardin.

(Source: [http://www.adalia.be/files/pdf/Fairoul\\_Quartier\\_en\\_sante.pdf](http://www.adalia.be/files/pdf/Fairoul_Quartier_en_sante.pdf))

### FOCUS POINT 7: Even within the SPW, the Directorate of green spaces launched initiatives in order to limit the impact on the environment and protect wild fauna and flora. These initiatives particularly focus on:

- the prohibition to apply herbicide in green areas with the exception of treatments against invasive species;
- the use of alternative weed removal techniques: brushes, thermal systems and flame systems;
- the use of alternative techniques against the development of weeds: crushing branches, grass strips around the bases of trees in large lawns, recovery of crushed material for use as mulch;
- the progressive replacement of annual plants by perennials at Parc de Mariemont and, to a lesser extent, at Jumet
- replanting of disease-resistant rose bushes, combined with mixed border perennials;

- use of mushroom compost on rose bushes to improve the condition of the bushes and reduce soil acidity (combat against the proliferation of horsetails);
- planting of wild flowers along the edge of the Mariemont natural lake, also the site of a hayfield.

Dedicated specifications have been drafted for the acquisition of various items of machinery for the supply of methods/products enabling the implementation of integrated pest management, and the management of equipment using a differentiated management method.

#### **4. Monitoring of intoxication and exposure**

Article 7, § 2 of the directive provides for the creation of information collection systems in the event of acute pesticide poisoning, as well as chronic poisoning developments, if applicable. The provision specifically targets any groups which could potentially regularly face pesticide exposure, such as users, farmworkers, or people living near to areas where pesticides are applied.

In order to reinforce the comparability of information between Member states of the European Union, the directive provides for the drafting of strategic guidelines on how to monitor and study the effects of pesticide use on human health and the environment. This document was not yet available at the time of writing.

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
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Wal. 4.1	Expand knowledge of the external/internal exposure of groups which are at risk due to their professional activities, the professional activities of their family and their living environment, and the chronic effects of this exposure.	Pesticide users and their families  Local inhabitants	Feasibility report (phase 1) Number of participants and final report (phase 2)	The operation will include two phases. On the one hand, a feasibility study in relation to how to assess exposure (external and/or internal), how to select which parameters to assess, the recruitment process, etc., and, on the other hand, the study itself, including recruitment, the assessment of exposure and the analysis of results. These results will particularly lead to the assessment of pertinence and how to track specific populations over time.	2013-2016
Wal. 4.2	Design and structure the collection of information on incidents involving PPP and biocides. An incident involving a PPP or a biocide refers to any fortuitous or unexpected effect on human health, the health of domesticated animals or the environment caused by temporary or chronic exposure to a PPP or a biocide or its use and as detected by the declaring party.	Pesticide users and their families  Local inhabitants	Creation of the register  Number of incidents declared	Preparation of an incident declaration system for exposure to PPP and biocides.  Individuals and health professionals can use this system to voluntarily indicate situations involving exposure to PPP and biocides, considered as a source of concern due to their fortuitous or unexpected effects on health, the health of their animals or the environment.  The information collected in will be analysed and processed in view of planning preventive, corrective or other appropriate actions.	2015

In Belgium, according to the activity report 2012 for the Poison centre, the centre received 2,718 calls relating to exposure to pesticides (biocides, agricultural plant protection products, rodenticides and fertiliser). In terms of human health, 44% of cases involve children. 73% of human victims are aged under 5. See [http://www.centreantipoisons.be/sites/default/files/imce/agc\\_verslag\\_FRweb.pdf](http://www.centreantipoisons.be/sites/default/files/imce/agc_verslag_FRweb.pdf)

According to the French observatory for pesticide residues, poison and toxicovigilance centres manage numerous cases of pesticide intoxication. These cases represent 3 to 8% of their activity, i.e. 5,000 - 10,000 cases in France annually. Young children are also frequently victims of pesticide intoxication due to accidental ingestion or contact with the skin or eyes. See <http://www.observatoire-pesticides.gouv.fr/index.php?pageid=86>.

Studies previously carried out at federal and European level as well as European projects in progress will be taken into consideration when implementing initiative Wal.4.1.

## 5. Protection of the aquatic environment and drinking water from PPP

Article 11 of Directive 2009/128/EC particularly targets the protection of surface water and groundwater and, in particular, water intended for human consumption.

The long-term target is to reduce the contamination of surface and groundwater by pesticides. Pollution of surface water is both local and widespread. On this basis, compliance with good practices (some of which have been defined in new regulations) and applicable rules for the handling of plant protection products should improve the quality of rivers and streams (see also the actions described in chapter 7). The problem is more complex for groundwater as this type of pollution is widespread and the response time of groundwater to provisions taken at surface level can sometimes be lengthy (up to 15-20 years for the most persistent active ingredients such as atrazine and its degradation products).

This chapter must be linked to the specific actions proposed in the context of the River Basin management plans (RBMP) in application of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). These plans are not included here as they were the subject of another public enquiry held between 11 June 2012 and 18 January 2013.

Some of the actions proposed in the following table represent a radical change in mentality and current practices, particularly in terms of the management of public areas. Other provisions require the adaptation or reinforcement of existing regulations (e.g. to protect catchment areas).

**FOCUS POINT 8: Atrazine and its metabolite, desethylatrazine: "long-term pollutants"**

Atrazine is a herbicide which was widely used in former times, but was withdrawn from the Belgium and European markets due to concern raised in relation to the frequency and scale of water contamination by this molecule. Despite the prohibition on use decided by the European commission in 2004, atrazine and its metabolite (desethylatrazine) can still be detected in groundwater. In the outdoor environment, plant protection products can be degraded by physical and chemical means (solar radiation, soil ingredients) and by biological action due to micro-organisms in the soil. Atrazine is little absorbed by particles present in the soil, and therefore represents a significant potential source of contamination for surface water and groundwater. However, once in groundwater, the biological degradation of atrazine is slow to non-existent. The molecule and its metabolite therefore remain stable in the groundwater, representing a "long-term" pollutant. Groundwater is replaced far more slowly than surface water, therefore, pollution by substances such as atrazine has a significant long-term impact.

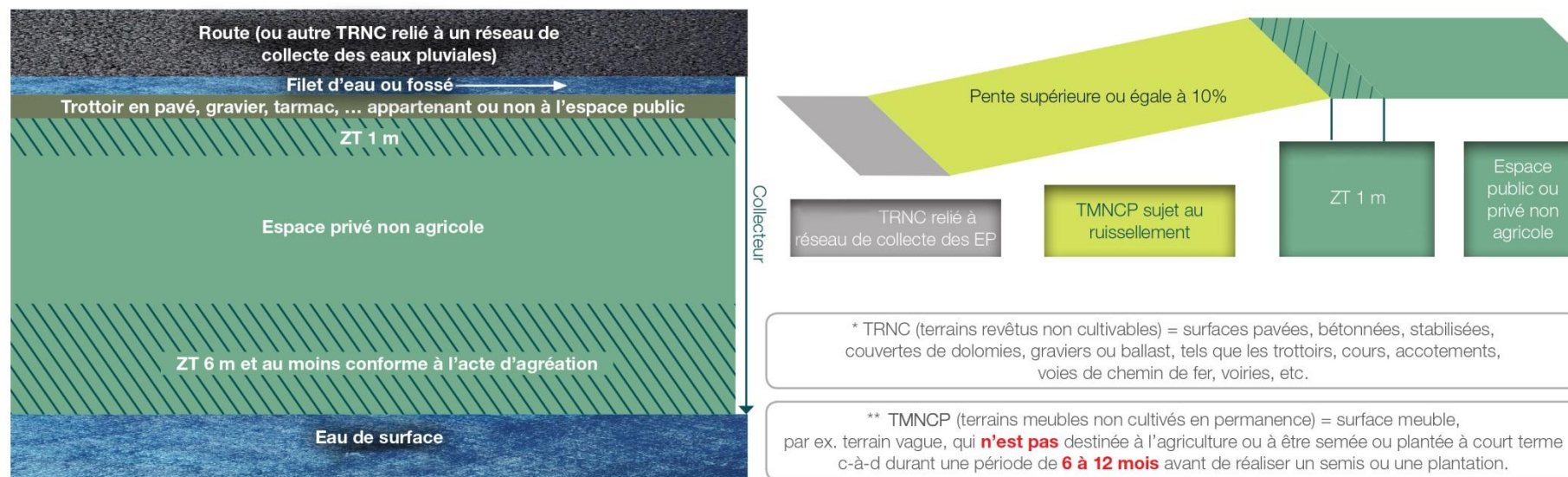
#### a. Creation of buffer zones outside of crop areas and grasslands

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.1	Protection of the aquatic environment	Pesticide users	% excess as per standards for non-agricultural PPP in the surface water monitoring network  % infringements detected in checks	General creation of a minimum buffer zone	1 September 2014

A buffer zone is maintained outside of crop areas and grasslands :

- alongside surface waters over a minimum width of six metres from the peak of the bank, and which may not be less than the zone defined in the approval certificate for each pesticide;
- alongside "paved land not suitable for crops" (impermeable surfaces or surfaces with low permeability, such as roads, pavements, paving, gravel, etc.) connected to a rainwater collection system (e.g.: grid, downpipe, water trickle, etc.), with a width of one metre;
- downstream from "loose land permanently without crops" (e.g. wasteground, slopes, etc.) subject to runoff due to a slope of 10% or more and which is adjacent to "paved land not suitable for crops" connected to a rainwater collection centre system with a width of one metre from the slope break.

The application of plant protection products is prohibited on "paved land not suitable for crops" (impermeable surfaces or surfaces with low permeability such as roads, pavements, paving, gravel, etc.) connected to a rainwater collection system or directly to surface water.



## b. Creation of buffer zones in crop areas and grassland

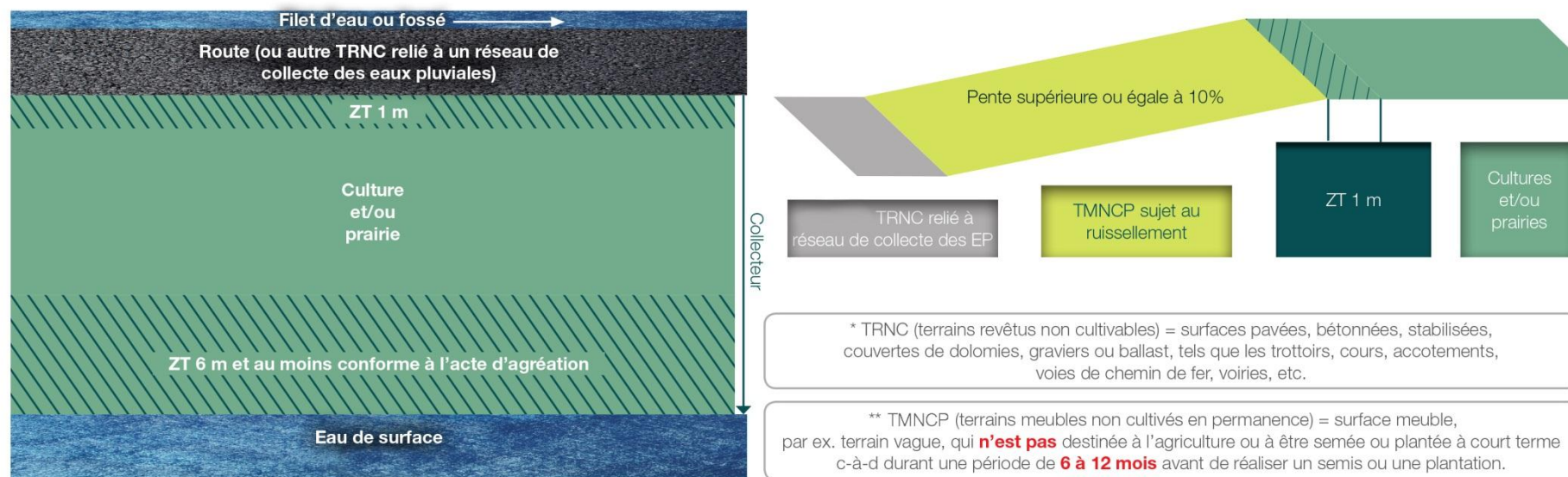
Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.2	Protection of the aquatic environment	Farmers	% excess as per standards for agricultural PPP in the surface water monitoring network  % infringements detected in checks	General creation of an agricultural buffer zone	1 September 2014



A buffer zone must be maintained in crop areas and/or grassland :

- alongside surface waters over a minimum width equal to that defined for the management plan for the sustainable use of nitrogen in agriculture (PGDA) (currently 6 m) and which may not be less than the zone defined in the approval certificate for each pesticide;
- alongside “paved land not suitable for crops” (impermeable surfaces or surfaces with low permeability, such as roads, pavements, paving, gravel, etc.) connected to a rainwater collection system (e.g.: grid, downpipe, water trickle, etc.), with a width of one metre;
- downstream from “loose land permanently without crops” (e.g. wasteground, slopes, etc.) subject to runoff due to a slope of 10% or more and which is adjacent to “paved land not suitable for crops” connected to a rainwater collection centre system with a width of one metre from the slope break.

