



Outcome of the Fourth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 4-2017)

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fall under the EU Industrial Emissions Directive. An equivalent regulation is introduced in Russia. That is why there is no need to follow up this regulation in all cases except cattle farms. Considering a compilation of national cattle BREFs is in the Work Plan of the Agri group. The group can work on this issue by other means but decided not to follow up on this specific action anymore.

- Review of part 2 of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention:
 - o The Meeting agreed to establish a small group lead by Finland with assistance by Denmark, Poland, Latvia and the EU to prepare a suggestion on which parts of the Annex III part 2 should be revised and a provisional work plan for the revision. The group will prepare a suggestion **by 15 September 2017** and circulate it to the group for a month commenting round.
 - o The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments on the suggestion to the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 15 October 2017**. All the comments will be compiled into an overview which will serve as a background for further discussion by the group.
- Develop guidelines/recommendation on the use of standards for nutrient content in manure:
 - o This action is ongoing (see Agenda Item 4).
- Aim for elimination of remaining [agriculture] Hot Spots under the HELCOM JCP:
 - o The list still contains a number of agricultural hotspots and is available on [HELCOM web page](#). The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to consider national active agricultural hot spots and report to the group on opportunities to remove them from the list in accordance with the HELCOM criteria.

3.7 The Meeting discussed the national actions for Agri group as follows:

- Measures to bring all installations for the intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs as well as other agricultural activities in compliance with part 2, Annex III of the Helsinki Convention (and thus remove all agricultural hot spots from the JCP list:
 - o See Agenda Item 3.6.
- Apply as a minimum the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses:
 - o The Meeting invited Latvia, Russia and Sweden to report updates in this action to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 30 September 2017**.
- Revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture. Optional agro-environmental measures to be implemented through corresponding international and national instruments:
 - o Implementing the palette of measures is ongoing work and CPs can exchange information on measures in the Agri group. The Meeting agreed to make a regional overview of the implementation of the palette of measures. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare a reporting template **by 27 April 2017**. Then the template will be circulated to the countries to report measures from the palette which have been implemented. Deadline for the countries is **by 30 June 2017**.
- Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure with the view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization:
 - o Included in the work plan.
- Implement and enforce the provisions of part 2 of Annex III "Prevention of pollution from agriculture" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention:
 - o This work is ongoing nationally.

programme's bookkeeping demands also 5-year plan for crop rotation, cultivation plan every year, and yield fertilization analysis every 5-years. Method of bookkeeping is not standardized. Nutrient balances are not compulsory but the advisory services calculate them for farmers. However, there are not records of number of farms using these services.

- Germany: Nutrient bookkeeping is compulsory for all farms above a certain size (10 ha or 500 kg N p. a. from manure). Upper limit for balances will be lowered in the future, so that the tolerable limit for nutrient balances are 50 kg N/ha and 10 kg P₂O₅/ha (surface balance) all over the country. There is also an attempt to introduce farm gate balances in animal farms because they include ammonia emissions (for farms with more than 3 livestock units/ha). Germany is not in line with the Nitrates Directive but this is expected to change when the new fertilizer legislation is passed (in 2017).
- Latvia: There are requirements in the legislative act not only for NVZs but also other areas for the farms that use plant protection products professionally. The crop fertilisation plans include plant nutrient accounting on field level based on soil analyses and planned crop yield. The Code of Good Agricultural Practise encourages farmers to use the possibilities to improve their nutrient management in every farm on a voluntary basis. In 2015, the Rural Advisory Centre has prepared nutrient accounting calculation on farm level in 18 farms in Latvia. The Rural Advisory Centre has prepared the plant nutrient balance accounting computer programme, which allows to calculate the plant nutrient balance, based on data on the nutrient input and nutrient output in the farm. This year there is a possibility to create farm level nutrient accounting on farm level for farms, who are interested in it by participating in EU-funded project "Consultation services, rural farm management and rural farm support services". There is another possibility for farmers to prepare plant nutrient balance calculation on farm level within National Rural Network activity "Implementation of sustainable agricultural production pilot projects". There are livestock farms that have used this possibility and have prepared plant nutrient balance calculation on farm level within this activity. There are no strict requirements to prepare N and P balances and farmers do it on a voluntary basis.
- Poland: Poland is taking differentiated and complex approaches to promote nutrient accounting at farm level. In 2015 the training entitled "Dobre praktyki rolnicze na obszarach szczególnie narazonych na azotany pochodzenia rolniczego, tzw. OSN" was organized. It was aimed at balanced plant fertilization and includes 18 hours of lectures and practical sessions covering, among others, nutrient balancing, elaborating of plant fertilization plan and calculating necessary manure storage capacity. Approximately 10 000 farmers were trained in this campaign. In order to improve public as well as farmers perception on nutrient and manure management, a media campaign was organized entitled „STOP stratom azotu i fosforu" (STOP for nitrogen and phosphorus losses). It includes press communicates, public bodies involvement and a website <http://www.iung.pulawy.pl/dpr/> with more than 24 000 visitors. As a permanent initiative the following actions are conducted:
 - Promotion and training modules done by public advisory services including IT balancing tools /PlanoRSN, MacroBill and NawSald/ training
 - Creation and maintenance publicly available on-line nutrient calculators: <https://poczta.schr.gov.pl/strony/Doradztwo/Nawozenie.php>
<http://iung.pulawy.pl/Nawozenie/Nawozenie.php>

