



Document title	Draft new paragraph on nutrient recycling
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Background

The Agri group agreed in the AGRI 6-2018 Meeting to form a drafting group to carry out the revision of the Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention and share the work between four lead countries. Finland is the lead country for the new chapter on nutrient recycling. The first version drafted by Finland was discussed at an online meeting of the drafting group on 25 September 2018. The attached document includes new version drafted by Finland taking into account the comments received from the drafting group. The document also includes an explanatory background text.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the draft paragraphs.

New paragraph on nutrient recycling

In order to achieve efficient use of resources and reduce nutrient leakage to the Baltic Sea, countries shall design nutrient recycling strategies, which should include:

- collecting information about production of nutrient rich biomasses, especially manure and sewage sludge in different parts of the country;
- information of the nutrient status of fields, and national soil maps particularly in regards to phosphorus, and in relation to plant needs;
- regular information updates;
- encouragement for close cooperation between livestock and crop producers to use the nutrients optimally and improve the soil fertility;
- actions for improved organic fertilizer production including information of product safety, production technologies and logistical solutions;

Explanatory background text:

-the idea is to induce more holistic thinking in regards to nutrient management at country and regional level to be able to move towards efficient resource use and diminished leakage to the Baltic Sea

-since most of the countries do not have a comprehensive data of the amounts and location of nutrient rich biomasses, the first step would be to improve information base

- also countries would be encouraged to keep information regularly updated.

- to move towards fertilization based on plant needs recognizing the present high P levels in areas with livestock concentration and the need for managing soils to optimize nutrient status (not too much and not too little) we need information on nutrient status of fields. As an example, in Finland we have many fields where P status is so high, that no production increase can be detected from P applications (inorganic or organic)

-key for balanced and appropriate nutrient use is improved co-operation between livestock producers and crop producers who in many cases are geographically concentrated to different areas

-there are still technical challenges in production of organic fertilizers which are easy to use for farmers, with suitable nutrient content and suitable consistency for present machinery which are prerequisites for major shift towards organic fertilizer products.

There are two comments for the new paragraphs, which are not entirely clear. Anyway, these can be discussed in the next meeting.

- secure recycling all animal manure to be used as fertilizer
- goals for nutrient recycling