The 6 m buffer zone running alongside streams and rivers must affect 2,400 "new" hectares of farming land (i.e. 0.3% of UAA) which can still be used for crops (9340 ha overall (including existing Agri-environmental Methods (MAE)) i.e. 1.2% of UAA).





Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.3	Ensuring awareness of the need to protect the aquatic environment	Professional pesticide users	Number of information sessions organised annually  Mean number of participants per session  Number of people requesting a customised visit after the meeting	Preference for <i>PPP</i> which do not endanger the environment and application techniques limiting risks	01/01/2014

When using pesticides, users must ensure that they use products without the symbol N or SGH09 as far as possible.



The person applying the plant protection products must use the appropriate and well adjusted application equipment, in good condition and with a drift limiter (e.g. anti-drift nozzles, baffles, etc).

### c. Managing public areas : "zero PPP"

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.4	The phytosanitary management of public areas  Derogatory transition period with a maximum duration of 5 years in order to achieve "zero PPP"	Managers of public areas	Quantities of <i>PPP</i> used by managers of public areas  Number of reports on infringements of legislation  Number of managers of public areas having achieved "zero PPP"	The phytosanitary management of public areas	"zero PPP" by 01/06/2019

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019, managers of public areas (municipalities, authorities, etc.) must manage their allocated areas without using plant protection products. Very few exemptions will be granted for this principle.

Therefore, prior to this date, and to enable the transition between current practices and "zero PPP", these managers may still use some products (those causing the least harm to health and the environment) for a maximum of 5 years (between 01/06/2014 and 31/05/2019) on some surfaces or for some plantations (impermeable surfaces or surfaces with low levels of permeability, not connected to a rainwater collection system, local treatment of planted areas and woods, sports fields). This use will be authorised, providing that a differentiated management plan for green areas aiming to achieve "zero PPP" by 31 May 2019 at the latest, is implemented and that a referral agent with at least a P2 phytolice is appointed. A permanent exemption will be maintained after 31 May 2019 for the last resort use of pesticides against some thistles and some Rumex as well as invasive exotic species.

To this end, managers will be assisted by the existing structures, such as the "Pôle de Gestion Différenciée" (Differentiated management unit), but also by the appointment of a "pesticides" facilitator specifically for municipalities (see next action). These structures will be able to offer real tools to managers, for example, software for carrying out inventories of public areas.

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.5	Simplify the transition to "zero PPP" for municipalities	Municipalities	Number of cases handled by the facilitator	Appointment of a "pesticides" facilitator for municipalities	June 2014

The main mission of the facilitator will be to provide hands-on support for municipalities and technical support for the latter for the implementation of the plan to reduce the use of PPP in public areas in order to achieve "zero PPP" within the set period.

In **Wallonia**, 13 municipalities, including Manage, Eghezée and Ath, are already managing their green areas according to the principles of differentiated management. They are being followed by other municipalities, which are triggering the same process. To date, around a [hundred](#) Walloon municipalities are or have been provided with support by the "Pôle de Gestion Différenciée" for the transition to this new type of management.

**FOCUS POINT 9: Examples of towns/municipalities creating room for differentiated management (Source: website of the Differentiated management unit for green spaces).**

**"Planting" of the Froidchapelle cemetery**

In the context of the PCDN (municipal nature development plan), the municipality of Froidchapelle has implemented a planting programme for the cemetery. To begin with, the cemetery was entirely covered with mineral furbishing, but many trees and bushes have been planted since that time. Melliferous and fruit bearing species have been selected as far as possible. Mixed hedges have been planted, a flowery lawn has been sown and mini-cavities were maintained for insects when renovating the perimeter walls. This policy should be extended to other cemeteries in the municipality, as the environment service considers that cemeteries should not be places devoid of life, but can also be considered as public parks.

**Tournai creates flowery meadows instead of lawns**

Reducing gardening operations to twice annually instead of weekly, creating eye-pleasing green areas while reducing costs, encouraging biodiversity, etc. all of these advantages have been confirmed by the green areas service of the town of Tournai after a few months of testing flowery strips near to Froyennes.

Indigenous varieties will be accorded priority, in order to limit upkeep and water requirements, and avoid the use of fertilisers. Resistance and adaptation to our local climate make these plants easier to manage, and reduce the costs incurred! Furthermore, they attract insects, and therefore help to protect biodiversity.

Next year, flowery meadows will be generally created throughout the town, at parks, roundabouts, around trees, on slopes, at the town entrances, etc.

This project is part of a more general sustainable management policy for green areas: late mowing, reasonable tree pruning, reduced use of herbicides, etc. combined with a training policy for personnel in the field, essential for the success of such a project.

Check out the Tournai website and read the article on this operation as well as a brochure providing information on the project for the public.

**d. Protecting catchment areas**

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 5.6	Protecting catchment areas for drinking water (this also applies for chapter 6 – Wal.6.4.)	Drinking water operators  Pesticide users in catchment areas	% of catchment areas exceeding quality standards for groundwater in terms of pesticides  Number of survey checks carried out  Number of contamination studies carried out for catchment areas	Adaptation of the Water code for the protection of catchment areas against contamination by <i>PPP</i>	From the adoption of the amended Water code (with period to ensure conformity)

- If the concentration of active ingredients in pesticides, as well as their metabolites, degradation products and pertinent reaction products, increases, and exceeds the following annual mean in receiving water:
  - 30% of quality standards for groundwater with reference to the value defined per individual ingredient (i.e. 0.1 µg/l), or
  - 30% of quality standards for groundwater with reference to the total value for ingredients (i.e. 0.5 µg/l),

adequate incentives must be organised in both local and distant protection areas, after a survey check. These actions aim to modify some agricultural, domestic and other practices or require compliance with good practices when applying pesticides in order to restrict the introduction of pesticides into groundwater until concentration has dropped below 30% of quality standards for groundwater and has been maintained at this level for at least five years.

- If the concentration of active ingredients in pesticides, as well as their metabolites, degradation and pertinent reaction products, exceeds the following annual mean in receiving water:
  - 75% of quality standards for groundwater with reference to the value defined per individual ingredient, or
  - 75% of quality standards for groundwater with reference to the total value for ingredients,

reinforced measures must be organised in both local and distant protection areas, after a survey check. These actions can range up to prohibiting the application of pesticides to prevent the introduction of pesticides into groundwater until concentration has dropped below 75% of quality standards for groundwater and has been maintained at this level for at least five years.

## 6. Protecting specific areas from PPP

Article 12 of Directive 2009/128/EC aims to reduce the use of pesticides or risks in specific areas. These areas are defined as follows:

- areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups;
- protected areas as defined in the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC);
- recently treated areas used by or accessible to agricultural workers.

The appropriate risk management actions must be taken and a preference must be granted to the use of low-risk PPP (as defined in EC regulation no. 1107/2009) and biological means of protection.

Wider-scale initiative at federal level

The national action initially envisaged has been replaced by a federal initiative due to the withdrawal of Flanders.

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Fed.7.1.	Reducing exposure to <i>ppp</i> among citizens living close to locations of application.	Availability of the report of the study	<u>Feasibility study regarding several reduction measures</u>	2015

Regional actions

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 6.1	Protection of vulnerable groups	Vulnerable groups	Publication of the decree and the main transposition Walloon Government Order	Specific measures required on places used by vulnerable groups	01/06/2018
Wal. 6.2	Protecting woods and forests	Forest managers	Existing order: Forest code	Prohibit any use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, with certain exceptions	In progress
Wal. 6.3	Protection of Natura 2000 sites and Natura 2000 applicant sites	Managers of Natura 2000 sites	Existing order	Require prior authorisation for the use of all herbicides, with certain exceptions	In progress
Wal.6.4. = Wal. 5.6	<i>Protecting catchment areas for drinking water</i>	<i>Drinking water operators</i>  <i>Pesticide users in catchment areas</i>	% of catchment areas exceeding quality standards for groundwater  <i>Number of survey checks carried out</i>  <i>Number of contamination studies carried out for catchment areas</i>	<i>Adaptation of Volume II of the Environment code, containing the Water code for the protection of catchment areas against contamination by PPP</i>	<i>From the adoption of the amended Water code (with period to ensure conformity)</i>

The concept of "vulnerable groups" is defined in EC regulation no. 1007/2009 as: *"persons needing specific consideration when assessing the acute and chronic health effects of plant protection products. These include pregnant and nursing women, the unborn, infants and children, the elderly and workers and residents subject to high pesticide exposure over the long term."*

The actions involve a 10 - 50 metre untreated buffer zone around some areas or buildings used by vulnerable groups (crèches, schools, playgrounds, picnic areas, hospitals, retirement homes, etc.).

For Natura 2000 sites, a maximum surface area (theoretical estimate) of 1541 ha (out of 221,000 ha in Natura 2000 sites) would be covered by prior authorisation for the use of herbicides.

It is also important to remember the general provisions on the protection of the flora and fauna included in the Nature Conservation Law (Loi de Conservation de la Nature - LCN) and the existence of the "main ecological structure" (SEP) leading to a 20% increase in subsidies for agri-environmental methods (MAE) with a high biological value.

#### **FOCUS POINT10: A worthwhile means of protecting catchment areas...**

In Wallonia, the SPGE (public company for water management) is responsible for protecting water catchment areas. In view of the need to protect water from contamination by pesticides, the costs incurred in the appropriate treatments and increased water quality requirements, in 2005 the SPGE decided to finance a hands-on help tool for water operators.

The "Pesticides-Catchment diagnostic unit", developed by the Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques (Walloon Centre for agricultural research – CRAW), consisting of different experts (hydrogeologist, pedologist, geomatician, agrometeorologist and agronomist) and coordinated by the CRA-W, was therefore created. This unit aims to carry out diagnostics and determine the cause of pollution by pesticides affecting catchment areas and to propose appropriate corrective solutions. Targeting at-risk zones around catchment areas when applying actions can reduce the cost of protecting the site when compared with general initiatives, but also increase the effectiveness of the protection for the catchment area in question. The unit manages 6 to 10 cases annually.

## **7. Handling and storing PPP used for professional purposes**

Article 13 of Directive 2009/128/EC requires professional users to satisfy specific conditions when handling, storing and processing pesticide packaging and residue in order to effectively reduce the risk for health and the environment.

These operations involving the handling and storage of pesticides, if carried out incorrectly, or without taking the appropriate precautions into consideration, can endanger not only humans, but also the environment.

To ensure that all professional users of pesticides in Wallonia strictly comply with the legal provisions inherent to the transposition of Directive 2009/128/EC, it is indispensable for checks to be feasible, but it is also essential for awareness and information programmes to be highlighted for the target publics.

Directive 2009/128/EC also specifies that provisions should also target non-professional users as the probability of this type of user making handling errors is very real, due to the likelihood of these users approaching these operations in an inappropriate manner, often due to a lack of knowledge. It would appear appropriate to plan ahead for the problem and therefore ensure the awareness of garden designers/creators/architects, in order to reduce these risks when developing design strategies for private areas by eliminating the need to use pesticides to care for gardens.

Common initiative at national level

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Bel. 8.1	Room for the storage of plant protection products: optimising control so as to encourage non-compliant professional users to apply the law,	Inclusion of the new monitoring criteria in the <i>checklists</i> .	<u>The <i>checklists</i> will be adjusted</u>	As <i>from</i> 25/112015

Regional initiatives**a. Regulatory initiatives:**

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 7.1</b>	Adapt Walloon regulations to satisfy the requirements of transposing the SUD 2009/128/EC	Professional PPP users	Publication of amended Walloon Government Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amend the order issued by the Walloon Government on 4 July 2002, defining the list of projects subject to an impact study and classified operations and facilities in order to define classified operations and facilities</li> <li>- Define exhaustive conditions (for class 3 sites) or sector-based conditions for professional PPP storage sites</li> <li>- Adopt the general transposition order containing provisions on the usage of PPP by managers of public areas and the handling of PPP for professional purposes</li> </ul>	First half 2013
<b>Wal. 7.2</b>	Approval of PPP effluent treatment systems (for mid-2014)	Professional PPP users	Number of systems approved per type of use (agricultural/horticultural, public areas, green area upkeep firm, etc.) Technical performances of systems	Establish an approval system for purification systems able to treat PPP effluents using either physical, chemical or biological processes, in view of recognition by the Walloon government.	Finalisation for 2014



**FOCUS POINT 11: A real-life example...**

PhytEauWal is specialised in the design, installation and follow-up of biofilters and phytobacs. PhytEauWal can offer more than advice with practical, effective solutions meeting the requirements of the applicable regulations.

PhytEauWal can offer specific advice and services for professional users in relation to the storage and handling of products as well as the elimination of their residue on the operating site itself. The firm can provide field expertise in the following areas:

- PPP room: advice on installation, compliance with standards, maintenance, and managing obsolete products or those having lost their approval.
- biofilters and phytobacs: sizing, assistance and advice with installation, technical monitoring, servicing, replacement of the subsoil.
- on-site fittings: filling area and correction system (assistance and advice with installation, follow-up and servicing).

