

TOPPS achievements after three years



TOPPS is a multi-stakeholder project, covering 15 European countries, funded under the European Commission's Life Program and by ECPA - European Crop Protection Association. The project aims to develop and promote Best Managements Practices (BMPs) to reducing losses of Plant Protection Products (PPP) to water from point sources. The European training and demonstration project TOPPS delivers a comprehensive and consistent package of materials for advisers and farmers on how to avoid PPPs pollution of water from point sources. All materials developed by a network of international experts is available for download (www.TOPPS-life.org)

TOPPS Surveys

- **Stakeholders survey**

A survey was conducted among the stakeholders through the country partners in the project. The overall aim was to understand the awareness and the opinion of stakeholders concerning PPP pollution from point source and possible measures for implementation..

- **Pilot catchments surveys**

Farm Audits and Farmers awareness surveys were conducted on the 6 pilot catchments They provided interesting results on farmers opinions concerning PPP pollution from point source and their practices. These results are a good basis to understand the key success factors. relevant to implement a sustainable strategy for water protection.

BMPs

- **Common BMPs Guideline**

Key achievement of TOPPS is the definition of Common BMPs, which were developed with experts in 15 EU member states. These BMPs have been translated in 12 different languages and can be considered as a reference for advice and training. The BMPs will help to spread consistent messages to farmers and advisers across borders on the correct use of PPPs.

- **TOPPS flyers**

TOPPS flyers are small leaflets summarizing the key BMPs to avoid pollution from point sources. So far 260 T copies have been distributed to farmers and advisers. The flyers can be seen on and downloaded from the TOPPS website.

Training materials to be downloaded

■ A modular support

Based on the BMPs, a training framework was developed in a modular concept, to allow local advisers to select the information they need to advise their farmers on the correct use of PPPs. These training materials were adapted to the various countries respecting local regulations if available. The materials can be downloaded from the TOPPS website in many languages.

■ Picture Gallery (one picture can tell more than 1000 words)

Feedback received from advisers indicated that many times good pictures / slides are missing for training purposes. TOPPS has produced and selected within the network of experts more than 500 pictures which show good and bad examples. The pictures are sorted by the key working processes identified, which are transport, storage, before-, during- after spraying and the management of remaining contaminated liquids (remnant management). The pictures are also available categorized in good and bad practise by smileies (☺ / ☹).



■ Training video

Currently training videos for orchard and field sprayers are developed to further support advisers and farmers to show the correct use of PPPs reflecting concrete working situations. The scenes shown are self explanatory and adviser can stop the film anytime to discuss further in depth the various aspects as required.



Brochures

■ Demonstration Brochure

In the TOPPS trainings which were attended by more than 3000 farmers and about 1500 advisers we learned that the mix of theoretical presentations and practical demonstrations were very much appreciated by the participants. We therefore developed a brochure with the various practical demonstrations conducted in the TOPPS trainings. We hope that this information will deliver useful ideas to advisers to prepare interesting demonstrations.

■ Technical brochures

These brochures will be available in various languages for downloads.

- Cleaning Brochure

Cleaning of the sprayer is a key risk area to contaminate water with PPPs, if the cleaning is not done correctly. TOPPS therefore developed a brochure which describes secure ways on how to clean sprayers. Different recommendations are given depending on the technical equipment attached to the sprayer.

- Bio purification brochure

The Bio purification brochure summarizes existing expertise with systems such as biobeds and biofilters and summarizes the current status of the knowledge.



TOPPS Publications

TOPPS will deliver about 300 publications in the 15 member states participating in the project (BE, CZ, DE, DK, FI, FR, HU, IT, NL, PL, PO, SE, SK, SP, UK). They discuss three important perspectives along the key working processes to avoid the contamination of water through PPPs:

- Correct use of PPPs (behaviour)
- Improvements of equipment
- Improvements of infrastructure

The correct use is the key factor and the equipment and infrastructure are the key enablers to mitigate the risk of contaminating the water. PPPs pollution from point sources can be avoided if consistent regulation, training, advice and incentives support it.

Based on the learnings from TOPPS, a proposal on a sustainable strategy to avoid point sources is prepared. It focus on the organisational requirements to change behaviour and the improvements of the risk mitigation measures (equipment and infrastructure)

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Key figures in France:

- ✓ 7 partners involved
- ✓ 1 TOPPS catchment (Yser Nord pas Calais)
- ✓ 2 demonstration farms
- ✓ 1 french BMP guideline
- ✓ About 45000 TOPPS Flyers distributed
- ✓ 1 training material
- ✓ 6 events covered
- ✓ 19 training sessions conducted
- ✓ About 300 farmers trained on the Yser catchment
- ✓ 70 advisers trained
- ✓ 1 brochure on cleaning
- ✓ 1 brochure on bioremediation

For more information,
 consult: www.TOPPS-life.org