

Revision of the FOCUS groundwater scenarios

Theme: Risk assessment procedures for registration of plant protection products BO-06-010-004

Problem

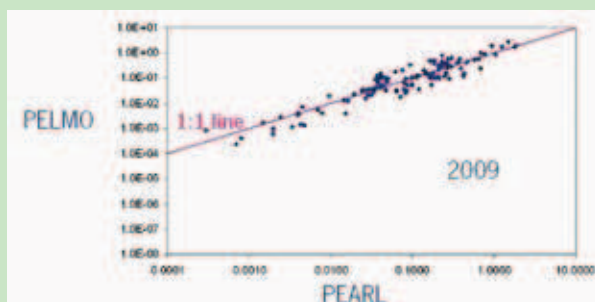
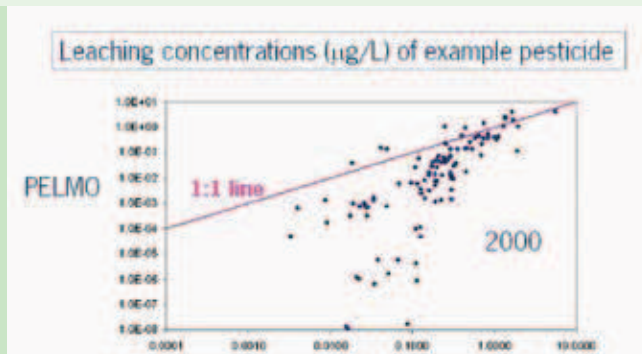
- In 2000 FOCUS groundwater scenarios were developed for assessment of leaching at EU level
- Scenarios were developed for nine locations ranging from Finland to Greece and for some 15 crops at each location (125 crop-location combinations in total)
- These 125 scenarios were parameterised for four models including the Dutch PEARL model and the German PELMO model
- Around 2004 it was discovered that PEARL and PELMO give very different results for part of the scenarios and that a number of input parameters needed to be updated

Approach

- A new FOCUS groundwater workgroup was established consisting of researchers from different EU countries and experts of the agrochemical industry
- The workgroup improved a number of input parameters for the scenarios (including dispersion length, soil profile properties of two locations, amounts of irrigation water)



The FOCUS Groundwater Workgroup at a meeting in Sardinia in 2006.



Improvement of the correspondence between leaching calculations with the Dutch PEARL model and the German PELMO model.

Results

- The improved parameterisation of the scenarios reduced the difference between the PEARL and PELMO models considerably
- The credibility of the scenarios was increased because of the improved parameterisation

Future use in risk assessment

- The report of the workgroup has been sent to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for review
- Within about six months after completion of this review, the responsible political body at EU level (the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health section plant protection products – legislation) is expected to take note of the report (implying that it becomes official EU guidance)
- Immediately thereafter the software packages containing these models and scenarios will become freely available for downloading at the website of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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