Approximately 30 biofilters have been installed in Wallonia since 2002 (mainly for farmers (75%) but also for 4 municipalities and 3 schools or technical centres).

The system represents an investment of approximately 1500 EUR plus the possible creation of a sealed concrete area equipped with a recovery sump for water charged with PPP.



## b. Supervision and awareness initiatives targeting professional users

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 7.3	Support and guide professional users of pesticides to ensure that their operations comply with standards in terms of <b>treating plant protection product effluents</b> .	Professional PPP users	Number of operations complying with standards  Number of information sessions, visits to operations	- <i>Guide professional users of PPP to ensure that their operations/companies comply with standards in terms of treating plant protection product effluents.</i>	2015

Advisory visits to companies and operations will be organised and information sessions will be held by guidance partners in order to provide support for ensuring the conformity of facilities. The publication of an advisory guide is also planned to assist professional users with their decision as to which approved system is the most suitable for their situation.

Users not subject to cross-compliance within the Common agricultural policy (horticulturists, managers of parks and gardens, green areas services for towns and municipalities) will pay close attention to awareness initiatives in order to encourage vigilance when handling and storing plant protection products.

It will be necessary to continue supporting and encouraging initiatives by the different guidance structures existing in Wallonia for this purpose:

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 7.4</b>	Information, awareness and guidance initiatives for professional users of PPP (on the handling and storage of PPP)	Professional PPP users	<p>Number of vade mecums distributed</p> <p>Statistics for visits to webpages</p> <p>Number of guides to good PPP practices distributed per sector</p> <p>Number of information sessions and number of participants per session</p> <p>Number of articles published</p>	<p>- A vade mecum explaining the legal obligations of professional users of PPP, based on the transposition of the European directive into Walloon law and into federal law will be drafted by one of the partners entrusted with guidance. (part art.13)</p> <p>- Management and maintenance of information on legislation and good PPP practices on the web The vade mecum and guides to good PPP practices can be downloaded from the Internet</p> <p>- Updating of guides to good PPP practices and the creation of brochures</p> <p>- Organisation of information sessions on modifications to legislation in relation to art.13, on ensuring compliance with standards and the implementation of the Walloon pesticide reduction programme by guidance and vulgarisation partners as well as the bodies representing all sectors involved</p> <p>- Publication of articles to ensure awareness of good PPP practices</p>	2013-2015

**FOCUS POINT 12: Hands-on awareness and information initiatives and actions in Wallonia,**

The coordination unit of the Regional PHYTO committee has published guides to good practices dedicated to each sector (agriculture, horticulture, green sector, parks and gardens and municipal authorities) for many years.

Examples:

- Guide to good PPP practices, Regional Phyto committee, 2004;
- Guide to good PPP practices in the public sector (green areas and roads), (2006);
- Use of plant protection products in green areas and on roads – Legislation and good practices, (2010);
- Legislation on the use of pesticides for agricultural purposes: "Ce que le producteur doit savoir" (All a producer needs to know), (2011);

PreventAgri aims to ensure the awareness of actors in the green sector of health and safety in the workplace. During visits to facilities, the different workplaces are analysed, and close attention is paid to the PPP room, the spray filling and cleaning area, application equipment, protection equipment, and the filling out of registers. A report is then drafted and sent to the operator. These preventive visits are therefore used to improve the PPP practices of professional pesticide users in order to reduce environmental risks and identify any non-conformities which could be sanctioned by inspection bodies.

PhytofarRecover coordinates the collection of empty plant protection product packaging and unusable plant protection products from all professional users of plant protection products for agricultural usage. This category also includes users of plant protection products applied to green areas and for horticultural purposes. More details can be found on the website [www.phytofarrecover.eu](http://www.phytofarrecover.eu)

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 7.5</b>	"Compliance with standards – safety – handling – storage – prevention of accidents and fire" diagnostic	Professional PPP users	60 visits annually	<i>On-site visits, analysis of risks and advice. Technical support for agricultural/horticultural facilities and companies in green sectors to ensure compliance with standards in terms of safety when storing and handling PPP and biocides, during on-site visits</i>	In progress

During these visits, working methods, equipment and existing facilities (such as spray filling areas, the PPP room, etc.), will be analysed and subject to an inventory. Advice will then be provided on compliance with risk prevention principles. This advice will be provided in the form of a list of recommendations following on from visits during operation (recommendations' sheet).

Once again in terms of safety, a guidance partner will create a document template specifying the nature of and risks inherent to the PPP handled by professional users, and will ensure that the product safety datasheets provided by pesticide producers are indeed made available to users.

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 7.6</b>	Technological monitoring, updating of knowledge	Professional PPP users	Progress with monitoring	<i>Permanent technological monitoring and the issue of proposals for innovative technical solutions in order to provide professional users with information and assist these users with complying with legal requirements, thereby contributing to reducing the impact of PPP on the environment</i>	2014

Scientific partners will monitor technology and will be asked to make proposals in terms of innovative technical solutions helping to reduce the impact of pesticides on the environment.

### c. Storing PPP

It is important to pay close attention to the fitting out of the room and the type of storage used for plant protection products in order to optimise the protection of users and the environment. Certain characteristics must be taken into consideration in order to ensure that the room satisfies legal provisions, while being operational and convenient, in order to:

- maintain the physical and chemical properties of the plant protection products (effectiveness ensured);
- optimise stock management;
- ensure the health and safety of all people with authorised access;
- protect the environment;

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
<b>Wal. 7.7</b>	Conform <i>PPP</i> storage devices, to prevent accidental distribution	Professional <i>PPP</i> users	Number of visits to professional users  Number of rooms modified to ensure conformity after the visit	<i>Drafting of the list of devices for the storage of professional PPP designed to ensure effective retention and meet legal requirements. This list will refer to the performances of these devices, their benefits/drawbacks, the costs incurred, etc. and recommendations based on the size or type of operation or company (field crops, company, etc.). This list will then be distributed to all vulgarisation partners in view of widescale distribution to target publics.</i>  <i>Issue of proposals for technical solutions able to seal the flooring in the storage room and meet legal requirements</i>	09/2013

Walloon regulatory provisions complement federal initiatives to transpose Directive 2009/128/EC requiring professional pesticide users to comply with specific conditions on the storage of these pesticides, aiming to enhance the protection of the environment. This action includes paying particular attention to the location of the storage areas, as well as their size and the construction materials used. It is essential to focus on guidance, advice, awareness and vulgarisation in order to improve the awareness of professional users and encourage strict compliance with legal provisions by these users. It is necessary to continue supporting and encouraging initiatives and actions by the different guidance structures existing in Wallonia for this purpose.

## 8. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Article 14 of the Pesticide Framework Directive provides for the implementation of integrated pest management against crop enemies. This approach involves the careful consideration of all available protection methods and, consequently, the integration of the appropriate initiatives to discourage the development of populations of harmful organisms and maintain the use of plant protection products and other types of operations at levels which can be justified from an economic and environmental point of view, and which reduce or limit as far as possible risks for human health and the environment. Integrated pest management against crop enemies promotes the growth of healthy crops, while reducing disturbance to agro-ecosystems as much as possible and encouraging natural mechanisms against crop enemies.

Member States must promote integrated pest management against crop enemies and ensure that professional users have access to information, monitoring systems and advisory services, enabling the implementation of integrated pest management. Wallonia must ensure that all professional PPP users apply the general integrated pest management principles provided for in annex III of the Pesticide Framework Directive on 1 January 2014 at the latest.

One of the basis for integrated pest management is the use of warning systems<sup>13</sup>. These systems can be used to apply plant protection products when absolutely required rather than systematically. Unnecessary treatments are therefore avoided. Warnings are issued for a growing number of crops. These warnings are generally issued by pilot centres (subsidised by DGARNE), which create a series of plots for observation purposes. The development of such warning systems and encouraging farmers to use existing systems must be considered a focal point.

Integrated pest management encourages farmers to replace chemical treatments with alternative pest management methods, such as pheromones causing sexual confusion, mechanical weed removal, etc. This type of management encourages the use of organisms which are antagonistic to the harmful organisms (biological management), either by introducing these organisms directly in the crop, or by encouraging their presence in or around the plots. Some agro-environmental initiatives contribute to this practice. Aid can encourage the use of these initiatives.

Finally, subsidies are also granted to farmers using organic farming methods in compliance with the European specifications.

In Wallonia, integrated pest management is already encouraged by various support initiatives.

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<sup>13</sup> "Warning": opinion sent out to farmers on the necessity to treat or not treat their plants with protection products for a specific crop and a given harmful organism. Warnings are based on observations of a series of plots. These observations particularly relate to the presence or absence of diseases and/or harmful organisms, useful organisms, weather conditions, etc.

**FOCUS POINT 13: A classic example: potato "blight" warnings,**

In 2011, 431 farmers signed up for CARAH warnings, representing approx. 10,000 ha, i.e. 1/3 of the surface area dedicated to ware potatoes.

**FOCUS POINT 14: "Integrated pest management in pip fruit"**

In the context of differentiated quality for apples and pears, subsidies are granted to those complying with the official specifications for "integrated pest management in pip fruit"<sup>14</sup>.

In 2011, 49 farms, representing approx. 70% of pip fruit surface areas in Wallonia, committed to complying with these specifications.

**FOCUS POINT 15: The FRUITNET label**

<http://www.asblgawi.com/fint.html>

In 1988, Walloon arboriculturists founded the asbl GAWI (Groupements d'Arboriculteurs pratiquant en Wallonie les techniques Intégrées - Groupings of arboriculturists applying integrated pest management techniques in Wallonia). They have developed and promoted integration production techniques under the supervision of Jacques Denis, the first president of GAWI. They created the FRUITNET label (<http://www.groupfruitnet.com/>) which guarantees the minimal impact of production on the environment. GAWI provides advice to arboriculturists on how to adopt the best technique depending on the actual situation.

**FOCUS POINT 16: Organic farming in Wallonia**

Organic farming represented approximately 55,000 ha in crop surface area in 2012 (i.e. + 9.3% versus 2011 and 7.6% of Walloon UAA). This same figure was a mere 16,872 ha in 2000. In parallel, the number of organic farms rose from 435 in 2000 to 1090 in 2012 (+ 11.2% versus 2011).

Organic farming in Wallonia mainly involves grasslands (85%) and field crops (12%) while in Flanders, most organic farming involves vegetable gardens and fruit trees.

In 2012, 69,690 heads of cattle were reared organically as well as +/- 1,400,000 chickens reared for meat (twice the 2006 figure) and slightly over 100,000 egg-laying hens (3 times the 2006 figure). This list can be completed by 8,273 pigs, 10,293 sheep and 997 goats. Therefore, the total number of organic animals has doubled since 2005.

<sup>14</sup> Order by the Walloon government of 29 April 2004



Details of the financial aid granted to organic farmers are included in the AGW of 24/04/2008 (amended by the AGW of 17/02/2011). This aid can be modulated depending on several criteria, including, in particular, the type of crop and surface area grown using organic methods.

In addition to these initiatives which have existed for several years now, in 2013, Wallonia launched a strategic plan for the expansion of organic farming by 2020. This plan includes 30 action sheets focusing on several main lines: guidance, research, teaching and training, the promotion of organic produce.

Annex II to EC regulation no. 889/2008 defines the plant protection products that may be used for organic farming purposes. Almost all of the products on this list are of natural origin (minerals, plant extracts, bacteria and microorganisms, etc.)

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 8.1	Compliance with the main principles of integrated pest management by all farmers	Farmers	Publication of an order	Establishment of an inspection system	01/01/2014
Wal. 8.2	Creation of "integrated pest management" specifications, dedicated to various individual sectors	Farmers	Publication of an order	Publication of an order on the possible recognition of dedicated specifications	01/01/2015
			Number of specifications submitted to the Minister for approval	Assessment and approval of the specifications submitted	01/01/2015 (+ eval° from. 01/01/2016)
			Number of bonuses requested/granted	Granting of a bonus to farmers complying with the "integrated pest management" specifications, as recognised and dedicated to the sector	Ditto as above
Wal. 8.3	Compliance with the main principles of integrated pest management by managers of public areas	Managers of public areas	Adoption of the decree and the main transposition AGW	Prohibition of <i>PPP</i> use in public areas. Use of <i>PPP</i> exclusively in compliance with integrated pest management principles during the transient derogatory period (max. 5 years)	01/01/2014 (transition period up to 31/05/2019)

## 9. PPP observatory

Article 15 of Directive 2009/128/EC requires Member States to develop and calculate predefined harmonised risk indicators (Annex IV), particularly on the basis of (i) statistics collected in the context of EC Regulation no. 1185/2009 on plant protection products and (ii) other pertinent data. Member States can also continue to use their own existing indicators or adopt appropriate indicators, to complement the harmonised indicators.

The main targets when monitoring these indicators are as follows:

- (i) highlight trends in the use of the some active ingredients,
- (ii) assess progress made by public authorities in terms of reducing risks and the effects of using pesticides on human health and the environment and
- (iii) assess the efforts made to encourage the development and introduction of integrated pest management and alternative techniques and methods in view of reducing dependency on pesticide use.

