



HELCOM Workshop on mitigating ammonia emissions from agriculture and developing BAT/BEP for animal farming, 7-8 March 2022, online

The HELCOM workshop on reducing ammonia emissions from agriculture and BAT/BEP for animal farming is organized by the Estonia, Finland and HELCOM. The workshop will be held online via Zoom.

The workshop is aimed for representatives of authorities and research organizations of the Baltic Sea countries, representatives of the European Union, and HELCOM Observers.

Background

According to the [EMEP assessment](#) of gaseous nitrogen emissions in the Baltic Sea region and nitrogen deposition on the Baltic Sea water area, the proportion of nitrogen emissions from agriculture has increased. HELCOM agreed as part of the Baltic Sea Action Plan ([BSAP](#)) updated in 2021 (action E20) to ‘revise by 2023 the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on “Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture” ensuring reduction of agricultural ammonia emissions and considering relevant Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP).’. The HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri Group) has started the revision and agreed on a [scope for the revised Recommendation](#).

The Agri Group recognized that the revision of the Recommendation has synergies with another BSAP action E13: ‘Develop by 2025 recommendations for Best Available Technology (BAT)/Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to reduce ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from livestock housing, manure storage and spreading’. The [Helsinki Convention](#) states that in order to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Baltic Sea Area the Contracting Parties shall promote the use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology. BAT and BEP in the HELCOM context are described in the Annex II of the Convention. Another BSAP action that could have synergies with actions E20 and E13 is action E14: ‘Develop by 2025 recommendations for manure management specifically for horses, sheep, goats, and fur farming’.

Aim

The workshop will enhance the implementation of BSAP actions related to reducing ammonia emissions from agriculture and developing HELCOM BAT/BEP for animal farming. The workshop will list and, if needed, prioritize measures to mitigate ammonia emissions under each topic in the draft scope for the revised Recommendation 24/3. The work will be based on a list already compiled in the background document for the revision and the aim is to formulate a list of measures that is forward-looking and suitable for the HELCOM context. The workshop will also discuss launching the work on BAT and BEP, including a possible regional project.

Resources

The draft scope for the Recommendation as well as the background document can be found [here](#) (document 3-1 for the AGRI 12-2021 meeting).



Provisional programme

Monday, 7 March 2022

The workshop will be moderated by Sari Luostarinen, the Chair of HELCOM Agri Group.

All times are East European time (EET).

Time	Activity
13:00-14:10	Welcome Introduction to reducing ammonia emissions from agriculture <i>Allan Kaasik, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia</i> Country example: Germany <i>Andreas Pacholski, Thünen Institute, Germany</i>
14:10-14:20	<i>Break</i>
14:20-16:00	Facilitated group work: measures to reduce ammonia emissions from agriculture Topics for the group work 1. Integrated sustainable nitrogen management 2. Livestock feeding strategies 3. Animal housing techniques 4. Manure storage 5. Field application of organic and inorganic fertilizers 6. Manure processing and nutrient recovery 7. Other measures related to agricultural nitrogen <i>(Break during the session)</i>
16:00-16:45	Presenting the results of the group work and joint discussion
16:45-17:00	Conclusions of day 1 and setting the scene for day 2

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

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Time	Activity
10:00-10:30	Introduction BAT for cattle farming in Estonia <i>Kristel Lopsik, Ministry of Environment, Estonia</i>
10:30-11:30	Developing HELCOM BAT/BEP for animal farming Facilitated discussion on: - Current national BAT/BEP for animal farming in the Baltic Sea region - Potential content and scope of HELCOM BAT/BEP - Potential project partners and financing sources for a regional project
11:30-11:40	Break
11:40-12:30	Facilitated discussion continues
12:30-13:00	Conclusions and next steps