

Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) 2020-2022

Approved by HOD 57-2019

Footnotes provide full text of the commitments from MD2013 and MD2018 justifying actions in the Work Plan. Some of them might require revision.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention and implementation of the provision ¹				
1	Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention	Contracting parties Drafting Group Lead countries for specific sections	To use the input from activities below	2020
Action 2. Annual accounting at farm level ² :				
2	The group will regularly follow up progress in integration of annual nutrient accounting at farm level in group meetings, discuss measures to facilitate implementation of the action and identify what kind of assistance is needed from the Contracting Parties A Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices to promote annual nutrient accounting at farm level will be developed	Germany to lead national experts	SuMaNu project platform Other CPs	2022 2022
Action 3. Developing guidelines /recommendation to use of standards for nutrient content in manure ³				
3	Develop HELCOM Guidelines/recommendations for the use of national manure standards	Secretariat to lead with the support by the Manure Standards project	Cooperation with PA Bioeconomy of the EUSBSR	In accordance with the project implementation plan, 2020

¹ By 2016 review and an update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching Good Environmental Status, and implementation and enforcement of the provisions, in particular taking into account the following commitments of the Contracting Parties of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting

² To promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses

³ Support development by 2016 of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure, and develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards

	Follow up implementation of the Recommendation through regular discussion of the practices to use standards for nutrient content in manure Discuss measures to facilitate the use of standard			2022
Action 4. Promote development of appropriate methodology for phosphorus recycling (the action has been accomplished in the current context) Development of the Regional nutrient recycling strategy				
4	Elaborate a Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy ⁴ Follow up implementation of the Strategy starting from development of a regional mechanism to monitor the progress.	Finland Drafting group	In cooperation with PRESSURE PA Nutri, PA Bioeconomy and PA Hazard of EUSBSR Projects	2020 2022
Action 5. Enhance transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples				
5	With regard to application of innovative water management measures, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aims at reducing nutrient loads taking into account climate change consequences To start from compilation of practices on sustainable water management (including assessment of efficiency to reduce input of nutrient) in agriculture which can be further developed to a relevant regional document (Guidebook/Recommendation)	All Contracting Parties	In cooperation with PA Bioeconomy and Nutri of EUSBSR Projects WATERDRIVE project	Workshop 2021 continuous
5a	Address issues regarding BAT and BEP for cattle farms throughout the region taking into account its exclusion from BREF on intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. Launch an activity to collect information on national BREFS for cattle farming. Consider a project application based on the results of the stock taking	Contracting Parties [lead country approach] project	EU activities regarding BREF for the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs	Workshop 2021 Continuous

⁴ to initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environment effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs

	<p>Consider a HELCOM document providing guidance to develop BAT for cattle farming.</p> <p>Address issues related to handling of manure from horse, sheep etc. farming with the view to develop regional guidance.</p>			
5b	<p>Knowledge sharing on national measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture</p> <p>Update of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture</p>	Lead country to be identified	Contribution by EMEP, HELCOM PLC IG and RedCore DG	Workshop 2021 2021
5c	<p>Discuss and share knowledge on the climate change impact on agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea, mitigation and adaptation measures</p> <p>Contribute to the fact sheets of secondary climate change parameters⁵</p>	Contracting parties	EN CLIME CCB to contribute	Continuous 2021
Action 6. Exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments voluntary, mandatory and incentivizing, and contribution to the update of the BSAP				
6	<p>Contribute to the BSAP update through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -evaluating of the assessment of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient load from diffuse (agricultural) sources and -proposing of measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture <p>Exchange information on new measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture</p> <p>Sharing knowledge on the effectiveness of agri-environmental measures</p>	Contracting Parties	EU CAP reform PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy, Projects, Cooperation with observers HELCOM ACTION project HELCOM SOM platform GRASS (Conference)	2020 Continuous

⁵ to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by exploring the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations

	Elaboration of suggestions to facilitate implementation of effective measures based on analysis of the factors driving and hampering practical implementation of various measures Exchange of experiences and analyses of development of CAP strategic plans and other policy instruments			2021
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