The Member States must inform the European commission and other Member States of the results of assessments carried out using any indicators developed, and make this information available to the public.

Wallonia can already access statistics and a certain number of indicators at regional level, particularly in relation to variation in water quality and levels of use of active ingredients by the different user categories. Most of these indicators are presented in annual dashboards on the state of the Walloon environment, which can be accessed by the general public at <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/>. It is also worth mentioning that these indicators and the corresponding data are periodically transmitted to the European Environment Agency, EUROSTAT and the OECD.

### Common initiative at national level

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Bel. 10.1	Harmonisation of methods, standards and reports on water contamination (surface & ground) by <i>PPP</i> at regional, national and European level	Availability of the feasibility report	<u>Study into the feasibility of the harmonisation</u>	2017

Regional initiatives

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 9.1	Provision of the data required to calculate WPRP monitoring indicators		Long-term organisation and reinforcement of the production, collection, centralisation, validation and quality of regional statistics as required to calculate indicators and which must be forwarded to the European commission. Develop and reinforce cooperation between the partners involved in collecting and processing statistics (SPF, SPW, IWEPS, CRP, CRAW, ISSeP, etc.)	2013-2017
Wal. 9.2	Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of WPRP actions		Development and monitoring of the complete set of indicators (dashboard), enabling the assessment of the situation and variation in the use of active ingredients, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the initiatives proposed in the WPRP in view of achieving targets in terms of resources and results as defined in Directive 2009/128/EC	2013-2017

**10. Monitoring of the WPRP and the NAPAN**

It was essential to create a group of the representatives of the different federated entities in Belgium in order to ensure consistency and complementarity for the actions developed at the different institutional levels. For this reason, during the year 2010, the NAPAN Task Force was created with the mandate of preparing for the transposition of Directive 2009/128/EC and preparing the draft National Action Plan. On this basis, all formal decisions must be approved by the different competent executive bodies. People were mandated to join the Steering and Editorial committees for each institution.

Common initiatives at national level

Ref.	Target	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Bel.11.1.	Coordinated national report	Publication of a national report	Coordination of a report within the NTF	2017
Bel.11.2.	Coordination of the NAPAN	Operation of the NTF secretariat and of the NAPAN Advisory Council	<u>Defining and applying the operation of the NTF.</u>	2013-2017
Bel.11.3.	Actively involve the general public in the NAPAN decision-making process	Report on public consultation	Public consultation on the NAPAN 2018-2023	2017

### NAPAN TASK FORCE

#### Composition:

- Steering committee = overseeing the Editorial committee and liaising between the NAPAN and political authorities
- Editorial committee = driving force behind the NAPAN Task Force

#### Mandate:

- **Transposing Directive 2009/128/EC (pesticides)**  
In addition to implementing national obligations, the transposition process must create a legal framework as necessary to establish and review the NAPAN. This transposition process will then comprise a series of royal orders and ministerial orders, decrees and ministerial decisions as well as formal and/or informal cooperation agreements.
- **NAPAN 2013-2017 (plant protection products and biocides)**  
The NAPAN must establish quantitative targets for reducing risks and the use of pesticides. It must also define the actions to be taken to achieve these targets.

#### Regional initiative

Wallonia wishes to create a standing unique coordination unit in order to improve the consistency, monitoring and visibility of actions to be undertaken by public authorities and their partners in terms of the sustainable use of plant protection products (PPP).

The unit proposed would be based on a centralisation and coordination body in charge of managing, organisation and planning actions in relation to plant protection products (PPP) in Wallonia. The unit would also propose an annual programme defining the different tasks to be achieved, set targets and the resources required for implementation. In order to execute the different tasks, the coordination unit would be supported by the different existing partners, i.e., on the one hand, scientific experts (universities, CRA-W, etc.) who would supply expertise and research skills and, on the other

hand, partners for development and communication purposes (pilot centres, technical centres, vulgarisation and awareness bodies, etc.), which would provide support for the development of techniques based on research, as well as for information, awareness and communication purposes, etc.

This coordination unit would be backed up by multiple sources of resources from among the different scientific and guidance partners in Wallonia, and would enable expertise to be combined and the management of actions and guidance dedicated to plant protection products (PPP) to be centralised. This would guarantee a more rational use of financial resources, greater consistency, improved visibility and better synergies between research, development, communications, vulgarisation and awareness initiatives. This coordination would be based on existing structures and depend on a decision by the Walloon Government.

Ref.	Target	Target public	Indicator	Action	Deadline
Wal. 10.1	Monitoring of the implementation of the pesticide reduction programme (WPRP)			Creation of a standing coordination structure	2013

## 11. Controls and sanctions for Programme actions

Wallonia will organise controls to ensure that legal provisions on pesticides are complied with. The DPC (Département de la Police et des Contrôles - Police and Inspections service) of the SPW DGARNE will hold regional competences for these controls.

The following professional users will be subject to these controls:

- farmers;
- green sectors (nurseries, park and garden entrepreneurs, agricultural entrepreneurs, etc.);
- public services;
- sports, leisure and recreational centres (centres used by the public);
- pesticide retailers and distributors (including superstores).

Inspections will be carried out both for users themselves and distributors and sellers. Priority inspections will be carried out in areas which are sensitive to pesticides: water bodies at risk to pesticides, areas specifically protected (catchment areas, Natura2000, etc.).

New sanction systems relating to WPRP actions, which are not yet allocated to existing systems (new management of public areas, protection of vulnerable groups, handling of PPP, IPM) are specified in article 9 of the pesticide framework decree of 10 July 2013. The other initiatives will depend on legal bases which already provide for a sanction system (e.g.: Water code, Forest code, etc.).

Regional inspection services and federal services (AFSCA, DG V of the FPS for Public health) will coordinate in depth to define inspection plans.

## **12. Overall financing of the programme**

Some provisions of the WPRP have already been implemented (e.g.: awareness and information initiatives, user guidance initiatives) and will continue to be supported by Wallonia via support to the bodies managing these provisions.

A budget will be allocated to new initiatives on an annual basis, depending on progress with the WPRP.

### ***Links to current plans and programmes (PGDH, PWDR, etc.)***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description of the Plan and relations to the WPRP</b>
<b>Plans defined for Wallonia</b>	
<b>River basin management plans</b>	The River basin management plans established for the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) included several initiatives to avoid the pollution of surface and groundwater by PPP. Details can be found at: <a href="http://eau.wallonie.be">eau.wallonie.be</a>
<b>Walloon waste plan – Horizon 2010</b>	This plan targets coordinated waste management in Wallonia (covering the prevention, collection, reuse and elimination of waste). On this basis, this Plan clearly has direct and indirect implications for the management of PPP waste (packaging, tank residue, expired products). The Walloon waste plan – Horizon 2020 is currently being prepared.
<b>Marshall 2.vert plan</b>	This Plan continues and reinforces the Walloon economic strategy launched with the first Marshall plan adopted in 2005 and focuses substantially on environmental concerns. This economic booster plan focuses on 6 lines and aims to boost the development of a fully fledged environmental technology sector and competitive clusters, among other aspects.
<b>Regional sustainable development strategy (SRDD)</b>	The regional sustainable development strategy should be adopted by the end of the legislative period and aims to ensure consistency and reinforce existing plans in terms of long-term sustainable development for Wallonia
<b>Other plans</b>	
<b>PCDN (municipal nature development plan)</b>	PCDNs are voluntary processes aiming to maintain, develop or restore biodiversity at municipal level. On this basis, these Plans have consequences on the use of PPP.
<b>Management plans for natural parks</b>	Managers of natural parks must prepare and execute Management plans aiming to ensure nature conservation, protect the environment and guide territorial planning. On this basis, these Management plans are likely to have an impact on the use of PPP.
<b>100% Nature plan</b>	Wallonia wishes to launch a draft Nature improvements plan as part of the Walloon contribution to the European strategy against the loss of biodiversity beyond 2010. The 100% Nature plan aims to trigger voluntarist initiatives enabling biodiversity in Wallonia as a whole to be maintained and expanded on a long-term basis. Several actions directly target the use of PPP, and are integrated in this programme.

<b>Federal sustainable development plan and Local Agenda 21s</b>	<p>The Federal sustainable development plan 2004-2008, which was been extended up to the adoption of the next plan, determines the initiatives to be taken at federal level to promote sustainable development. This plan consists of both standards and indications, but is not binding. The Plan cannot therefore be enforced as a regulation, but lays down guidelines to the policy which the Government intends to implement.</p> <p>At local level, Municipalities are encouraged to adopt a local Agenda 21. In real terms, this would lead to the drafting of a hands-on action plan, in coordination with local operators and the population, establishing the actions to be implemented on a short-, medium- and long-term basis.</p>
<b>SPW sustainable development plan</b>	The SPW sustainable development plan approved in November 2011 by the Strategic committee includes 7 lines which are adapted into action plans and targets. The aim is to reduce the consumption of energy, water, paper and supplies, promote eco-responsible mobility, improve waste prevention and management, deploy a sustainable purchasing policy with the insertion of environmental, social and ethical clauses into government contracts, ensure awareness and involve personnel and improve the professional environment. Several actions described in the Plan directly or indirectly relate to the use of PPP and protecting biodiversity.
<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Description of the Programme and relations to the WPRP</u></b>
<b><i>Programmes applied within Wallonia</i></b>	
<b>River contract action programmes</b>	These Programmes aim to reconcile the many different types of usages of streams and rivers, the surrounding areas and the water resources of the drainage basin. They define the targets to be achieved within a reasonable period and oversee execution. The actions implemented in these Programmes aim to restore, protect and reuse the water resources of the basin while integrating all of the specific characteristics of the river. 16 contracts have been signed in Wallonia.
<b>PWDR (Walloon Rural Development programme)</b>	The new Rural development programme for the period 2014-2020, will include various initiatives in the agricultural and environmental sectors, some of which will have an impact on the use of PPP.
<b>Support for organic farming</b>	The provisions of the AGW of 24/04/2008 aim to promote organic farming. Organic farming represents an alternative to "conventional" farming. Organic farming is mainly based on the decision to not use synthetic products (fertilisers, plant protection products (PPP)). In this respect, supporting organic farming is one of the agri-environmental methods aiming to promote improvements to the environment, among other factors. A strategic development plan for 2020, was approved by the Walloon Government in June 2013.



<b>Cross-compliance (CAP reform)</b>	One of the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is to reinforce the protection of the environment and improve the quality of agricultural products. Establishing cross-compliance for the direct payment of aids to farmers based on compliance with standards in terms of good agricultural and environmental conditions is the subject of article 27 of the AGW of 23 February 2006. On this basis, this Programme helps to promote the protection of the environment (including the sustainable use of PPP).
<b>Agri-environmental programme (MAE)</b>	Agri-environmental methods (MAE) programmes aim to encourage the implementation of voluntary actions to protect and improve the quality of the environment and landscape in agricultural areas. MAE programmes have been mandatory since the CAP reform of 1992 EC Regulation no. 2078/92). Some MAEs have a direct or indirect effect on the use of PPP.
<b>Natura 2000 programme</b>	This programme applies the European directives on “Birds” (1979) and “Habitats” (1992) and aims to maintain the conservation of certain species or habitats which are threatened or representative of biodiversity in Europe. The Natura 2000 programme and the WPRP are closely related as several protection initiatives for Natura 2000 sites directly relate to the prohibition to use some types of PPP.
<b>LIFE-Nature programmes</b>	These Programmes aim to restore Natura 2000 sites and various habitats, particularly those of specific species (pearl mussels, otters, etc.), and therefore have an impact on the use of PPP, particularly via the long-term improvement and conservation of the habitats of the target species.
<b>Regional action programme for health and the environment (PARES)</b>	The PARES programme approved by the Government on 12 December 2008 focuses on 7 lines and 20 priority initiatives in terms of health and the environment, particularly the distribution of information on risk, the assessment and management of risk for human health, and institutional cooperation. The Declaration of regional policy 2009-2014 specifies that the pesticide situation must be taken into consideration when assessing risks.
<b>Other programmes</b>	
<b>PRPB</b>	The Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme in relation to agricultural usages and Biocides (PRPB), published in 2005, aims to reduce the negative impact of pesticides from 25% to 50% by 2010 differentiated into agricultural and non-agricultural use. The PRPB been extended until the end of 2012 (with the same targets) specifically pending the implementation of the NAPAN.

