

Major outcomes of the HELCOM workshop on nutrients recycling and follow up in HELCOM groups

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The conclusions of the debates at the HELCOM 38-2017

- Implementation of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) has progressed both on regional and national level, including to reach nutrient reduction targets, but needs to be further strengthened;
- Among the topics that need further attention by HELCOM are: eutrophication, agriculture including improvement of soil management practices, biogas production, circular economy including nutrient recycling...



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- A HELCOM Workshop on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries, held on 27-28 March 2017 in Berlin, Germany, was organized by Julius Kühn-Institut and HELCOM in cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Areas Bioeconomy, Hazards and Nutri.
- **The Goal of the Workshop** was - to enhance recycling of nutrients contained in wastewater sludge and manure while preventing the spreading of hazardous substances.



- A starting point for the Workshop was an draft Overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries. Compilation of the overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries was initiated by HELCOM AGRI group.
- The workshop included two parallel session devoted to:
recycling of P in agriculture and
sewage sludge, respectively.



Main conclusions of the session on sewage sludge

- The Overview does not contain comprehensive information on policy and other national instruments to reuse phosphorus from sewage sludge which had been already established in the countries. Experts noted that the recently adopted HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling invites the Contracting Parties to establish national programmes or other tools to facilitate sustainable handling of sewage sludge.
- The experts recommended to collect more information on national programmes and other instruments which are already established nationally to enhance the recycling of P as an initial step of implementation of the sewage sludge recommendation, and to add the information to the HELCOM Overview on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea region.
- The Workshop also highlighted that the HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling is a good basis for gathering information on P in sewage sludge and suggested to further specify reporting format to collect relevant information on different technological solutions for P-recycling from sewage sludge in 2018.
- The Workshop also suggested to establish a project or lead country(s) -driven process to elaborate a palette of technological solutions for P-recycling from sewage sludge.
- Experts also suggested to look for an opportunity to elaborate and agree on regional goals for P-reuse from sewage sludge and substitution of the mineral-P fertilizers with recycled P, based on information collected as reporting under the HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling.



A follow up discussion at PRESSURE

PRESSURE 6:

- agreed to provide additional information on national commitments (policies, programmes, etc.) to reuse phosphorus from sewage sludge for the Overview.
- supported in general the activity, suggested by the Workshop on P recycling, to compile information on technological solutions and best practices for P-recycling from sewage sludge and to elaborate a **regional palette of technological solutions**.
- to launch the compilation of technological solutions Sweden will make a draft of specification for the reporting format of HELCOM Recommendation 38/1 with the aim to agree on this specification at PRESSURE 7-2017.



Main conclusions of the session on manure.

- The HELCOM Overview on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries was that nutrient recycling is not yet an established concept within the Baltic Sea region.
- HELCOM Contracting Parties should agree on a definition for nutrient recycling that could be presented in the HELCOM Overview.
- Collect data on cycles of N and P in the Baltic Sea region. The planned regional project on manure standards could provide more information on manure cycles and the HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling is a good basis for gathering information on P in sewage sludge. Also, information on the economic aspect of nutrient recycling could be sought.
- Further work to reach the goals that have already been set for promoting nutrient bookkeeping and advanced manure standards.
- Start a regional project to identify areas of high nutrient surplus and programmes for these areas identifying suitable measures.



AGRI 4:

- invited all countries to provide updated information for the Overview with an intention to finalize the draft.
- September 2017 and circulated to the countries for endorsement for publication.
- agreed on the need of clear definition for nutrient recycling and identification of the gaps which should be filled with the help of the tools. The lead countries Germany and Finland with assistance of the Secretariat will prepare a suggestions for definitions based on the Overview for the next AGRI meeting
- discussed what kind of HELCOM tools can be applied to facilitate P reuse in the region and suggested to start with **elaboration of a relevant regional strategy**.



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