



Document title	Proposal for developing of manure handling guideline
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Background

According to the last scientific publications, all the countries in the Baltic Sea region do not have adequate data on nutrient content in manure, as well as on variation of nutrient content depending on the type of feeding, conditions etc. That is why, more rather costly research is needed to address all these problems. In addition, virtually no data on nutrient losses at different stages of manure handling procedures are available. This information is crucial for development of a sufficiently objective guidance on manure handling.

We suggest that at the first stage all available information will be collected. In order to collect the required data, we, together with the Finnish partners, will prepare a questionnaire on the issue and circulate it to all the countries in the region. A tentative date for the questionnaire circulation is the end of January 2015. Before the next HELCOM Agri Group meeting (approximately the end of April), the answers to the questions will be collected, analyzed and reported to the next meeting of the Agri Group.

At the second stage, according to the results of this analysis, the HELCOM project can be prepared with the aim of clarifying the coordinated research on the dynamics of nutrients in the manure, loss of nutrients at different stages of the manure handling. Responsibilities for data collection for every country will be appointed. The result of the project will be a guideline on the use of national standards for nutrient content in manure. The project will also contribute to the Annex III revision.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and make use of it for further planning of the Agri Group activities.