## Part 3: Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Glossary

#### List of acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym/abbreviation	Definition
AERW	Arrêté de l'Exécutif Régional Wallon (Order by the Walloon regional executive body)
AGW	Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon (Order by the Walloon government)
BPP	Bonnes pratiques phytosanitaires (Good PPP practices)
CARAH	Centre pour l'agronomie et l'agro-industrie de la Province du Hainaut (Hainaut province centre for agriculture and the food industry)
CIE_NAPAN	Conférence interministérielle de l'Environnement (Interministerial environmental conference) extended to Agriculture and Health in the context of the NAPAN
CoPIDECE	Conférence permanente des intercommunales de gestion des déchets (Standing intermunicipal waste management conference)
CRAW	Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques (Walloon agricultural research centre)
CRP	Comité Régional Phyto (Regional Phyto Committee)
WFD	Water Framework Directive – Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000
PFD or SUD	Framework directive to ensure the sustainable use of pesticides or Sustainable use Directive – Directive 2009/128/EC of 21 October 2009
DGARNE or DGO3	Direction Générale opérationnelle de l'Agriculture, des Ressources naturelles et de l'Environnement (General operational directorate of Agriculture, Natural resources and the Environment)
PS	Public space
ISSeP	Institut scientifique de service public (Scientific public service Institute)
MAE	Méthode agro-environnementale (Agri-environmental method)
NAPAN	Nationaal Actie <i>Plan</i> d'Action National (National action plan)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCDN	Plan communal de Développement de la Nature (Municipal nature development plan)
PGDA	Programme de Gestion Durable de l'Azote (Sustainable Nitrogen management programme) in agricultural contexts

PPP	Plant protection products or phytopharmaceuticals or phytosanitary products
PV	Report
a.i.	Active ingredient
UAA	Utilised Agricultural Area
SEP	Structure écologique principale (Main ecological structure)
SPGE	Société publique de Gestion de l'eau (Public water management company)
SPW	Service Public de Wallonie (Walloon public service)
EU	European Union

## Appendix 2 - Brief description of common initiatives (Bel.)

Bel.3.1.	<p><u>Well-balanced information for non-professional users must be available at every place of sale of <i>ppp</i> and biocides for non-professional users.</u> In other words: general information about the risks for human health and the environment of the use of <i>ppp</i> and biocides, including the dangers, the exposure, the appropriate storage conditions and the instructions about handling, application and removal without risk, in accordance with the legislation on waste, and about the alternative options that pose a lesser risk.</p> <p>The action seeks to determine which minimum information should be available at the place of sale and which rules should apply as regards the provision of that information.</p> <p>No later than 2017 said information must be determined by the members of the NAPAN Task Force, each of them according to their individual competence. The Advisory Council of the NAPAN will be consulted on the issue.</p>
Fed. 7.1	<p><u>Feasibility study regarding several reduction measures</u></p> <p><u>For this matter, which involves numerous users of <i>ppp</i>, it is essential to examine the feasibility of various measures limiting the use of the products prior to their imposition.</u></p> <p><u>First of all, after having verified its usefulness, the feasibility study will cover an inventory and an evaluation of the existing means in the recognition of <i>ppp</i>. It will also contain an at least theoretical evaluation of the real exposure situations.</u></p> <p><u>The study will have to consider several action options for which the representative advice from the stakeholders as well as an evaluation of the economic and social impact, among other things on agriculture, will have to be available.</u></p> <p><u>The feasibility study would be a subject of consultation with the Regions in order to arrive at practical solutions for the purpose of protecting the citizens living in <i>ppp</i> distribution areas.</u></p>

Bel.8.1	Extreme care in the management of <i>ppp</i> storage sites, including, in particular, the observance of the legal provisions, is of the greatest essence. From the moment of entry into force of the RD Sustainable Use, the overall information about the obligations will be distributed to the professional users and the <i>checklists</i> adjusted accordingly.
Bel.10.1.	The protection of water against <i>ppp</i> is laid down in several laws at a European, national and regional level, each of which generates a series of obligations in terms of monitoring, standards and reports. The complexity of the application of these obligations calls for harmonisation. The action will aim at preparing, before 2017, an inventory of all of the obligations and at identifying the aspects that could be harmonised. If possible, harmonisation should already be introduced.
Bel.11.1.	At the end of the programme in 2017 a national report will be prepared and published coordinating the specific reports of the NTF members.
Bel.11.2.	As from 2013, every NTF member will cooperate in the NTF to ensure coordination of the NAPAN. The operation of the NTF for the 2013-2017 period will be laid down in an ad-hoc agreement no later than 2013.
Bel.11.3.	At the 2017 review of the NAPAN for the purpose of determining its actions in the period 2018-2023, the public will be consulted in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 13 February 2006 on the assessment of the consequences for the environment of certain plans and programmes and the participation of the public in the development of the plans and programmes relating to the environment.

## Appendix 3 - Contact points: per topic and/or per sector

### Per topic

#### 1. Certification of the knowledge of professional users of PPP

##### Wallonia:

- SPW\_DGO3\_DPEAI\_DCC: Marie-Charlotte DELVAUX – Tel. 02/2779342 ([mariecharlotte.delvaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:mariecharlotte.delvaux@spw.wallonie.be))
- Agricultural training commission – Secretariat: Florence LEDIEU ([florence.ledieu@cesrw.be](mailto:florence.ledieu@cesrw.be))

##### Public Federal services:

- PFS Public health, food safety and the environment: Wouter WILLEMS – Tel. 02/5247283 ([wouter.willems@gezondheid.belgie.be](mailto:wouter.willems@gezondheid.belgie.be))

#### 2. Non-professional products

##### Wallonia:

- "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
- Adalia asbl – Tel. 04/3790684 – [info@adalia.be](mailto:info@adalia.be) – [www.adalia.be](http://www.adalia.be)

##### Federal services:

- PFS Public health, food safety and the environment: PRPB coordinator – Dr Ir Vincent VAN BOL – Tel. 02/5247275 ([vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be](mailto:vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be))

### 3. Public information

#### Wallonia:

- "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
- Adalia asbl – Tel. 04/3790684 – [info@adalia.be](mailto:info@adalia.be) – [www.adalia.be](http://www.adalia.be)
- EcoConso – Tel. 081/730730 – [info@ecoconso.be](mailto:info@ecoconso.be) – [www.ecoconso.be](http://www.ecoconso.be)

#### Federal services:

- PFS Public health, food safety and the environment: PRPB coordinator – Dr Ir Vincent VAN BOL – Tél. 02/5247275 ([vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be](mailto:vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be))

### 4. Monitoring of intoxication and exposure

#### Wallonia:

- Cellule permanente Environnement-Santé (CPES - Standing unit for health and the environment): Pol GOSSELIN – Tel. 081/327270 ([pol.gosselin@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:pol.gosselin@spw.wallonie.be))

#### Federal services:

- Anti-Poison centre – Tel. 070/245245 – [www.poissoncentre.be](http://www.poissoncentre.be)

### 5. Protection of the aquatic environment and drinking water from PPP

#### Wallonia:

- Surface water: SPW\_DGO3\_DEE\_CIAE: ir Denis GODEAUX – Tel. 081/336389 ([denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be))
- Groundwater and drinking water: SPW\_DGO3\_DEE\_DESO: Cristina POPESCU – Tel. 081/336554 ([cristina.popescu@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:cristina.popescu@spw.wallonie.be))
- Reference laboratory for water analyses: ISSeP – Gaston CHARLIER – Tel. 04/2298371 ([g.charlier@issep.be](mailto:g.charlier@issep.be))

### 6. Protecting specific areas from PPP

#### Wallonia:

- Watch catchment protection zones:
  - see above "Groundwater and drinking water"

- SPGE\_Protectis and CRAW: "Pesticides-Catchment" diagnostic unit: ir Quentin LIMBOURG – Tél. 081/627170 ([g.limbourg@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:g.limbourg@cra.wallonie.be))
- Natura 2000 zones: asbl NaturaWal – Tel. 081/627462 – [info@naturawal.be](mailto:info@naturawal.be) – [www.naturawal.be](http://www.naturawal.be)

## 7. Handling and storage of professional PPP

Wallonia:

- "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
- PhytEauWal – Tel. 081/627172 – [phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be)
- Mission wallonne des Secteurs Verts (Walloon green sector unit) – PreventAgri – Tel. 065/611370 – [www.preventagri.be](http://www.preventagri.be)

Federal services:

- Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA - Federal agency for food safety) – [www.afsca.be](http://www.afsca.be)

## 8. Integrated pest management

Wallonia: SPW\_DGO3\_DD\_DQ: ir Hélène KLINKENBERG – Tel. 081/649598 ([helene.klinkenberg@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:helene.klinkenberg@spw.wallonie.be))

## 9. PPP observatory

Wallonia: SPW\_DGO3\_DEMNA\_DEE: Dr Ir Vincent BRAHY – Tel. 081/335190 ([vincent.brahy@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:vincent.brahy@spw.wallonie.be))

Federal services: PFS Public health, food safety and the environment: Pierre NADIN ([pierre.nadin@sante.belgique.be](mailto:pierre.nadin@sante.belgique.be))

## 10. Monitoring of the WPRP and the NAPAN

Wallonia:

- Representatives of the NAPAN Task Force steering committee:
  - SPW\_DGO3\_DPEAI\_DCC: ir René POISMANS, Director – Tel. 02/2776110 ([rene.poismans@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:rene.poismans@spw.wallonie.be))
  - SPW\_DGO3\_DEE\_CIAE: ir Denis GODEAUX – Tel. 081/336389 ([denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be))
- Representatives of the NAPAN Task Force editorial committee:
  - SPW\_DGO3\_DEE\_CIAE: ir Denis GODEAUX – Tel. 081/336389 ([denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be))
  - SPW\_DGO3\_DD\_DDR: ir Philippe DELAUNOIS – Tel. 081/649619 ([philippe.jeanpierre.delaunois@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:philippe.jeanpierre.delaunois@spw.wallonie.be))

Federal services:

- PFS Public health, food safety and the environment: PRPB coordinator – Dr Ir Vincent VAN BOL – Tél. 02/5247275 ([vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be](mailto:vincent.vanbol@sante.belgique.be))

Per sector

1. Federal public service – Public health, food safety and the environment
  - Official Phytoweb site: [www.phytoweb.fgov.be](http://www.phytoweb.fgov.be)
  - Official phytollicence site: [www.phytollicence.be](http://www.phytollicence.be)
  - Agence fédérale de Sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire (Federal agency for food safety): [www.afsca.be](http://www.afsca.be)
2. Walloon public service – Direction générale opérationnelle Agriculture, Ressources naturelles et Environnement (General operational directorate of Agriculture, Natural resources and the Environment)
  - "Pesticides & the Environment" focal point: ir Denis GODEAUX – Tel. 081/336389 ([denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:denis.godeaux@spw.wallonie.be))
  - "Pesticides & Agriculture" focal point: ir Philippe DELAUNOIS – Tel. 081/649619 ([philippe.jeanpierre.delaunois@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:philippe.jeanpierre.delaunois@spw.wallonie.be))
3. Flemish bodies and authorities
  - Vlaams Milieumaatschappij (VMM – Flemish Environment Agency) – “Zonder is gezonder” campaign – [www.zonderisgezonder.be](http://www.zonderisgezonder.be)
  - Vereniging voor Ecologisch Leven en Tuinieren (VELT – Association for Gardening and ecological life) – [www.velt.be](http://www.velt.be)
4. Brussels-Capital authorities
  - Institut bruxellois de gestion de l’environnement – Bruxelles Environnement (Brussels Environment) – [www.bruxellesenvironnement.be](http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be)
5. Agriculture
  - "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
  - Pilot centres: see the list at the following address <http://www.crphyto.be/index.php?rub=agriculteurs&pg=support-technique&spg=centres-pilotes>
  - Warning services: see the list at the following address <http://www.crphyto.be/index.php?rub=agriculteurs&pg=support-technique&spg=service-avertissements>

- PhytEauWal – Tel. 081/627172 – [phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be)
  - Mission wallonne des Secteurs Verts (Walloon green sector unit) – PreventAgri – Tel. 065/611370 – [www.preventagri.be](http://www.preventagri.be)
6. Municipalities – Public authorities – Green areas
- "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
  - Pôle de gestion Différenciée des espaces verts (Differentiated management unit for green areas) - Tel. 0470/990319 – [info@gestiondifferentiee.be](mailto:info@gestiondifferentiee.be) – [www.gestiondifferentiee.be](http://www.gestiondifferentiee.be)
  - PhytEauWal – Tel. 081/627172 – [phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be)
  - Mission wallonne des Secteurs Verts (Walloon green sector unit) – PreventAgri – Tel. 065/611370 – [info@secteursverts.be](mailto:info@secteursverts.be) – [www.preventagri.be](http://www.preventagri.be)
7. Individuals
- Adalia asbl – Tel. 04/3790684 – [info@adalia.be](mailto:info@adalia.be) – [www.adalia.be](http://www.adalia.be)
  - Natagora asbl: [www.natureaujardin.be](http://www.natureaujardin.be)
  - Nature & Progrès asbl: [www.natpro.be](http://www.natpro.be)
8. Potable water producers
- "Pesticides-Catchment" diagnostic unit: ir Quentin LIMBOURG – Tél. 081/627170 ([q.limbourg@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:q.limbourg@cra.wallonie.be))
9. Training & awareness programmes
- "Regional PPP committee" coordination unit – Tel. 010/473754 – [crphyto@uclouvain.be](mailto:crphyto@uclouvain.be) – [www.crphyto.be](http://www.crphyto.be)
  - Mission wallonne des Secteurs Verts (Walloon green sector unit) – PreventAgri – Tel. 065/611370 – [info@secteursverts.be](mailto:info@secteursverts.be) – [www.secteursverts.be](http://www.secteursverts.be)
  - Pôle de gestion Différenciée des espaces verts (Differentiated management unit for green spaces) - Tel. 0470/990319 – [info@gestiondifferentiee.be](mailto:info@gestiondifferentiee.be) – [www.gestiondifferentiee.be](http://www.gestiondifferentiee.be)
  - PhytEauWal – Tel. 081/627172 – [phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:phyteauwal@cra.wallonie.be)
  - Adalia asbl – Tel. 04/3790684 – [info@adalia.be](mailto:info@adalia.be) – [www.adalia.be](http://www.adalia.be)
  - Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs (FJA - Federation of young farmers) – Tel. 081/600060 – [www.fja.be](http://www.fja.be)
10. Industrial sector
- Phytofar, Belgian plant protection product industry association - [www.phytofar.be](http://www.phytofar.be)



## Part IV

GOVERNMENT OF BRUSSELS REGION

# Programme for the Reduction of Pesticides

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2013-2017

The English version is adapted from original version in order to facilitate the communication.  
Original versions are available in [French](#) and in [Dutch](#).



