

The role and significance of voluntary agri-environmental advisory services in minimising water pollution from the agricultural sector

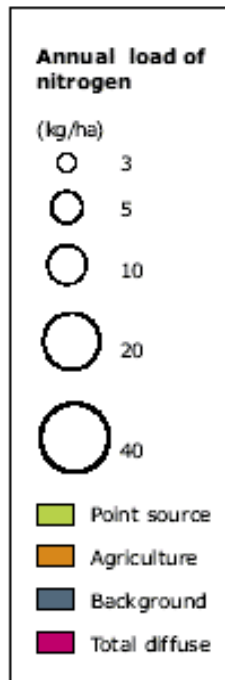
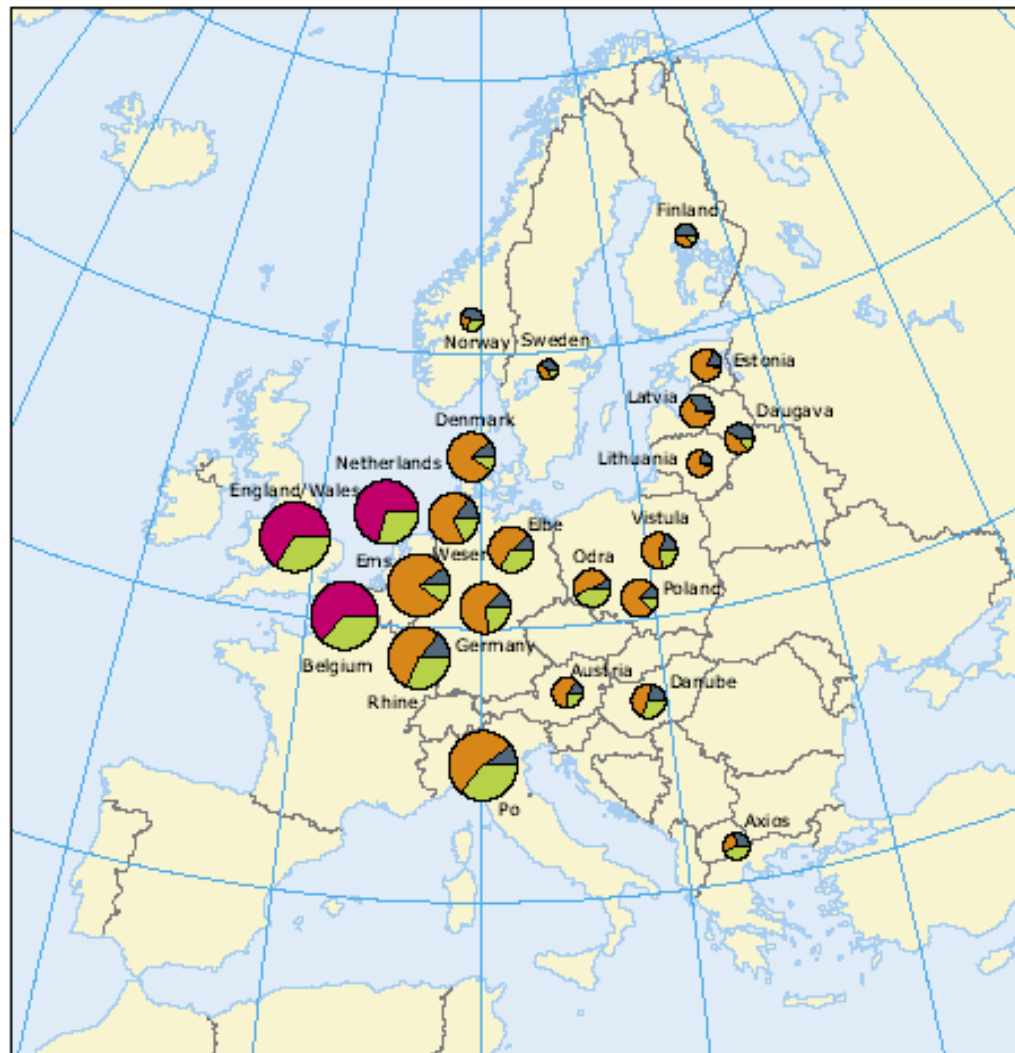
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Study approach

- **Several EU and national Projects on Agriculture and water protection**
- **3 years of support to the Commission on linking Common Agricultural Policy and Water Framework Directive**
- **Farm advisory services are discussed from time to time**
- **Literature survey in the context of the Conference**

