Results

This National Action Plan is based on Germany's federal 'Reduction Program Chemical Plant Protection' (2004), and the 'National Action Plan of the BMEL (former BMELV)' (2008). In regards to risk reduction of plant protection product applications progress has been made in these programs which gave reason to continue with a novel federal National Action Plan.

Indicators are important tools for measuring progress and attaining overall objectives of the National Action Plan.

Several indicators were defined:

- The indicator SYNOPS calculates the risk of plant protection product application to the environment by use of certain parameters (aquatic and terrestrial organisms).
- Compliance to the indicator 'necessary minimum' was 82 to 97 percent in tested samples of winter-wheat, winter-barley, winter-rape, white cabbage, carrots, asparagus, apples, wine, and hop.
- First results from representative studies showed compliance to limits set for maximum residue levels with less than 1 percent exceedances in food groups examined.
- The National Action Plan's homepage serves as a knowledge hub for plant protection, the National Action Plan in general, and its implementation of tasks. It also links to information provided by national and international sources.

More information is available on:
www.bmel.de und
www.nap-pflanzenschutz.de

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Reducing risks & creating confidence

The German National Action Plan on
Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products

The starting point in plant protection

Starting point

Plant Protection products are subject to strict legal registration procedures. In order to ensure that plant protection is always executed on a high level of security and with protection for humans, animals, and the environment in mind, sale and application of plant protection products, user's certificate of expertise, and functionality of technical equipment are legally regulated.

Regardless of those efforts, any sustainable use of plant protection products still has potential for improvement which is addressed by this National Action Plan. Emphasis is given to more risk reduction when applying or handling plant protection products.

To implement Directive 2009/128/EC, Article 4, the German Government adopted the current National Action Plan on Plant Protection on April 10th 2013. It was drawn up in collaboration with the all Federal German States ('Länder') and relevant stakeholder groups. Baseline is the commitment of the Federal Government and the Länder to further strengthen the existing legal requirements in plant protection.

Public authorities of the Federal Government and the Länder, and all relevant stakeholder groups in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, consumer protection, environment- and nature protection are called on implementing this National Action Plan.

The National Action Plan: Goals, tasks and results

Goals

» **Risk reduction**
Use and application of plant protection products is associated to certain risks to ecosystems. A 30 percent risk reduction is projected by 2023 (baseline is the 1996-2005 average).

» **Reduction of limit-exceeding maximum residue levels**
Residue level limit compliance is crucial for food quality. The goal is to reduce limit-exceeding levels in all food product groups of domestic or non-domestic origin below 1 percent by 2021, based on representative monitoring results.

» **Limiting Plant Protection Product applications**
Reduction of application intensity to a 'necessary minimum' which is required for economic crop production, and which is often found well below of the legally authorized application intensity.

» **Introduction and further development of plant protection measures**
Initiation of plant protection measures utilizing lesser application intensities for use in integrated crop protection and organic agriculture.

» **Optimizing information of the public**
Knowledge sharing of benefits and risks of plant protection including applications of chemical plant protection products.

Tasks

» **Funding**
for research and innovation in plant protection and plant breeding, integrated crop protection and organic agriculture.

» **Strengthening**
the official extension service and improving knowledge-transfer.

» **Elaborate and implement**
hot-spot management concepts improving water- and biodiversity protection.

» **Monitoring**
compliance to plant protection regulations (Plant Protection Control Program).

» **Analysing**
compliance to residue limit regulations of plant protection products in food, and timely evaluation of limit violations, and possible measures.

» **Documenting and evaluating**
applications of plant protection products within the German network of reference farms and PAPA-farms (**Pa**nel Plant **P**rotection **A**pplications).

» **Motivating for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on demonstration farms**
Selected demonstration farms in different regions of Germany utilize and demonstrate the newest IPM techniques available for important agricultural crops. IPM methods used are made accessible to a wide audience of farmers and the public.