Sustainable **development**

## **PESTICIDE PROGRAMME**

### **2013- 2017 Regional pesticide reduction programme of the Brussels – Capital Region**



More info:  
[www.bruxellesenvironnement.be](http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be)

**02 775 75 75**



# 2013- 2017 REGIONAL PESTICIDE REDUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE BRUSSELS – CAPITAL REGION

## PESTICIDE PROGRAMME

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## INTRODUCTION

Reduction of the impact of pesticides on human health and the environment, and more generally use of pesticides compatible with sustainable development, are high-priority objectives with regard to the environment, health and the quality of life.

On the European level, these objectives have been included in the Sixth European Environmental Action Programme, and Directive 2009/128 has been adopted with a view to creating a common legal framework for attaining pesticide use compatible with sustainable development.

Transposition of this directive into Belgian law has necessitated coordination of federal jurisdictions and those of the three regions. This directive has been transposed into Brussels regional law by the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Like the Directive, the Order aims for use of “pesticides” compatible with sustainable development. Like the Directive, for the time being it involves only some pesticides, phytopharmaceutical and not biocidal products.

Among other measures, this Directive provides for the establishment of National Action Plans by the member states, establishment of quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables with a view to reducing the risks and effects of pesticide use on human health and the environment, and encouragement of development and introduction of integrated crop pest management and substitution methods or techniques aimed at reducing dependence on use of phytopharmaceutical products. These Plans must be subject to public consultation and reviewed every five years.

In Belgium, the National Action Plan, called NAPAN, is composed of the federal Programme and the three regional Programmes. Each of these Programmes proposes specific actions and actions conducted in common. Coordination of the NAPAN is organised by the NAPAN Task Force (NTF) under the direction of the CIE NAPAN (Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment [*Conférence Interministérielle de l'Environnement*], with the addition of all the other competences taken on by NAPAN, mainly health and agriculture).

This document presents the Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme of the Brussels-Capital Region, or PRRP - RBC. It includes actions specific to the Brussels region (actions identified as RBC) as well as national actions organised with the other regions and at the federal level (actions identified as BEL). These actions will be steered by Brussels Environment and are addressed to the various target publics concerned: in addition to the general public, managers of public areas, managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups, professional users of pesticides and individuals who use pesticides, etc.



## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Development of an action plan on pesticide use compatible with sustainable development is based on Directive 2009/128 of the Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009, establishing a framework for community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticide. This Directive has been transposed at the regional level by the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

In addition to development of an action plan, this Directive includes other measures involving regional competences; these are mainly the following measures:

- creation of a training system with certification for professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products;
- informing and raising the awareness of the general public;
- increased protection of high-risk areas, especially nature reserves, catchment areas and protected areas, Natura 2000 areas, and premises accommodating vulnerable groups;
- special measures to be observed in handling and storage of pesticides as well as treatment of their packaging and leftover products;
- promotion of production systems with low pesticide consumption and support for implementation of integrated pest management techniques;
- measurement of the progress made in risk reduction using appropriate standardised indicators;
- establishment of a system of effective, commensurate and dissuasive sanctions.

The Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region also includes provisions on pesticide use in public areas in the Region.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The draft Brussels pesticide reduction programme was submitted for public consultation from 15 January to 31 March 2013 and for the opinion of the Environmental Council (*Conseil de l'Environnement*), the Economic and Social Council (*Conseil Economique et Social*) and the Brussels Higher Council for Nature Conservation (*Conseil supérieur bruxellois de la Conservation de la Nature*); 71 recommendations were collected, allowing the quality of this action plan, as presented below, to be improved.



## SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Although the scope of the Directive, like that of the Order, may be expanded in the future, at present it involves only phytopharmaceutical products and not all pesticides. Correspondingly, this action plan involves mainly phytopharmaceutical products as defined below. However, some actions, especially those involving information for the general public, may also concern biocides.

From a legal point of view and in accordance with European terminology, **phytopharmaceutical products** are defined as follows: products, in the form in which they are delivered to the user, composed of active substances, plant protectors or synergists, or containing them, and intended for one of the following uses:

- to protect plants or plant products from any harmful organisms or prevent their activity, unless these products are deemed to be used mainly for reasons of hygiene rather than for protection of the plants or plant products;
- to exert an effect on the vital processes of plants, such as substances other than nutritive substances exerting an effect on their growth;
- to ensure the preservation of plant products, insofar as these substances or products are not subject to special Community provisions on preservatives;
- to destroy undesirable plants or parts of plants, with the exception of algae, unless the products are applied to the soil or water to protect plants;
- to inhibit or prevent undesirable growth of plants, with the exception of algae, unless the products are applied to the soil or water to protect plants.

**Biocides** are active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, put up in which they are supplied to the user, intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of, or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism by chemical or biological means (Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 February 1998 on marketing of biocidal products).

From a practical point of view, **phytopharmaceutical products** (PPP) are products used for protection and treatment of plants, including seeds;

**Professional users are persons** who use pesticides in the course of their professional activity; these are in particular operators, technicians, employers, the self-employed, and their respective subcontractors, in the agricultural sector or in other sectors. Managers of public areas are considered to be professional users.

**High-risk sensitive areas** include, on the one hand, premises and establishments frequented by vulnerable groups, and on the other hand, protected areas such as Natura 2000 areas, forest reserves and catchment areas.

Premises and establishments frequented by vulnerable groups are specified by the Directive; these are areas commonly frequented by students within educational establishments, or by children within child-care infrastructures, play areas intended for children, areas set up for consumption of food and drink, or establishments that accommodate persons for care or elderly or handicapped persons.

### Abbreviations:

**PRRP-RBC:** *Programme d'action régional de réduction des pesticides de la RBC*, Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme of the Brussels-Capital Region

**PFRP:** *Programme fédéral de réduction des pesticides*, Federal Pesticide Reduction Programme

**NAPAN:** *Nationaal Actie Plan d'Action National*, National Action Plan

**NAPAN Task Force** (NTF): coordination body for the federal authority and the Belgian federated entities, the mission of which is to propose the NAPAN to the authorities and to ensure its coordinated implementation.

**CIE NAPAN:** *conférence interministérielle de l'environnement*, Inter-ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the addition of the other competences related to pesticides, mainly public health and agriculture.

PPP: Phytopharmaceutical product





## OBJECTIVES OF THE 2013-2017 REGIONAL PESTICIDE REDUCTION PROGRAMME – RBC

The PRRP – RBC aims to reduce the health and environmental risks related to pesticide use, in particular by reducing recourse to pesticides and giving priority to alternate methods and techniques. It aims to strongly reduce pesticide use in the regional territory by both managers of public areas and private individuals.

The 2013-2017 PRRP – RBC aims primarily to ensure implementation of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region and adoption of measures for raising awareness and informing the various parties concerned. This order must be implemented in coordination with other measures resulting from other regulations, such as those aiming to protect nature, surface water, groundwater, water intended for human consumption, and soil.

## PROGRAMME OF MEASURES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The PRRP - RBC includes 35 actions designated “RBC” and six actions designated “BEL” that will be conducted in coordination with the federal level and the other regions. The actions are presented in the same order as those listed in the federal Programme (entitled PFRP) to facilitate reader comprehension.

For more information on the federal Programme, see:

<http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/Chemicalsubstances/PRPB/index.htm?fodnlang=fr>.

### 2. CERTIFICATION OF THE PROFICIENCY OF PROFESSIONAL USERS OF PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

In the framework of transposition of Directive 2009/128, the federal level, in collaboration with the regions, must develop a system for certification of proficiency with regard to phytopharmaceutical products for all professional users (including vendors). The ‘phytolicence’ is a certificate of proficiency required for all those using, selling or advising on plant protection products. It is planned that the federal phytollicence secretariat is to issue the phytollicence starting in September 2013 to all applicants who fulfil the conditions of the Royal Decree of 19 March 2013 to attain use of phytopharmaceutical products and adjuvants compatible with sustainable development.

In the context of distribution of competences, it has been decided that the federal level is to issue phytollicences and the regions are to organise training as well as examinations authorising the phytollicence. Some basic training organised by the communities also authorises the phytollicence.

Any phytollicence granted by the federal authorities is valid throughout Belgian territory.



**Action RBC 2.1** Application of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region

The action aims to adopt the legal bases necessary for establishment of the training and examination system for obtaining phytolices issued at the federal level. It involves issuing a decree for organising the basic training and examination allowing acquisition and certification of sufficient proficiency with regard to phytopharmaceutical products to obtain a phytolice issued at the federal level.

The Phytolice is a certificate of proficiency required for all persons who use, sell or advise on phytopharmaceutical products in a professional context. It is also necessary for purchasing professional phytopharmaceutical products.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and the Government of the BCR
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	2013 - 2014
Proposed indicators	Adoption and publication of measures

**Action RBC 2.2** Organisation of the initial training authorising acquisition of phytolices

The action aims to organise basic training and basic examinations authorising acquisition of phytolices. It involves developing basic training programmes corresponding to the various phytolices, including at a minimum the material appearing in Annex I of Directive 2009/128, seeking and reaching agreements with training organisations, and establishing an evaluation procedure for the knowledge acquired during basic training.

Although practical experience in use of phytopharmaceutical products will allow an initial phytolice to be obtained, participation of all professional users of plant protection products in this training will be encouraged in order to allow everyone to update their knowledge on both use of phytopharmaceutical products and alternate methods, techniques and products to use of phytopharmaceutical products.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	<p>Training programmes</p> <p>Agreement with training centres</p> <p>Authorisation of training centres</p> <p>Evaluation procedure established</p> <p><u>After establishment of initial training:</u></p> <p>Number of participants in the initial training</p> <p>Number of participants who have passed the basic examination</p>



**Action RBC 2.3** Organisation of continuing training for renewal of basic phytolices

The action aims to organise a system of continuing training allowing phytolices to be maintained. It involves developing continuing training programmes and recognising, seeking and reaching agreement with training centres. It must also establish a procedure certifying regular attendance and/or the knowledge acquired during the continuing training.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Training programmes Agreements with training centres Authorisation of training centres Evaluation procedure established  <u>After establishment of continuing training:</u> Number of participants in continuing training

**Action RBC 2.4** Interregional cooperation agreement for training farmers

The action consists of developing and signing a cooperation agreement with the other regions for training Brussels agricultural professionals (farmers, horticulturists, etc.) to allow them to follow training adapted to their needs.

Participant(s)	Brussels Government
Target	Brussels farmers
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Cooperation agreement



**Action RBC 2.5** Informing the target publics of the requirements for phytolicences

The action aims to inform all vendors, advisors, and professional users of phytopharmaceutical products of their obligations with regard to training and the phytolicense as well as the practical aspects relating to these matters via letters, information sessions, a helpdesk, and a web page on the IBGE site. Specifically, it will be necessary to establish a database listing the contact information for the persons and sectors concerned, send letters, organise information sessions, create web pages on the Brussels Environment site, publish informative articles on the sites and in specialised periodicals, and staff a helpdesk.

Participants(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Professional users and vendors of phytopharmaceutical products
Period	2013 - 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of information sessions and number of participants Web pages and number of consultations Number of articles Number of calls to the helpdesk

**Action RBC 2.6** Coordination

The action aims to coordinate all the work relating to training and examinations organised with a view to obtaining phytolices as well as the contacts on these matters with the federal level and the other regions. A coordination centre will be established at Brussels Environment. This centre will in particular send administrative data on follow-up of the initial and continuing training and, as necessary, success or failure in the examination dealing with acquisition of knowledge/skills at the end of this training, to the federal authorities.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting as of the end of 2013
Proposed indicators	Coordination centre



**Action RBC 2.7 Evaluation of the cost of phytolices**

This involves evaluating the cost of organisation of the basic and initial training as well as the basic examinations, and evaluating the feasibility and pertinence of establishing systems (for example, licence fee, etc.) to cover this cost. This analysis will incorporate the costs for the municipalities, public interest organisations and companies that must send their personnel for training.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and subcontractors
Target	
Period	2013-2014
Proposed indicators	Analysis report

**3. CONDITIONS ON THE SALE OF PRODUCTS**

Measures for action relating to conditions on the sale of phytopharmaceutical products are under federal jurisdiction.

