

2nd Thematic Group meeting on Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

Nutrient management plans

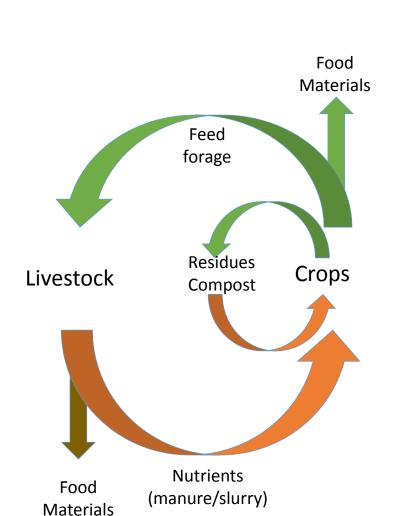
Ben Allen
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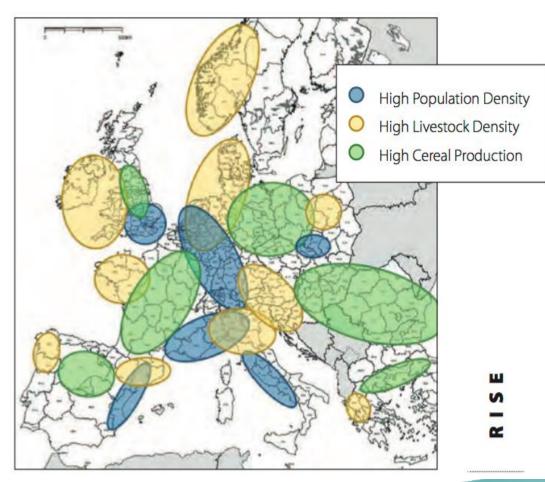
Video conference / Brussels, 15 December 2017





Nutrients – essential for production





Source: Figure 14 cited in Buckwell et al, 2014

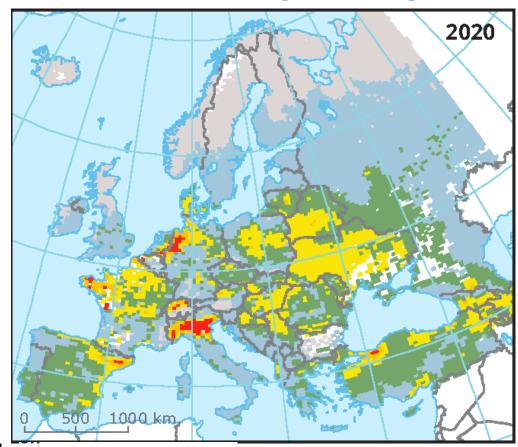


Nutrients – too much of a good thing?

Agriculture:

- 90% of EU Ammonia emissions
- 70% of Nitrogen entering lakes and rivers
- 20% of GHG emissions from agriculture (2% of EU total)
- 63% of area exceeds critical eutrophication levels – but declining to 2020 (54%)
 - Nitrogen increasing
 - Phosphorous decreasing









Agriculture a key challenge sector

"It should be explored how an obligatory EU-wide requirement to have a nutrient management plan and incentives for precision agriculture, forming part of any Member State CAP strategic plan, could improve results." European Commission CAP Communication - 29 November 2017





"I deem it absolutely essential to enhance our policy tools in relation to inputs. Proper nutrient management on farms is vital and will receive more attention in the future CAP than is currently the case." - Commissioner Hogan – Speech at European Policy Centre Dialogue on Water & Agriculture in Europe, Thursday 28th September 2017, Brussels.



Nutrient management plans

Nutrient management plans can:

- Help to reduce pollution;
- Improve efficiency and productivity

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They:

 Set out the nutrient requirements on a farm or area in relation to crops and carrying capacity of the land





Opportunities & challenges

Awareness raising & improved understanding;

Identification of remedial actions;

Prevention rather than cure;

Monitoring and review

Need to be accurate;

Enforcement;

Monitoring and measurements;

Advice and support.





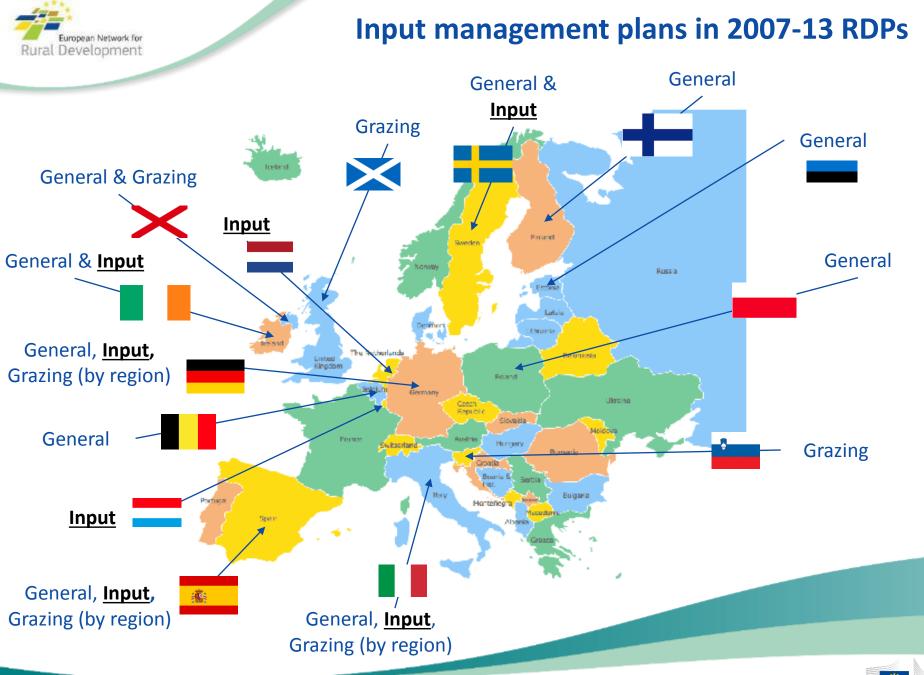
Nutrient management plans – a mixed history

- Supported in basic agri-environment schemes;
- Some withdrawn over conflict with the reference level
 - Currently part of SMR1 for Nitrates Directive
- More than just nutrients:
 - soils,
 - grazing,
 - farm,
 - crop protection,
 - water,
 - manure
- Also part of broader plans:
 - RBMPs
 - NVZs











Where the TG could add value

- 1. Nutrient management plans in 2014-20 RDPs
- Recommendations on what should be in NMPs;
- 3. Examination of best practice;

- 5. How to monitor and report in an efficient and effective way.
- 6. NMPs and collective action;
- 7. RDPs and measures to complement NMPs.



Thank you!

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