

Exposure assessment for soil organisms at EU level

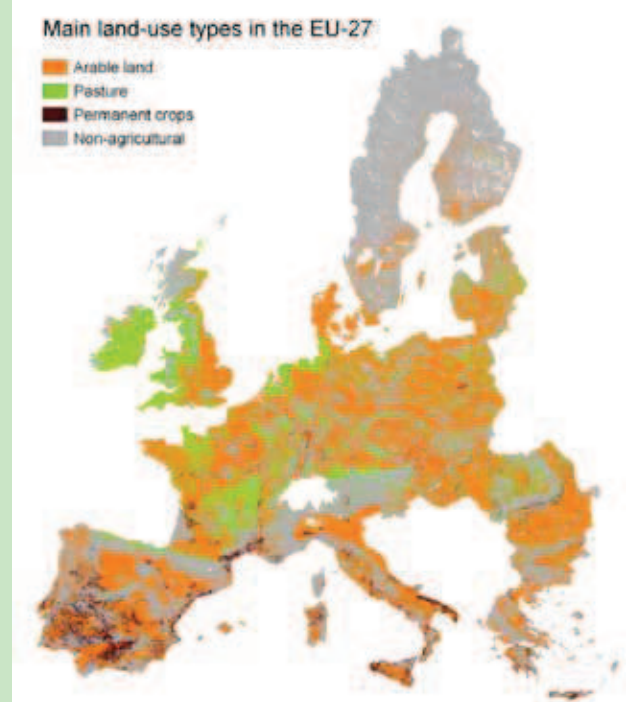
Theme: Risk assessment procedures for registration of plant protection products BO-06-010-006

Problem

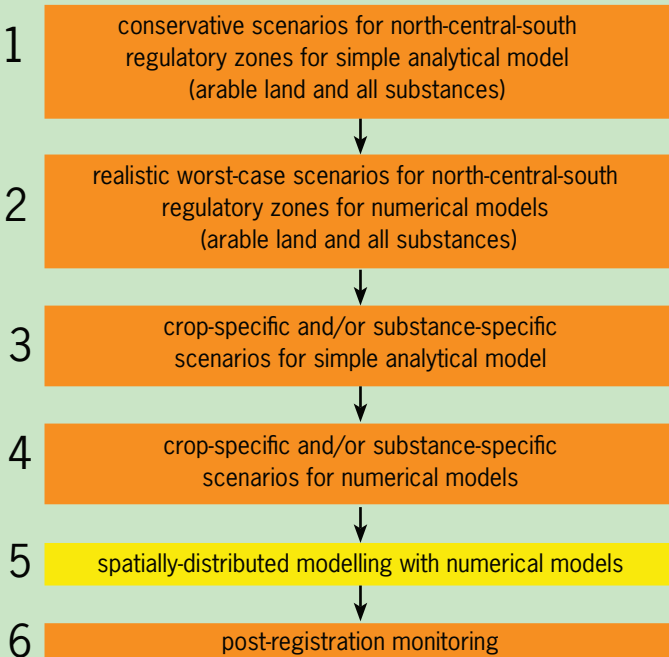
The existing guidance for exposure assessment of soil organisms for the registration of plant protection products at EU level is not state-of-the-art. A number of EU member states (including the Netherlands) have asked the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to improve this guidance.

Approach

- The exposure assessment will be based on a tiered approach both for the concentration in total soil and the concentration in the soil pore water
- The most important part of the work is the development of exposure scenarios for the EU regulatory zones North/Central/South



Map of main land use types in the EU.



Tiered approach for assessment of exposure of soil organisms at EU level.

Results

- Exposure of soil organisms is strongly influenced by type of application, the type of crop and the tillage technique (mainly ploughing depth)
- The combination of arable crops and conventional tillage occurs most frequently in the EU so the methodology of the exposure assessment for this system is developed first
- A tiered approach is proposed that consist of six tiers

Future use in risk assessment

- The guidance will be documented in the form of three opinions of the PPR Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (in 2010)
- After finalisation of these opinions, EFSA will discuss the implementation with the responsible political body at EU level (the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health section plant protection products – legislation)

Jos Boesten

Contact: Jos Boesten

Alterra

P.O. Box 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, the Netherlands

T +31 317 48 16 20 - F +31 317 41 90 00

jos.boesten@wur.nl - www.alterra.wur.nl