Currently, the Ministry of Environment is working on a new Water Law including among others establishing of one action programme for the whole Poland (instead of designating NVZs) aiming at reducing the outflow of nitrates from agricultural sources into waters. The action programme includes solutions covering application of nutrient accounting at the farm level. Water Law Act refers to farmers who are required to implement the action program.
- Sweden: (document 4-1) Nutrient accounting is done on a voluntary basis by using farm gate balances. The balances done so far cover approximately 36 % of the farm land in Sweden. The assessment of nutrient surplus indicated a decrease on the farms that use the tool designed for balanced fertilization. Fertilisation with nitrogen according to the crop need is mandatory in the nutrient vulnerable zones, in line with the nitrates directive.

Agenda Item 6**Nutrient recycling**

Documents: 6-1, 6-2

- 6.1 The Meeting took note of the Overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries compiled by the drafting group led by Finland and Germany with the help of the Secretariat in summer 2016 (document 6-1, **presentation 2**).
- 6.2 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that the Figure 1 in the compilation is not a map of phosphorus content in soils in Germany but an illustration of partial balance for P₂O₅ (animal P-excretion minus P outputs by crop) in kg/ha agriculturally used area without poultry manure.
- 6.3 The Meeting took note of a clarification that an EU Commission proposal on a revised Fertilizer Regulation is under discussion in the EU. The Commission proposal does not prevent the application of existing legislation on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture.
- 6.4 The Meeting concluded that countries have different commitments and different national policies regarding recycling of P which is the reason that only selected measures are being nationally implemented. The compiled document is a step forward towards common understanding of the policy in nutrient recycling.
- 6.5 The Meeting invited all countries to provide updated information for the Overview to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 28 April 2017**.
- 6.6 The Meeting also took note of the information that PRESSURE group has been invited to provide more extensive information on the policies in reuse of P from sewage sludge. The Overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries will be amended **by September 2017** and circulated to the countries for endorsement for publication. An exact time for the publication and a final approval procedure will be agreed later when the compilation will be finalized.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany on the existing national scheme for planning fertilization and recommendation on good agricultural practice in respect to P fertilization and thanked Germany for the comprehensive explanation. The Meeting also briefly discussed the situation in the other countries and concluded that similar approaches are used with a difference in analytical methods and determination of boundary values and ceilings.
- 6.8 The Meeting also exchanged views on the methods to identify P saturation in soils and its relevance on minimizing the risk of P losses from soils. The Meeting took note of the overview of different analytical methods for the determination of P status prepared and published by the Baltic Manure project.
- 6.9 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of HELCOM Workshop on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries held on 27-28 March in Berlin, Germany and organized by Julius Kühn-Institut and HELCOM in cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Areas Bioeconomy, Hazards and Nutri (document 6-2, **presentation 2**).
- 6.10 The Meeting took note of the information on a new ordinance for sewage sludge handling in Germany which identify the obligation for different WWTP to reuse P from sludge and transitional periods for implementation of the ordinance. The Meeting also noted that the ordinance is aimed at production of marketable products and does not imply any governmental support for marketing of the reused P.
- 6.11 The Meeting thanked Germany for hosting the workshop.
- 6.12 The Meeting took note of the suggestions for HELCOM prepared by the workshop and discussed what kind of HELCOM tools can be applied to facilitate P reuse in the region. The Meeting agreed on the need of clear definition for nutrient recycling and identification of the gaps which should be filled with the help of the tools. The Meeting agreed that the best way towards recycling of nutrients could be to start with elaboration of strategy and definitions. The lead countries Germany and Finland with assistance of the Secretariat will prepare a suggestion for definitions based on the Overview for the next AGRI meeting.

Annex 1 List of participants

Representing	Name	Organization	Email address
Chair	Tarja Haaranen	Ministry of the Environment	tarja.haaranen@ym.fi
Denmark	Steffen Hindhede Kristensen	Ministry of the Environment - Environmental Protection Agency	stehk@mst.dk
Denmark	Wibke Christel	Environmental Protection Agency	wibch@mst.dk
European Union	Marco Bonetti	European Commission - DG ENV	marco.bonetti@ec.europa.eu
Finland	Sonja Pyykkönen	Ministry of the Environment	sonja.pyykkonen@ym.fi
Finland	Marja-Liisa tapio-Biström	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	marja-liisa.tapio-bistrom@mmm.fi
Germany	Dietrich Schulz	Federal Ministry for Environment and Housing	schulzdi51@t-online.de
Latvia	Iveta Ozolina	Ministry of Agriculture	lveta.Ozolina@zm.gov.lv
Poland	Beata Jurga	The Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation - State Research Institute	bjurga@iung.pulawy.pl
Poland	Weronika Bryńska	National Water Management Authority	veronika.brynska@kzgw.gov.pl
Sweden	Carina Carlsson Ross	Swedish Board of Agriculture	carina.carlsson-ross@jordbruksverket.se
Observer	Maria Staniszewska	Coalition Clean Baltic	biuro@pkegliwice.pl
Observer	Airi Kulmala	BFFE	airi.kulmala@mtk.fi
Observer	Aleksei Lotman	WWF	alexlotman@gmail.com
Invited guest	Sari Luostarinen	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	sari.luostarinen@luke.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky	HELCOM Secretariat	dmitry.frank-kamentsky@helcom.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM Secretariat	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi

