

## **Annex II I: Country Report Latvia**

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In the SAPARD Plan (Rural Development Plan for European Community Support for Pre-accession Measures in Agriculture and Rural Development in Latvia in 2000-2006), "Environmentally friendly agricultural methods" are named as a Priority, getting 4% of the budget. Latvia has defined agri-environment measures for the areas organic farming, preservation of biodiversity and the rural landscape and reduction of agricultural run-off. A Code of Good Agricultural Practice has been elaborated to comply with the requirements of the EU Nitrates Directive. It contains as well recommendations of the Helsinki Commission.

### **Conditions of Good Agricultural Practice" (draft of new RDP 2003):**

The Conditions of GAP are part of the "Code of Good Agricultural Practice" and are the key environmental requirements for measures of the RDP according to Reg. (EC) 1257/1999

#### **Use (storage) of fertilisers, slurry and manure:**

##### **Nitrate (+ general rules of fertilisation):**

*Law On Pollution; Regulation On Protection of Water and Soil for Nitrate Pollution Caused by Agricultural Activity 2001*

Definition of especially sensitive territories (4 districts), where farmers shall observe Conditions of Good Agricultural Practice for fertilising including:

- Limitations on the use of fertilisers in land cultivation during a certain period of time (not between October 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Conditions for use of fertilisers in escarpments
- Conditions for use of fertilisers in the proximity of water reservoirs and watercourses as well as territories under the threat of floods
- Yearly amount of organic fertiliser limited to 170 kg N/ha; which corresponds to 1.7 livestock units (LU)/ha
- Conditions for use of fertilisers on frozen, wet, overflowing or soils covered with snow
- Adequate distance to watercourses and conditions on territories under threat of floods
- Observation of plant rotation and crop rotation

- Conditions for capacity and construction of manure storage facilities (6 months for dung, 8 months for liquid manure)
- Soil treatment techniques as well as norms and regulations for the use of organic fertilisers and mineral fertilisers
- Observation of the minimum land area covered with plants and harvest-leftovers during the autumn-winter period
- Fertilising plan for each field in order to keep record of fertilisers used
- Conditions for prevention of pollution of water reservoirs and watercourses by run-off of plant nutrients and prevention of nutrient-losses deeper than the root area of plants

***Water protection areas:***

*Law On Protected Belts 1997* determines the protected belts of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga as well as procedures for determining the protected belts for watercourses and reservoirs.

- Limitation of application of mineral fertiliser in protected belts; no application within 10 m to water courses

**Pesticide Use:**

*Plant Protection Law 1998 (+ regulations)*

*Law On Protected Belts* (limitation in protected belts; no pesticides in 10m next to open water courses)

- At least one employee with certificate (minimum knowledge of plant protection)
- Safe storage (lockable place, not accessible by children and animals)
- At request of state Plant Protection Service provision of information about any measures taken and products used concerning plant protection
- Disposal in accordance with Law On Hazardous Waste

**Water Use (Irrigation): -**

**Soil Conservation:**

**Soil cover, tillage and cropping patterns:**

See. 1 (soil cover, crop rotation)

**Use (storage) of sewage sludge and compost:**

*Regulations for Use of Sewage Sludge in Fertilising of Soils and Improvement of Territories:*

No compost or sewage sludge

- on slopes > 7%
- to frozen or snow-covered ground
- to over-flown areas and areas exposed to risks of floods
- closer than 100m to individual water intake sites
- closer than 100m to residential buildings, food production enterprises and open water
- see protected belts
- in territories under special protection only with approval by regional environmental board

**Others (compaction salinisation etc.): -**

**Animal housing/husbandry:**

*Law On Environmental Protection 1991*

*Law On Environmental Impact Assessment 1998:*

- Environmental Impact Assessment for (re-)construction of intensive pig and poultry farms with more than 85 000 broilers; 60 000 layers; 3 000 pigs with live weight exceeding 30 kg or 900 sows

*Regulations Procedures for Insurance by Regional environmental board of Technical Regulations for intended Activity not Requiring For Environmental Impact Assessment 2002:*

- List of activities relating to agriculture that need to comply with technical regulations

*Law On Pollution 2001 (+ regulations) (procedures for issuing permissions for polluting activities)*

- E.g. farms for intensive growing of swine and poultry (permit of category A for more than 40 000 poultry, more than 200 meat swine; more than 750 sows)

*Animal Protection Law 1999 (+ regulations):*

- List of obligations

**Landscape, Biodiversity:**

*Law On Natural Territories Under Special Protection 1993:*

*General Regulations for Protection and Utilisation of Nature Territories Under special Protection 1997;*

*Ordinance On Procedures for Preparation of Nature Protection Plans for Nature Territories Under Special Protection.*

- Categories of nature territories under special protection; list of obligations of land owners in territory under special protection

*Law On Protection of Species and Biotopes 2000 (+ Regulations);*

*Law On Protected Belts 1997 (for preservation of biotopes of migrating species, water quality)*

- Statutory minimum width of protected belts for freshwaters, status and overall protection rules

**Farm Management:**

- For farms with more than 10 ha fertiliser area: Fertilising plan for each field in order to keep record of fertilisers used

**Other: -**

**"Verifiable standards" according to RDP 2000-2006:**

Procedure for evaluation of the compliance to the Good Agricultural Practice for project selection: From the 88 principles in the "Code of Good Agricultural Practice", two have been chosen as standards for control.

**For plant production:**

- Code 10: Soil testing is recommended at least once in 5 years in order to obtain reliable information about soil fertility status and necessary improvements.

**For livestock production:**

- Code 20: The number of animals and the agricultural land area used for manure application should be kept in balance. The total amount of nitrogen applied with farmyard manure or slurry must not exceed 170 kg/ha annually

**References:**

Latvia University of Agriculture, Editors: Busmanis, P. and Jansons, V. (1999): Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Latvia (endorsed by the ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Latvian Republic (1999)

LSIAE / Ministry of Agriculture (2003): Draft of new RDP 2003 for Latvia

Ministry of Agriculture (2001): Rural Development Plan for European Community Support for Pre-accession Measures in Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD) in Latvia in 2000-2006