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<b>Document title</b>	Proposal for activities concerning nutrient bookkeeping
<b>Code</b>	6-3
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - Farm nutrient management and balanced fertilization, including annual nutrient accounting
<b>Submission date</b>	14.11.2014
<b>Submitted by</b>	Germany
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

The attached document contains a proposal by Germany on how activities could be organized to introduce annual nutrient bookkeeping at farm level in the Baltic Sea area by 2018 as agreed by the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to discuss the proposed way forward to fulfil the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting commitment and task of the Agri Group on introduction of annual nutrient bookkeeping at farm level.

Contracting Parties are invited to inform on ongoing activities related to introduction of annual nutrient bookkeeping at the national level.

## Introduction of nutrient bookkeeping in the Baltic Sea area

The [2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting](#) decided to introduce nutrient bookkeeping on farm level as a tool to come to a more efficient use of fertilizers and to reduce nutrient losses from agriculture and thus inputs into the Baltic Sea by the year of 2018.

*8(N) WE AGREE to promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region - wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses*

The platform to implement this commitment is the new HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri Group) which has also been reflected in the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Agri Group.

To fulfill the Ministerial commitment the following step wise approach is suggested by Germany:

1. Stocktaking of the ongoing activities related to the theme: From where do we start?
  - An expert workshop could be organized to compile knowledge on the status of nutrient bookkeeping in the Baltic Sea countries.
    - Country representatives to give presentation and provide a fully written text which could be compiled into a report on status quo.
2. Identification of the objectives and needs.
  - After the country wise stocktaking of the status quo the necessary country wise steps and requirements should be identified to come to efficient nutrient bookkeeping within the respective country.
  - The following activities could be considered
    - Software development (language) and installations
    - Guidebooks on how to proceed
    - Workshops for advisory services
    - Farm visits to exchange experiences
3. Identification of the next steps
  - Prioritization of measures and steps should be done within the Contracting Parties.
  - Contracting Parties to design a roadmap on how to come to comprehensive nutrient bookkeeping on farms by the year 2018.
  - Contracting Parties to report to the Agri Group on ongoing developments.
  - Consider organizing a second workshop.