Annex 2 Contact addresses of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group)

Contact addresses of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) in the Contracting Parties

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Tarja Haaranen	Ministry of the Environment	Tarja.haaranen@ym.fi
Denmark	Wibke Christel	Ministry of Environment and Food	wibch@mst.dk
Denmark	Steffen Hindhede Kristensen	Ministry of Environment and Food	stehk@mst.dk
Denmark	Liva Vejlggaard	Ministry of Environment and Food	LIVVEJ@naturerhverv.dk
Estonia	Enn Liive	Ministry of the Environment	enn.liive@envir.ee
Estonia	Merje Põlma	Ministry of Rural Affairs	merje.polma@agri.ee
European Union	Marco Bonetti	European Commission	marco.bonetti@ec.europa.eu
Finland	Sonja Pyykkönen	Ministry of the Environment	Sonja.pyykkonen@ym.fi
Finland	Marja-Liisa Tapio-Biström	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	marja-liisa.tapio-bistrom@mmm.fi
Finland	Sirkka Tattari	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	sirkka.tattari@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Frederike Balzer (parental leave)	Federal Environment Agency	frederike.balzer@uba.de
Germany	Hans-Eberhard Kape	LMS Agrarberatung, Zuständige Stelle für landwirtschaftliches Fachrecht und Beratung (LFB)	hekape@lms-beratung.de
Germany	Karsten Lorenz	Ministerium für Landwirtschaft	K.Lorenz@lu.mv-regierung.de
Germany	Ewald Schnug	Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants	jki-pb@vodafone.de
Germany	Dietrich Schulz	Federal Environment Agency	schulzdi51@t-online.de
Latvia	Iveta Ozolina	Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia	Iveta.ozolina@zm.gov.lv
Lithuania	Jolanta Lapinskienė (parental leave)	Ministry of Agriculture	JolantaJ@zum.lt
Lithuania	Saulius Jasius	Ministry of Agriculture	saulius.jasius@zum.lt
Lithuania	Monika Untoniene	Ministry of Environment	monika.untoniene@am.lt
Lithuania	Tatjana Zabulienė (parental leave)	Ministry of Environment	t.zabuliene@am.lt
Poland	Adriana Dembowska,	National Water Management Authority	adriana.dembowska@kzgw.gov.pl

Poland	Magda Chreptowicz- Liszewska	National Water Management Authority	magda.chreptowicz-liszewska@kzgw.gov.pl
Poland	Weronika Bryńska	National Water Management Authority	weronika.brynska@kzgw.gov.pl
Poland	Monika Zabrzenska-Chaterera	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Monika.Zabrzenska-Chaterera@minrol.gov.pl
Poland	Krzysztof Smaczyński	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Krzysztof.Smaczynski@minrol.gov.pl
Poland	Tamara Jadczyzyn	Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute	tj@iung.pulawy.pl
Poland	Beata Jurga	Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute	bjurga@iung.pulawy.pl
Poland	Jacek Walczak	National Research Institute of Animal Production	jacek.walczak@izoo.krakow.pl
Poland	Łukasz Wojcieszak	Institute of Technology and Life Sciences	l.wojcieszak@itep.edu.pl
Russia	Vladislav Minin	Institute of Agri Engineering and Environment Problems of Agriculture	minin.iamfe@mail.ru
Sweden	Håkan Alfredsson	Swedish Ministry of Rural Affairs	hakan.alfredsson@regeringskansliet.se
Sweden	Magnus Bång	Swedish Board of Agriculture	magnus.bang@jordbruksverket.se
Sweden	Carina Carlsson Ross	Swedish Board of Agriculture	carina.carlsson-ross@jordbruksverket.se
Sweden	Josefin Hjort	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	josefin.hjort@havochvatten.se

Contact addresses of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) in the Observer organizations

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Baltic Farmers Forum on Environment (BFFE)	Airi Kulmala	Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)	airi.kulmala@mtk.fi
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Mikhail Durkin	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	mikhail.durkin@ccb.se
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Maria Staniszewska	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	biuro@pkegliwice.pl
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Aleksei Lotman	Estonian Fund for Nature	alexlotman@gmail.com
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Jan Wärnbäck	WWF	jan.warnback@wwf.se