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Focus Group on fertiliser use efficiency

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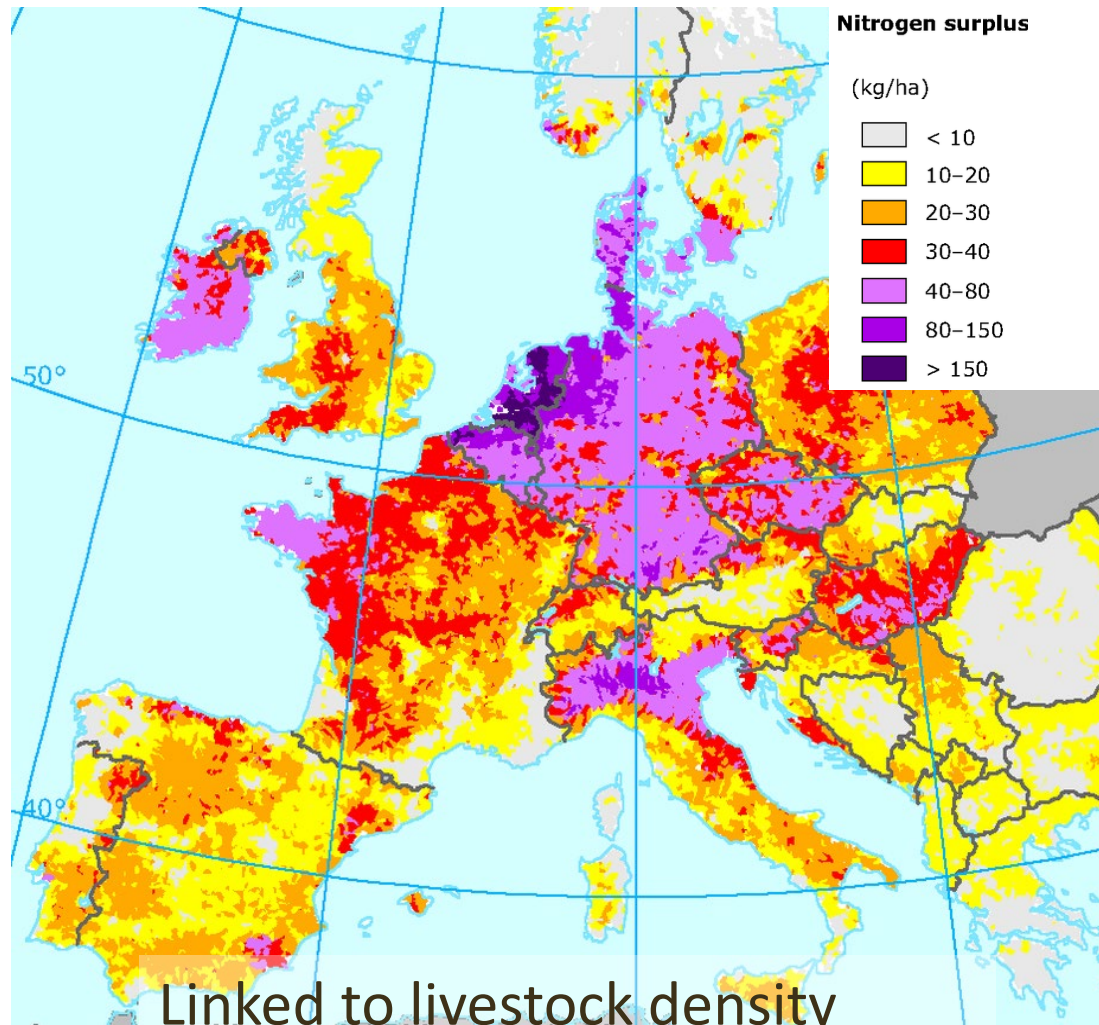
**EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe:
sustainable management through knowledge and practice'**

What about?

N fertilization in vegetables is often excessive and not tailored to the plant requirements



Relevance?



Linked to livestock density

Linked to vegetable production



Rationale of the focus group

How to use innovative fertilisation and nutrient recycling to solve the conflict between the need for crop fertilisation and legislative requirements regarding water quality.



Brief description of the process

Starting point:



NUTRIHORT

Nutrient management,
innovative techniques
and nutrient legislation
in intensive horticulture
for an improved water quality

September 16-18, 2013, Ghent

**Fact sheets
from the benchmark study
on innovative techniques and
strategies for reduction of
nutrient losses in horticulture**



Brief description of the process

FG meeting 1 (June 2014)

- Prioritise the recommended techniques
- Estimated current implementation (%) of existing innovative techniques in Europe
- Identify bottlenecks complicating implementation

Mini-papers promising innovative techniques (8)

FG meeting 2 (October 2014)

- Discussion of mini-papers
- Summarise needed actions to decrease nutrient losses, including proposals for topics of OG
- Assess the needs from practice



Main (knowledge) gaps identified

- International network to simplify introduction of innovative techniques already successfully integrated in other regions
- Reference database increasing the development efficiency of innovative techniques
- Robust systems for measuring soil moisture
- Applications for smartphones



Ideas on innovative projects to address key challenges

- Making fertiliser advice more farmer friendly and sustainable
- Optimising the use of innovative organic sourced fertiliser
- Increasing nutrient efficiency with cover crops and optimal use of organic manure
- Developing decision support systems based on simulation models
- Developing advice based on a system approach, avoiding opposing information
- Improving knowledge exchange by including different experts

Fallout - General considerations - Challenges

- Highly relevant solutions proposed
- Networking
- Participation in EU projects
- The farmers perspective - participation from practice?
The 'average' European farmer?



- Consistency of EU policies
EU environmental policy - reality of trade agreements





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Thanks for your attention!



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EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe:
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EIP-AGRI seminar

Healthy soils for Europe: sustainable management through knowledge and practice

Online – 13-14 April 2021

All information of the seminar is available on
www.eip-agri.eu

On the event webpage
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-healthy-soils-europe-sustainable>

