

Linking aquatic exposure and effects in the registration procedure of pesticides

Theme: Risk assessment procedures for pesticide registration

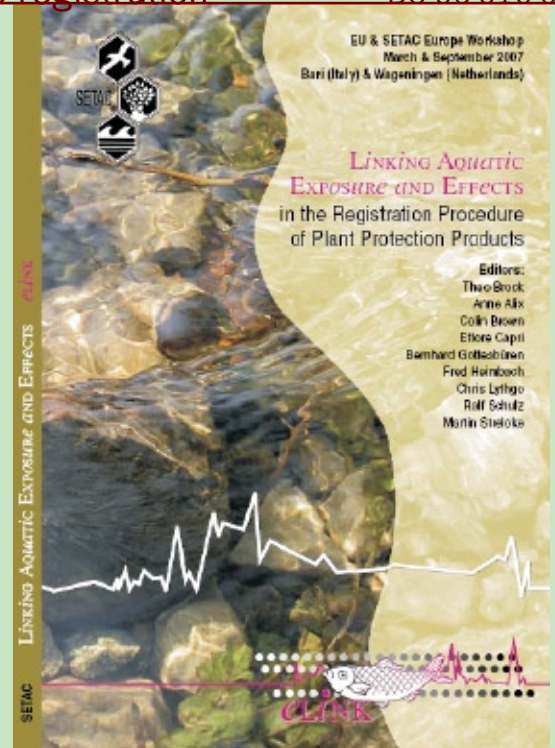
BO-06-010-001

Problem

Current EU procedures for pesticide risk assessment have not been able to adequately address the uncertainties arising from time-variable surface water exposure profiles that are more often rule than exception in the field. Hence, there was a need to organise a workshop to provide guidance on the linking of exposure to effects in the risk assessment procedure.

Approach

An EU workshop (ELINK) was organised, supported by BO-06-010-001. The ELINK workshop comprised of two meetings, one in Bari (Italy) and the other in Wageningen (The Netherlands). The Bari meeting focused on problem formulation while the Wageningen meeting focused on actual guidance development. The 53 environmental scientists involved in the workshop represented 12 European countries and the USA. They offered expertise in aquatic exposure assessment, aquatic ecotoxicology, risk assessment and risk management of plant protection products.



Results

- A guidance chapter and a decision tree how to link time-variable exposure predictions to effects in the risk assessment procedure for pesticides. In addition, several recommendations for future research were proposed
- ELINK chapters have been written dealing with interaction between fate and effect experts, extrapolation tools and ecological characterisation of edge-to-field surface waters

Future use in risk assessment

It is emphasized that the proposed risk assessment procedures described in the ELINK document will be considered by:

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) when updating the 'Guidance Document on Aquatic Ecotoxicology' in support of EU Directive 91/414/EEC
- The Dutch work group 'Beslisboom Water' to improve the aquatic risk assessment procedure for water organisms for national registration of pesticides by The Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides



Linking expertise



Linking People

Problem formulation: The chain of the risk assessment procedure for plant protection products is as weak as the weakest link.

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