Nothing new and still there – Agricultural pollution

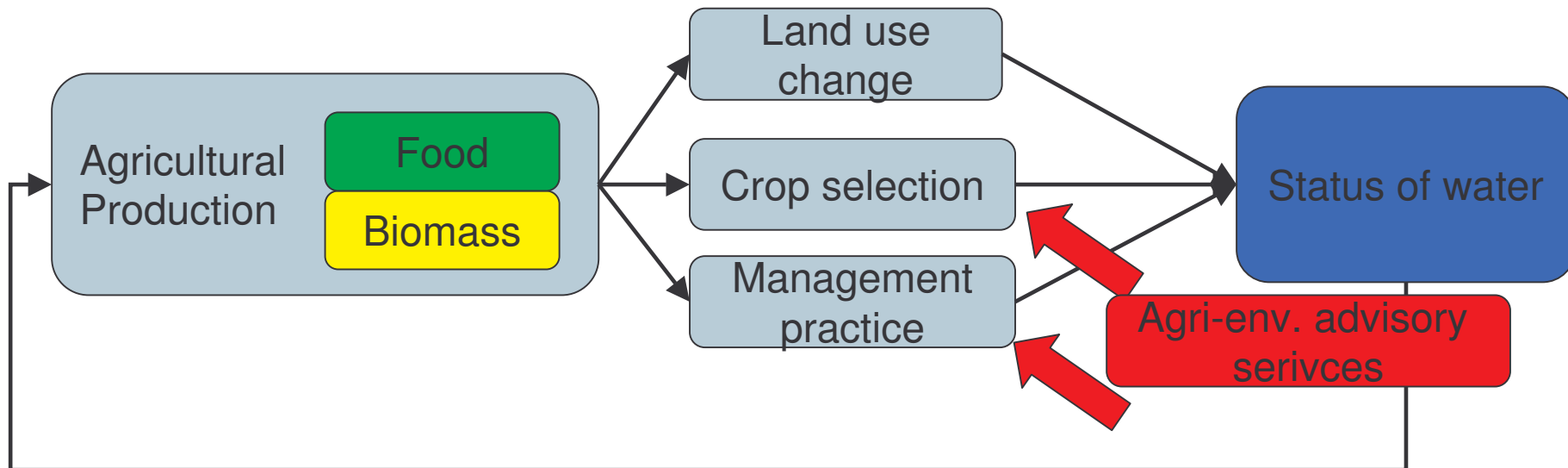


Similar picture can be drawn from the WFD ART 5 assessment

From: EEA Report No. 7/2005



How agriculture effects water



→ European aim to protect water

→ European aim to secure food and energy production

Why agri-env services (AES)?

- **Command and control approaches do not always work...**
- **...agreed objectives on water quality have not always been achieved (e.g. N-Directive)**
- **→ "New"/different approaches are needed**
→ Tailor made solutions are needed
- **Conflicts between water managers and farmers**
→ Create common understanding

Framework for AES

- **Regulation 1782/2003 Cross Compliance: EU-MS had to set up mandatory AES by 1 January 2007.** “the “advisory activity shall cover at least the statutory management requirements and the good agricultural and environmental conditions” (Article 13.2)
- **Rural Development Regulation: Axis 1 (Art. 24) Use of advisory services**
- **Water Framework Directive: (Art. 11) Programs of measures**
- **Upcoming Marine Strategy: Programs of measures**

Mandatory Farm advice – Status 2005

- In some MSs enough advisers to provide advice (AT, DK, GE, SE, SI, UK).
- Not enough advisers (CZ, EE, ES, GR, HU, IT, PL).
- Not enough advisers with training in environmental protection (EE, GR, HU, IT, PL, SI, ES).
- Not enough advisers for nature protection (AT, CZ, DK, EE, FR, GE, ES, GR, HU, IT).
- → What does this mean for voluntary services??

EEA- CIFAS study
<http://ew.eea.europa.eu/cifas/>



Impacts of AES on water pollution

- **Many positive examples reported**
- **Address point and diffuse pollution**
- **AES are often reported to be cost effective**

→but no large scale assessment was found



Obstacles related to AE services

- **Access to funding provided by the administration**
- **Limitations of funding due to limits in budget**
- **Farmers are difficult to convince because of voluntary approach**
- **Sometimes information difficult to find**

Factors affecting success of AES I

- **Ensure easy access for farmers**
- **The design of a scheme has to reflect both the requirements that science demands and the practicability of the actual measure taken**
- **Individual advice is the most effective but the most expensive**
- **Geographical spread of AES**
- **Develop tailor made solutions (e.g. type/size of farm, region)**
- **A combination of AES and other tools (demonstration farms, help-lines, websites, booklets, field walks) is recommended**

Factors affecting success of AES II

Farmers have various environ. obligations:

- **Design of AES should follow an integrated approach (water, soil, biodiv.)**
- **Develop “all-round service” including:**
 - **Advice for financial support activities.**
 - **Communication-support if there are problems with environmentalist**
 - **Organizing actions together with nature-conservationists and other groups.**



Further work

- **Assessment on EU scale could be beneficial to:**
 - **Identify “best practice”**
 - **Clarify cost effectiveness**
 - **Improve administration**
 - **Optimize existing services by exchange various AES approaches**

Some links

- Database on examples of farm advisory tools
<http://cifas.ew.eea.europa.eu/foI099648/FATs-sources-final.xls/download>
- Report on recommended farm advisory tools
http://cifas.ew.eea.europa.eu/foI099648/CIFAS-final_report-recommFATs-final-forWEB.doc/download
- Rural Development programs and WFD
<http://www.ecologic.de/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1369>

**Thank you for
listening.**

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