

Challenges in developing pesticide indicators and setting targets

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The EU Framework directive on sustainable use of pesticides (2009/128/EC) requires member states to establish national pesticide action plans and requires that a number of items are included in those plans. It also requires a harmonised pesticide risk indicator to be developed. When developed member states shall calculate this harmonised risk indicator at member state level and report to the Commission after which the Commission shall calculate risk indicators at community level. This in order to estimate trends in risks caused by the use of pesticides in EU and to assess the progress in achieving the objectives of the community policies aimed at reducing the impact of pesticides on human health and the environment.

However, developing pesticide risk indicators that can be applied throughout Europe and which will actually indicate and describe the progress achieved regarding reducing pesticide risks is quite a challenge. The EU Commission has developed an indicator (HAIR) that is now being further assessed. The Danish EPA has also developed an indicator, just as a number of other countries within Europe as well as in other parts of the world have developed their own indicators.

The challenge in developing a pesticide risk indicator that will actually show the development in the risk and effect on human health and the environment caused by the use of pesticides will be discussed."