**4. RAISING THE AWARENESS OF AND INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

A major objective and challenge of this action programme is to raise the awareness of the entire Brussels public. In fact, although the most of the risk is due to products for professional use, repeated and inappropriate, sometimes daily, routine use of pesticides for non-professional use can entail risks to human health, fauna and the environment. It is thus essential to make the general public aware of the risks related to pesticide use and inform them of methods, techniques and products allowing recourse to chemical pesticides to be reduced or even eliminated. This information should also deal with storage and correct use of pesticides as well as disposal of the remains of pesticide packaging so as to minimise the risks incurred to human health, fauna and the environment from occasional use of pesticides.

A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources.



**Action BEL3.1** Informing non-professional users at points of sale

The objective of this action is to guarantee users of non-professional products balanced information at the point of sale with regard to proper conditions for use and risks to public health and the environment.

An agreement will be sought at the CIE<sub>NAPAN</sub> level on the subject of information that should be required at the point of sale. The legislation will be adapted to make this information mandatory.

Balanced information should be available at the location of any sale of phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products for non-professionals. This information should deal with the risks of use of phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products to human health and the environment, especially hazards, exposure, appropriate storage conditions and the instructions to be observed in handling, application and safe disposal of leftover pesticides and their packaging in compliance with community legislation on waste, as well as low-risk substitution solutions.

The action consists of specifying the minimum information that should be available at the location of sale and the ways in which the information should be delivered. This information will be specified in 2017 at the latest by the members of the NAPAN Task Force, each according to its competences. The Advisory Council of the NAPAN Task Force will be consulted on this topic. The information will be validated by the CIE<sub>NAPAN</sub>.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment, the cabinet of the Minister for the Environment in collaboration with the federal level and the other regions
Target	General public
Period	2017 at the latest (to be specified at the NTF)
Proposed indicators	Information present at points of sale % of points of sale involved offering relevant information to their customers

**Action RBC 4.1 Establish a differentiated management centre coordinated by Brussels Environment**

This regional pesticide reduction programme aims to reduce the risks to health and the environment related to pesticide use, especially by reducing recourse to pesticides and giving priority to alternate methods and techniques. Development of these techniques and methods and their dissemination to all those who are faced with plant protection problems thus constitute major issues.

The research, awareness and informative activities provided in the framework of this Reduction Programme will be coordinated by a differentiated management centre developed within Brussels Environment, working in close collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector
Target	All those concerned with development of gardens and green spaces as well as plant protection problems
Period	As of 2013
Proposed indicators	Indicators demonstrating the activity of this centre, related to performance of the planned actions with regard to research, awareness, information Creation of the differentiated management centre



**Action RBC 4.2** Develop a communication plan on pesticide prevention (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products)

A communication strategy will be developed to communicate effectively and efficiently in a way suited to the various target publics. This strategy will specify objectives, target publics, messages, media, and planning. This strategy will be developed in a transversal way to coordinate the various policies and action programmes involved as well as those existing on support for vegetable gardens, water management, protection of nature, etc. Independent experts will be consulted, especially in regard to standards and regulations.

Although the action will initially involve mainly phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively include biocides in connection with implementation of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region,.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	General public
Period	As of 2013 for phytopharmaceutical products
Proposed indicators	Validated communication strategy

**Action RBC 4.3** Development of the expertise necessary for properly informing the public

This involves development of the scientific and technical expertise necessary for production of material for raising the awareness of and informing the various publics concerned (professional and non-professional users of pesticides, managers of public spaces, vendors and advisors, the general public, etc.). This expertise involves a vast area including risks related to pesticide use, preventive and curative methods, products and techniques allowing pesticide use to be reduced, and integrated crop pest management. Risk analyses will also be conducted for these alternate methods and techniques.

The action will consist of entrusting the development of technical fact sheets to a specialised research team. This action will be preceded by an inventory of the existing information and sources of information in order to target additional research on the missing or poorly documented information.

Certain subjects will be given priority for examination, in particular development of gardens and public areas not necessitating pesticides, and weed control techniques, especially on paved surfaces.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Research organisations
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number and quality of fact sheets developed



**Action RBC 4.4** Promotion of methods of substitution and rational use of phytopharmaceutical products via a brochure and/or leaflet for the general public

The action aims to raise the awareness of and inform the general public on the risks related to use of phytopharmaceutical products, alternate methods, rational use of the least hazardous products, and management of phytopharmaceutical product waste and packaging of phytopharmaceutical products. It will consist of development of a brochure and/or leaflet intended for the general public, which may be published in paper format and/or distributed via the web. This is to involve basic resources, accessible to everyone, centred on practical advice and suitable for ornamental gardens as well as fruit and vegetable gardens. A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources. These resources will be distributed by Brussels Environment, but also by means of collaborations with associations, the CRIPI ('green ambulance'), *maisons de l'énergie* (energy houses), the municipalities, public interest organisations, etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Grand public
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Brochure developed Number of brochures distributed

**Action RBC 4.5** Promotion of development of gardens not requiring pesticide use

The objective of this action is to raise the awareness of and inform the general public, in particular households with a garden, on garden layouts, plant species and techniques that allow use of phytopharmaceutical products to be avoided and/or reduced. The action will consist of developing or updating a folder and/or brochure intended for the general public, which can be published in paper format and/or distributed via the web. The folder and brochure are to specifically focus on garden concepts and layouts that allow recourse to pesticides to be avoided. A great deal of information already exists; therefore an evaluation of the existing information and information resources will be conducted before making the decision to create new resources.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	General public, households with a garden or gardening in other areas
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Brochure developed Number of brochures distributed





**Action RBC 4.6** Raising the awareness of and informing the general public via the Brussels Environment website

The action aims to raise the awareness of the general public on risks related to pesticide use and inform them on substitution methods, rational use of pesticides, and management of pesticide wastes. This will involve developing, updating and supplementing the “general public” web pages on the Brussels Environment site with regard to risks related to pesticide use, alternate methods to pesticide use, proper choice and use of pesticides, and disposal of leftover pesticides and packaging waste – starting in particular from the content of the general-public brochures (see Actions 4.4 and 4.5). These resources for awareness are to be developed in coordination with those developed in other settings, like training in urban market gardening, activities promoting maintenance of biodiversity in gardens, etc. Although this action will mainly involve phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively include biocides in accordance with the implementation of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Participants(s)	Brussels Environment + contract
Target	Grand public
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Number of web pages developed Number of web pages updated Number of visitors

**Action RBC 4.7** Support for awareness activities of community groups for the general public

Many environmental groups can play an intermediary role in raising the awareness of, informing and educating the various publics. The action aims to support community group projects developed to increase public awareness of risks related to pesticide use (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and inform them of alternate methods. The action aims to grant financial support to innovative community group projects that are fruitful in terms of increasing public awareness of risks related to pesticide use and alternate methods and techniques.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in partnership with the non-profit sector (contracts, subsidies, etc.)
Target	General public
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of activities conducted Number of people reached by the activities



**Action RBC 4.8** Call for “exemplary management”

This involves collecting examples of good practices among the public, businesses, schools, public authorities, etc.

The objective of this call is to demonstrate that it is possible to maintain outdoor areas (garden, vegetable garden, orchard, patio, etc.) without having recourse to phytopharmaceutical products. The action helps raise awareness, inform the public and promote good practices. Good practices are recognised and promoted to the general public.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	General public, business, public authorities, etc.
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of examples collected Number of examples selected

**Action RBC 4.9** “General public” awareness campaign

To make the general public aware of risks related to storage and use of pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and the existence of alternate solutions, an awareness campaign will be organised on an annual basis. This media campaign will take place during, and will support, the “Week without Pesticides”.

Although this action will mainly involve phytopharmaceutical products, it will progressively incorporate biocides in connection with implementation of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region.



**Action 4.10** Organisation of the Week without Pesticides

The objective of this action is to raise awareness of the entire public through a week of campaigning and activities, the Week without Pesticides. All concerned parties in Brussels are invited to participate in a number of activities and events taking place the same week. All associations, businesses, administrations, schools and private individuals are invited to propose activities for this week.

Brussels Environment coordinates and develops the activities proposed. An awareness campaign is to be organised in support of this week (see Action RBC 4.10). This campaign is to be organised in collaboration with the non-profit sector.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + call for proposals + partnership with associations
Target	General public
Period	Annually starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Production of the campaign: indicators of resources such as number of adverts, posters, etc. % of the public affected by the campaign (if a post-test is conducted)

**Action RBC 4.11** Training of intermediaries

The action aims to expand the resources for increasing the awareness of the general public by training intermediaries in contact with the general public. It consists of developing and introducing awareness modules into the existing training organised by Brussels Environment for master composters and master gardeners.

Other training courses into which this awareness module could be inserted (for example, training for eco-advisors) will also be sought.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + call for proposals
Target	Intermediaries
Period	Starting in 2015
Proposed indicators	Number of intermediaries trained

**Action RBC 4.12** Ecological gardening charter

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in partnership with Brussels participants: associations, administrations, businesses, schools, etc.
Target	Entire Brussels public
Period	Annually starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of activities conducted by the non-profit sector Number of persons affected by the non-profit activities



This involves eliminating the use of phytopharmaceutical products in vegetable gardens receiving support from the Region (gardening plots made available to the public by Brussels Environment and other public interest organisations, collective vegetable gardens receiving a subsidy, etc.). An ecological gardening charter will be developed for this purpose. In signing this charter, a recipient of regional support for development of vegetable gardens undertakes not to make use of phytopharmaceutical products. This charter will be published and disseminated so that it can be used by other authorities such as municipalities, CPAS (*Public Social Service Centres*), etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Recipients of regional support for development of vegetable gardens
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of charters signed % of recipients of regional support who have signed the charter

#### **Action RBC 4.13** Information on management of leftover pesticides and pesticide packaging

The action aims to inform the general public on the measures to take in managing leftover pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products) and pesticide packaging safely and with respect for the environment. It consists of developing an information module to be inserted in all the other resources for raising awareness and information intended for the general public (brochures, websites, campaigns, etc.), including those developed in the framework of the Waste Plan and the European Week for Waste Reduction.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the Bruxelles Propreté Agency
Target	General public
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of resources concerned Dissemination of these various resources



## 5. INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR MANAGERS OF PUBLIC AREAS, PROFESSIONAL USERS OF PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MANAGERS OF PREMISES AND BUILDINGS ACCOMMODATING VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS

The Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region includes new obligations for professional users, managers of public areas, owners and managers of nature reserves and property located in a protected catchment area, and owners and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups. Consequently, it is important to properly inform these various parties with regard to these new obligations and support them in the change by establishing suitable measures.

### **Action RBC 5.1 Establishment of a differentiated management centre coordinated by Brussels Environment**

See Action RBC 4.1. The differentiated management centre established at Brussels Environment is to be the first-line contact for all those confronted with questions on design, layout and maintenance of gardens and green spaces as well as phytosanitary problems, whether they are professionals or amateurs.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment in collaboration with the research sector, the municipalities and the non-profit sector
Target	All those concerned by phytosanitary problems
Period	As of 2013
Proposed indicators	Indicators demonstrating the activity of this centre, related to achievement of the planned actions with regard to research, raising awareness, and information

### **Action RBC 5.2 Specification of the content of implementation plans for phytopharmaceutical products in public areas**

This involves formulating a decree specifying the minimum content of the implementation plans for phytopharmaceutical products in public areas. These implementation plans are to be submitted by managers of public areas who wish to continue to use certain pesticides in public areas during the transition period (until 31/12/2018). Preparation of the technical aspects of this decree will be entrusted to a specialised team.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Managers of public areas
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Decree



**Action RBC 5.3** Information for managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides

The action aims to identify managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides and inform them of the provisions of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region, by means of, in particular, letters or information sessions, and to assist them in implementation of the provisions of the Order. The information will also deal with this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme.

The action consists of identifying managers of public areas and professional users of phytopharmaceutical products and sending them personalised letters. It also consists of organising information sessions for the parties concerned.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Managers of public areas and professional users of pesticides (including vendors)
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Identification of those concerned Number of letters sent Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in the training

**Action RBC 5.4** Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups

This involves identifying and informing those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups of the provisions of the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region and assisting them in implementing these new provisions. The information also deals with the content of this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme.

The action consists of identifying the parties concerned, informing them via suitable letters, and organising information sessions intended for them.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Those responsible for, and managers of, premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups.
Period	Starting in 2013
Proposed indicators	Identification of those concerned Number of letters sent Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in training

**Action RBC 5.5** Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Information

The objective of this action is to develop and disseminate technical and practical information for managers of public areas, managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups and professional users. This information should allow them to implement the provisions of the Order and to make use of alternatives to chemical methods for treatment of plant protection problems.

