



Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
Expert Workshop on Implementation of the Directive of the European Parliament and
of the Council Establishing a Framework for Community Action to Achieve a
Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Framework Directive)
23 to 25 June 2009 – Potsdam, Germany

This Document summarises the results of the discussions held in the framework of the Expert Workshop. Approximately 100 representatives of federal and state authorities, universities, agricultural, horticultural, food retailers and food manufacturers' associations and organisations, non-governmental organisations for consumer protection, protection of the environment and nature conservation as well as associations representing producers and retailers of plant protection products participated in the workshop.

- Key Points Document -

Purpose

1. To serve as a guidance for further development of the National Action Plan for a sustainable use of Plant Protection Products.
2. To provide orientation on the status of discussion for all actors involved.

Starting position

1. Article 4 of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council Establishing a Framework for Community Action to Achieve a Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Framework Directive) requires all Member States to develop National Action Plans for reduction of the risks and effects of plant protection products (PPP's) on human health and the environment, and Article 14 of the Directive calls for Member States to develop and introduce Integrated Pest Management and to promote alternative plant protection methods and procedures in order to reduce dependency on the use of PPP's.
2. For national implementation of the Directive, this means that Germany has to amend its current National Action Plan for Sustainable Use of PPP's.
3. The German Plant Protection Act as well as other legislative acts and the current National Action Plan are suitable starting points, although in need of certain amendments with respect to implementation of the Framework Directive.

4. At the workshop, it was determined that the existing National Action Plan provides a good foundation, but that certain items must be amended. There is a need for improvement in the following areas:
 - Reduction of exceedings of maximum residue limits;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Water.
5. The targets specified in the current German National Action Plan correspond to those of the Framework Directive in essence, but fall short of the Framework Directive with regard to quantification and specification of time frames.

Targets of the National Action Plan

1. The goal of reducing the risks resulting of the use of PPP's by the year 2020 by 25 %, as specified in the present National Action Plan based on mean statistics for the years 1996-2005, received approval as a current target with the provision that concrete sub-goals should be developed.
2. Further sub-goals were discussed at the Workshop, but not in definitive terms.
3. Exceeding maximum residue limits is a violation of currently applicable food legislation. The general consensus was to include reduction of the rate of exceedings of maximum residue limits in domestic and imported agricultural products to < 1% in each product group as a further sub-goal. However, the time frame for achievement of this goal remains to be specified.
4. Targets and sub-goals for reduction of PPP's input into surface waters are to be developed. Other goals and targets discussed were as follows:
 - To increase the biodiversity of the agricultural landscape,
 - To raise the ratio of organic farmland to total farmland area,
 - To increase the ratio of enterprises with special quality management systems and Integrated Pest Management,
 - To reduce the effects of PPP's on non-target organisms and non-target habitats.
5. It was determined that there is a need for the development of proposals for specification and precise quantification of individual targets and suitable indicators. In the context of sustainability, due consideration must be given to the ecological, economic and social impacts of the measures envisaged. This applies to both chemical

and alternative plant protection measures and must include business and economic considerations.

6. The targets must be practically implementable and communicable.
7. An approach to adapting objectives and timetables to changing conditions during the term of the National Action Plan must be developed.

Measures in the National Action Plan

The measures contained in the current National Action Plan are fundamentally accepted and make a substantial contribution towards implementation of the Framework Directive. There was consensus on the need for development and adaptation, in particular, on the need to:

1. Strengthen and intensify independent advisory services and to further develop suitable structures (e.g. advisor training and further education, quality assurance, certification and inclusion of private advising services).
2. Develop and promote innovation in the further development of Integrated Pest Management and plant protection in organic farming; therefore, greater emphasis is to be placed on the following issues:
 - Development, testing and conveyance of non-chemical plant protection measures;
 - Further development of computer-assisted forecasting methods and decision-making tools, including research into threshold levels;
 - Refinement of plant protection equipment and innovative solutions for improvement of application techniques.
3. Implementation of the Framework Directive requires the collaboration of relevant state and federal research institutions. Universities and colleges, in particular, should be strongly involved.
4. Crop and sector-specific guidelines for Integrated Pest Management are to be developed by the relevant associations and organisations (with state and federal support). These guidelines should give due consideration to elements relating to the promotion of biodiversity. JKI will provide advisory assistance during the development of the guidelines. The federal government shall be responsible for approval of the guidelines.

5. There was general support for the establishment of a network of model enterprises that supports the introduction and further development of the IPM-guidelines.
6. Further support to integrated pest management and organic farming methods should be provided in the scope of support programmes. The creation of a Federal Integrated Pest Management Programme alongside the existing Federal Organic Farming Programme is conceivable.
7. The improvement of communication with politicians and consumers on the subject of Integrated Pest Management is considered an important task. An internet portal for plant protection was established and will be expanded as a measure for promotion of information and awareness. The portal was opened in June 2009 at the following address: <http://nap.jki.bund.de>.
8. Further enhancement and assurance of expertise (knowledge transfer) of users, advisors and distributors is essential.
9. Measures (e.g. knowledge transfer) for the use of PPP's in non-agricultural areas are needed.
10. Further measures are required to ensure that internet trade conforms with applicable legislation and to prevent illegal import and trade of PPP's.

There was some controversy over the following measures:

- Creation of buffer areas and binding definition of buffer zones;
- Improvement of the availability of PPP's and active substances.

Indicators in the National Action Plan

1. The existing indicators form a good foundation. A set of indicators that makes it possible to evaluate the success of the National Action Plan and to monitor the implementation of measures will be developed. This will include measurement variables and trend assessments.
2. The environmental indicator SYNOPS belongs to this set of indicators. Its further development is supported. Indicators for occupational health and safety and consumer protection will also be developed. Compatibility with the expected harmonised indicators at the EU level will be endeavoured.

3. The regular collection of statistical data on the use of PPP's, as performed in the NEPTUN surveys and in a network of reference farms, is also very important.
4. PPP's residues in food and feed, monitoring data and long-term data on necessary levels serve as input data for other indicators. These indicators are to be used long-term in order to identify trends.
5. Existing indicators for assessment of progress in the achievement of other sub-goals (e.g. biodiversity) must be identified or new indicators developed.
6. Other measure-oriented indicators (e.g. participation in training events, number of warning service requests or degree of use of forecasting models) should be added as needed.

Resources

There was consensus that additional human and financial resources will be required to realise the measures and to monitor progress. Responsible bodies at relevant levels (EU, federal, state, private research funding groups and other organisations) must evaluate these needs and provide the resources needed as determined based on the results of their evaluation.

There was some controversy over funding measures (e.g. donations, endowments, funds entrusted for a specific purpose, environmental Lottery).

Perspectives

1. The "National Action Plan for a Sustained Use of Plant Protection Products" forum is to be used for further development of the National Action Plan.
2. Certain aspects, such as water and biodiversity, require additional expertise.

Other aspects relating to Articles 5 through 13 of the Framework Directive but not included in the current National Action Plan will be discussed elsewhere. The relevant associations and organisations will be involved in the process.