

Annex II K: Country Report Poland

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In Poland small-scale private farms dominate the agricultural structure. Poland has got quite ambitious legislation in some areas but monitoring and enforcement is rather weak, and many farmers have very limited knowledge about the Code of Good Agricultural Practice. A serious problem is the storage of natural fertiliser. Better performance occurs in the area of extensive farming and natural habitats (Liro 2003).

The Water Act 2001 includes provisions for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive regarding the designation of vulnerable areas and monitoring of waters. But control of non-point sources is still difficult; services responsible for executing this activity actually do not exist (Zellei et al. 2002). At the moment only 5 % of the farmers comply with the requirements of manure storage. Dung is mainly stored directly on the ground, liquid manure in low capacity containers with 1-3 months of storage capacity (Liro 2003). Despite earlier planning the Polish government decided not to designate nitrate vulnerable zones (as agriculture is not seen as the main source of nitrate pollution) and withdrew the requested transition period till 2008; but Poland will still carry out activities related to the implementation of animal waste storage facilities. A problem could be that financial assistance favours bigger farms, which could lead to a segregation of Polish farm structure. Small farms might be excluded from the market and will not have proper manure storage facilities (Zellei et al. 2002).

A Code of Good Agricultural Practices does exist. It consists of four main parts: environmental protection and farm management, soil protection, water protection and air protection and can be seen as a target level.

In the SAPARD Programme for Poland in 2000-2006, environment doesn't play an important role. 1.1 % of the total Programme budget has been allocated to pilot agri-environment measures (Dwyer et al. 2002). The Usual Good Farming Practice is part of the Polish Code of Good Agricultural Practices. UGFP is defined as the agri-environmental minimum for measures under the Reg. (EC) 1257/1999 and is based on legislative provisions applicable to agricultural holdings (Liro 2003).

Usual Good Farming Practice:

Use (storage) of fertilisers, slurry and manure:

Nitrate (+ general rules of fertilisation):

Act on Fertilisers and Fertilising 2000; Water Act 2001 (provisions for implementing the Nitrates Directive); Act on Wastes; Act on Environmental Protection

Order of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Use of waste for agricultural purposes 1986

Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and forestry on the conditions to be fulfilled while using sewage sludge for non-industrial purposes 1999

- Organic fertiliser application is allowed only from March 1st to November 30th
- No sewage sludge and organic fertiliser on slopes > 10%
- No application of fertiliser on flooded, frozen or snow-covered ground
- No manure within 20 meters of water courses and water uptake protection zones; application of solid mineral fertiliser only manually within these 20 m
- Storage facilities for manure and slurry must have a capacity of at least 6 months (although the *Fertilisers and Fertilising Law* defines only 4 months)
- Incorporation of organic fertiliser within 24 hours; no organic fertiliser on land covered with plants and during vegetation of plants intended for direct consumption by humans and animals; no waste on arable land used to grow plants intended for direct consumption by humans and animals and only with permit; no sewage sludge on grassland or pastures, on land featuring a significant degree of permeability, under cover cultivations or on which horticultural plants and vegetables are grown, except fruit trees
- Application of organic fertiliser is allowed up to 170 kg N per ha arable land

Potassium and Phosphate:

Potassium and Phosphate (only nutrients in waste and sewage sludge)

Pesticide Use:

Act on Protection of Crop Plants

- Only pesticides approved for marketing shall be used.
- Pesticides sprayers should be attested and users should possess a valid certificate of having completed adequate training.

- Buffer zones - 5 m from public roads and at least 20 m from buildings, gardens, apiaries, herb plantations, natural reserves and parks, surface waters and protection zones of drinking water uptakes
- Use in accordance with product label instructions

Water Use (Irrigation): -

Soil Conservation:

Act on Protection of Agricultural and Forest Land

Soil cover, tillage and cropping patterns:

- Anti-erosion facilities and drainage systems located within the farm shall be maintained in good technical condition;
- Farmers are obliged to maintain grasslands on slopes steeper than 20%.

Use (storage) of sewage sludge and compost:

- For waste and sewage sludge a preparation of fertilisation plan is required, with amount of nutrients in the doses of waste. Application of sewage sludge requires soil tests (for waste: sanitary requirements, no heavy metals).

Others (compaction, salinisation etc.): -

Animal housing/husbandry:

(E.g. regional planning)

Landscape, Biodiversity:

Act on Nature Protection

- Grazing shall not result in severe poaching with possible pollution risk.
- Requirements applicable to nature protection areas have to be complied with; small structures should be maintained

Farm Management:

Act on Maintaining Cleanliness and Order in Municipalities

- Farmers are obliged to maintain cleanliness and order on a farm and to have an appliance for collection of household waste produced on the area of the farm.

Other:

- Burning grass is forbidden.
- Sewage should be not discharged directly to surface waters or into fields.

Control:

Institutions are: Inspection of Environmental Control, Nature protection services under the Head of the National Nature Conservator, Inspection of plant Protection, Proviat Office and ARMA.

Poland is in the progress of identifying verifiable standards (Liro 2003).

References:

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