This information is to be developed in the form of a brochure and/or web pages on the BE site. It is also to be used in organising training sessions. This information involves risks related to storage and use of phytopharmaceutical products, instructions to be observed to minimise risks to health and the environment if phytopharmaceutical products are used, disposal of leftover pesticides and pesticide packaging waste, the phytotoxicity, and initial and continuing training. It primarily stresses alternate preventive and curative methods, especially the principles of differentiated management and integrated pest control, as well as development of public and other areas allowing use of phytopharmaceutical products to be eliminated.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2015
Proposed indicators	Information number of brochures distributed number of consultations of the web pages number of training sessions number of participants in training sessions

**Action RBC 5.6** Support for managers of public areas, professionals users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Exchange network

This action aims to organise networking for managers of public areas, professional users, managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups and public bodies such as the SNCB, STIB, TEC, De Lijn, the Public Buildings Administration (*Régie des bâtiments*), SPF, CPAS, social housing corporations, land management agencies, VIVAQUA, Infrabel, etc., in order to be able to resolve questions/problems, exchange information, inform on alternate methods and techniques, share good practices, etc.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Number of meetings Other indicators to be developed if the network is supported by a computer network

**Action RBC 5.7** Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Helpdesk



Establishment of a helpdesk aims to concretely assist and answer individual questions from managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups. This helpdesk will be staffed either by Brussels Environment or by a non-profit or university partner designated after a call for proposals. It is envisaged that the helpdesk will subsequently be made available to the entire population.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment and call for proposals
Target	Professional users of pesticides (including vendors), managers of public areas, those responsible for and managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Helpdesk Number of consultations of the helpdesk

## 6. MONITORING INTOXICATIONS

Detection and monitoring of intoxications should allow the data necessary for evaluation of risks, management of these risks and development of preventive measures to be developed. This action is handled at the federal level.

## 7. INSPECTION OF APPLICATION EQUIPMENT FOR PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Measures on inspection of application equipment for phytopharmaceutical products are under federal jurisdiction.

## 8. AERIAL SPRAYING

Measures on aerial spraying are under federal jurisdiction.





## 9. PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND SPECIAL AREAS WITH REGARD TO PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Directive 2009/128 requires that measures be taken to protect the aquatic environment as well as certain special areas at increased risk (nature reserves, Natura 2000 areas, catchment areas, etc.). Therefore the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region prohibits the use of phytopharmaceutical products, except in the context of very precise derogations, in such areas.

Other legal and regulatory provisions also contribute to reducing the risks incurred by pesticide use; these are mainly provisions concerning water and nature. These other measures are not included in this programme, but it is obvious that the measures proposed in this programme are developed in coordination with and are consistent with these other measures. This involves in particular measures taken in the context of regulation on protection of surface water, groundwater, and water intended for human consumption, those on conservation of nature and those on soil protection.

### As a reminder:

#### 1. Surface water:

- Specific measures to prevent surface water pollution were adopted by the government decree of 12 July 2012 approving the Water Management Plan (*Plan de Gestion de l'eau*, PGE) of the Brussels-Capital Region in application of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC); consult in particular item 1 of the programme of measures of the PGE: to take action on pollutants to achieve water quality objectives (for examples, see priority actions 9 and 25).
- The decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 24 March 2011 establishes environmental quality standards, basic quality standards and chemical standards for surface water with regard to pollution caused by certain hazardous substances and other pollutants. These standards indicate an annual average or a maximum concentration not to be exceeded for certain pesticides. Additional protective measures (stepped-up monitoring programme, targeted reduction programme) may be adopted if pesticides are reported in surface water.

#### 2. Groundwater:

- Some measures in the Programme of Measures of the PGE directly involve combating pesticides in groundwater (priority action 27, for example).
- The decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 10 June 2010 on protection of groundwater from pollution and deterioration (Annex II. A.) mandates quality standards and threshold values for groundwater.
- The programme of measures in the Water Management Plan provides for carrying out the following actions:
  - Definition and measurement of the “good condition” of groundwater for the Brussels-Capital Region (action OO.1.1.3)
  - Minimisation or elimination of pollutant discharges into groundwater (action OO 1.3.1)
  - Prevention and management of accidental disruptions of the groundwater (OO.1.3.3).

#### 3. Water intended for human consumption:

The protective measures result from the following texts:

- The Royal Decree of 18 September 1987 on protection of groundwater in the Brussels Region from pollution caused by certain hazardous substances
- The Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 19 September 2002 delimiting the protected areas for groundwater catchment in the Bois de la Cambre and the Drève de Lorraine in the Forest of Soignes
- The Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 24 January 2002 on the quality of water distributed by the network, including Annex 1, part B, sets standards for certain chemical parameters in drinking water.



## 4. Nature conservation:

- The Order of 1 March 2012 on nature conservation prohibits the use and storage of pesticides in nature reserves and forest reserves (Article 27). It authorises the government to adopt other prohibitions.
- Conservation objectives are set for the three Natura 2000 sites, to appear in the site designation decrees.

## 5. Soil protection:

- The Order of 5 March 2009 on management and cleanup of polluted soil establishes the obligation to conduct a soil status survey and, if necessary, to treat soil pollution at the time of start-up, transfer or cessation of activity of any pesticide storage. Treatment of pesticide-polluted soil or groundwater aims to prevent any risk of exposure to human health and the environment (ecosystems, surface water, groundwater, nature reserves, etc.).
- Intensive and regular monitoring is organised to avoid any reuse of soil contaminated by pesticides on other Brussels sites.

**Action RBC 9.1** Identification of the owners and occupants of property located in high-risk sensitive areas

The action aims to identify owners and occupants of property located in catchment areas, protected areas and other high-risk sensitive areas. A database will be established in order to be able to contact these owners and occupants and inform them of the obligations resulting from the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region. This action will be conducted in coordination with the measure of the water management programme that provides for identification of persons living in a catchment area for water intended for human consumption. It will also be conducted in coordination with Action 5.4 (Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups).

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Parties targeted by the draft order: owners of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	End of 2013
Proposed indicators	Number of contacts entered Number of updates performed following a change of ownership



**Action RBC 9.2** Informing and raising awareness of occupants of property located in high-risk sensitive areas

The persons identified in Action 9.1 will be contacted and informed of their new obligations. On this occasion they will also receive technical and practical information on awareness. This information should allow them to implement the provisions of the Order and make use of alternatives to chemical methods for treatment of plant protection problems.

This information is to be developed in the form of brochures and information sessions. This information involves risks related to pesticide use, prohibitions of use in specific areas, and alternate methods to pesticide use. This information also deals with the principles of integrated pest management and development of outdoor areas allowing use of phytopharmaceutical products to be eliminated. This action is coordinated with Action 5.4 ((Notification of those responsible for/managers of premises and buildings accommodating vulnerable population groups) and Action 5.5 (Support for managers of public areas, professional users and managers of premises frequented by vulnerable groups – Information)

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Owners and managers of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of training sessions organised Number of participants in training Number of brochures distributed

**Action RBC 9.3** Monitoring of water contamination by pesticides in catchment areas and protected areas

The action aims to implement special pesticide monitoring in catchment areas and protected areas of types I, II and III in order to estimate the impact of the measures taken in the framework of this Regional Pesticide Reduction Programme on water intended for human consumption. This system supplements the other existing monitoring systems, such as those established in the framework of the Decree of 10 June 2010 on groundwater protection.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Variation of the “pesticide” trends within catchment areas and protected areas



**Action RBC 9.4** Determination of the causes of reported pollution

If proven pesticide pollution is observed in a catchment area or protected area, this will involve researching and understanding its causes, determining its risks and effects on water intended for human consumption, and proposing remedial actions. The action consists of having specialised studies conducted on a case by case basis, as necessary.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of case studies of catchment contamination

**10. STORAGE AND HANDLING OF PROFESSIONAL PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

The conditions on handling and storage of pesticides for professional use should be specified and made stricter so as to limit the risks incurred by professional users of pesticides, an especially exposed population group, as well as the risks incurred by the public due to professional pesticide use in premises such as public areas and gardens.

**Action RBC 10.1** Specification of the conditions to be observed in handling professional phytopharmaceutical products

This involves adapting Brussels regulations so as to fulfil the requirements of transposition of Directive 2009/128/EC, especially with regard to environmental permits and authorisations for waste transporters. The action consists of adapting the existing regulatory texts on permits and conditions to be observed to reduce risks related to storage and handling of phytopharmaceutical products. It also consists of bringing into compliance collectors of phytopharmaceutical product waste and authorising any collectors of pesticide wastes.

Participant(s)	Brussels government
Target	Professional users
Period	2014
Proposed indicators	Adapted regulations



**Action BEL8.1** Inspection of storage premises

It is imperative that storage premises for phytopharmaceutical products be managed with the greatest care, observing in particular regulatory provisions. As of the entry into effect of the royal decree on sustainable use of phytopharmaceutical products, overview information on obligations will be issued to professional users and inspection checklists will be adapted as a consequence. Inspections of locations where phytopharmaceutical products are stored will be adapted to motivate professional users to bring them up to standard.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	Professional users
Budget	-
Period	As of the entry into effect of the Royal Decree on sustainable use of phytopharmaceutical products
Proposed indicators	Inclusion of the new inspection criteria in the checklists

**11. PHYTOPHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT OBSERVATORY**

Collection and processing of data on phytopharmaceutical products are necessary to establish a framework and measures allowing risks due to pesticide use to be reduced as much as possible. Collaboration between levels of jurisdiction and standardisation of methods will allow high-quality data to be made available.

**Action BEL10.1** Evaluation of the possibilities of standardising methods, standards and reports resulting from the various obligations with regard to water

The action aims to standardise the methods, standards and reports on water contamination (surface & groundwater) by phytopharmaceutical products at the regional, national and European levels. Protection of water with regard to phytopharmaceutical products is the topic of several items of legislation at the European, national and regional levels. Each of these items of legislation generates its share of obligations for monitoring, standards and reports. The complexity of implementing these obligations now necessitates standardisation. The action will aim to produce an inventory of these obligations and identify the aspects that can be standardised.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Availability of the feasibility report



**Action RBC 11.1** Understanding the behaviours of households with regard to purchase and use of pesticides (plant protection and biocidal products)

This involves having a survey periodically conducted among the Brussels population to identify risks due to behaviours of households, and following the variation of these behaviours. This survey will provide input on the indicators intended to measure the efficacy of the policy implemented.

In the framework of this survey, the form used will include two parts, with one part remaining identical from one survey to the next so as to be able to construct indicators and follow their variation over time; the other part will be developed as a function of particular topics related more to the current situation.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + contract with survey firms
Target	Households
Period	In 2013 for the first time, then every three years
Proposed indicators	This recurrent survey will provide input on certain indicators relating to behaviours of Brussels households with regard to pesticides (phytopharmaceutical and biocidal products).

**Action RBC 11.2** Understanding the behaviours of pesticide users other than households

This involves periodically conducting a survey among pesticide users other than households, and in particular among those intended by the Order of 20 June 2013 on pesticide management compatible with sustainable development in the Brussels-Capital Region. The objective is to identify risks due to behaviours of pesticide users other than households and to follow the variation in these behaviours. The results of these surveys will allow indicators relating to the efficacy of the measures established to be constructed and followed.

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment + possibly a call for proposals to survey firms
Target	Pesticide users: regional and municipal administrations, businesses
Period	In 2014 for the first time, then every three years
Proposed indicators	This recurrent survey will provide input on certain indicators relating to behaviours of pesticide users in the BCR.



## 12. FOLLOW-UP OF THE NAPAN

Follow-up of the implementation of the National Plan will be coordinated by the NAPAN Task Force, where the various levels of jurisdiction are represented.

### Action BEL11.1 Coordinated national report

The action aims to develop a coordinated national report. Coordination will be carried out within the Napan Task Force.

At the end of the programme in 2017, a national report coordinating the specific reports of the members of the NTF will be produced and published.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions within the NTF
Target	
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Publication of a national report

### Action BEL11.2 Coordination of the NAPAN

The action aims to coordinate implementation of the NAPAN.

Definition and implementation of the operation of the NTF

As of 2013, each member of the NAPAN Task Force - the NTF- will participate in meetings in order to guarantee coordination of the NAPAN. The implementation and operation of the NTF for the 2013-2017 period will be specified in 2013 at the latest, by an ad hoc agreement.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions within the NTF
Target	
Period	2013 - 2017
Proposed indicators	Operation of the secretariat of the NTF; of the advisory board of the NAPAN



**Action BEL11.3** Public consultation

During the review of the NAPAN in 2017 to establish the activities of the NAPAN for the 2018-2023 period, the public will be consulted, as provided for by the legislation on public consultation for environmental programmes. This consultation will be organised at the national level.

Participant(s)	Federal level and three regions
Target	General public
Period	2017
Proposed indicators	Report on the public consultation

### 13. MONITORING THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDER OF 20 JUNE 2013 ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT COMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

This involves monitoring the principles applicable to use of pesticides in public areas and high-risk sensitive areas, handling and storage of pesticides and treatment of packaging and leftover products, etc.

**Action RBC 13.1** Monitoring

Participant(s)	Brussels Environment
Target	Parties intended by the Order; managers of public areas, professional users of pesticides, owners and managers of property located in high-risk sensitive areas
Period	Starting in 2014
Proposed indicators	Number of dossiers Number of actions

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