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## Background

The attached document is the Work Plan for the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) for the years 2014-2016 as approved by the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 47-2014, 9-10 December 2014). The Work Plan is to serve as a practical means for the Agri group to plan and organize its work according to the [Terms of Reference](#). The Work Plan can also be found on the [HELCOM webpage](#).

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to make use of the Work Plan as appropriate.

Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri Group) 2014-2016 (approved by HOD 47-2014)

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention and implementation of the provision <sup>1</sup>				
1	Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention I. Review II. Drafting	Contracting parties Drafting Group Lead country(ies) to be identified	To use the input from activities below	I. in 2015 II. in 2016
Action 2. Identify areas critical to N and P losses to enable cost-effective measures <sup>2</sup>				
2	Provide feedback and input (e.g. on similar activities on national level) to the further development of the idea for a project (presented at AGRI 1-2014)	CP to offer leading		Possibly 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call of BSRP in 2016
Action 3. Annual accounting at farm level <sup>3</sup> :				
3	I. Workshop & Stocktaking of the ongoing activities related to the nutrient accounting including balance sheet at farm level II. [Outlining country-wise steps and requirements & National roadmaps]	Germany to lead national experts		I. workshop in spring 2015 II. by 2018
Action 4. Guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure <sup>4</sup>				
4	Development of national standards for nutrient content in manure to enable better use of manure nutrients for fertilization practices: I. Baseline data collection	Finland, with involvement of Denmark		I. in 2015 (presentation

<sup>1</sup> By 2016 review and an update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching Good Environmental Status, and implementation and enforcement of the provisions, in particular taking into account the following commitments of the Contracting Parties of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting

<sup>2</sup> To initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environmental effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> Support development by 2016 of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure, and develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards

	II. Development of national manure standards where not existing III. Guidelines/recommendations for the use of standards			at AGRI 2-2015) II. 2016 III. 2018
Action 5. Promote development of appropriate methodology for phosphorus recycling				
5	Information exchange		Cooperation with PA NUTRI of the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region Projects PROMISE, Baltic Phoenix Development of Recommendation on sewage sludge handling under PRESSURE	continuous
Action 6. Enhance transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples				
6	With regard to application of innovative water management measures, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations.	Lead country to be identified	project Baltic Compact, Flow Baltic preparation project Cooperation with PA AGRI of the EUSBSR	
7	With regard to application of BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs at least equally ambitious EU's BREF document as well as for cattle and conclusions throughout the region, especially within areas critical to nutrient losses	Contracting Parties		continuous
Action 7. Exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments, both voluntary and mandatory, as well as measures for improved farm nutrient management				