

Exposure assessment for soil organisms at EU level

Theme: Risk assessment procedures for pesticide registration

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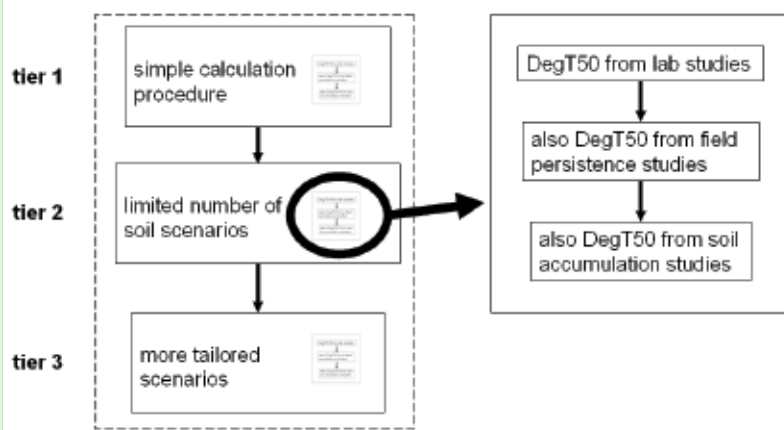
Problem

- 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 basis of the exposure assessment is the concept of the Ecotoxicologically Relevant Concentration (ERC) defined as the type of concentration that gives the best correlation to ecotoxicological effects
- EFSA established two scientific workgroups: one for the exposure assessment itself and another for the selection of the most appropriate type of ERC
- The exposure assessment will be based on a tiered approach

target: 90th percentile of a certain ERC in a limited number of zones across EU



Results

- The pore water concentration is the most appropriate type of ERC for soft bodied soil organisms and plants
- For a number of relevant soil taxa no information is available on the most appropriate type of ERC; as a consequence exposure assessment methods have to be developed both for the pore water concentration and for the concentration in total soil
- A tiered approach has been proposed for the exposure assessment; the core is a limited number of sophisticated exposure scenarios
- A draft version of the guidance document for exposure assessment will be sent to stakeholders in May 2009

Future use in risk assessment

The guidance document is expected to be ready by end 2009.

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