

Summary

Plant protection products are defined as active substances or preparations for the protection and preservation of plants and plant products against harmful organisms to influence the life processes of plants and to kill the undesired plants or part of plants. These include pesticides used in agriculture for the protection of plants, in gardens, in public parks and on sports grounds.

The annual distribution equivalents (Seq) express the pressure that is caused by the use of pesticides on the aquatic life. The use is weighted on the difference in toxicity to aquatic organisms and residence time in the environment.

This research aims to refine and update the study on the pressure on aquatic life. Firstly, the most recent toxicity data will be processed in the calculation of the indicator. These data are mainly based on the new European recognitions. Secondly, it will include the application mode of the pesticides. This should increase the relevance of occurrence of pesticides and their pressure on the aquatic life. Thirdly, the study will reconsider the distribution of the quantities sold on agriculture and non-agriculture and in the agriculture within the different crops. This should allow a better assessment of the different players in the pressure on aquatic life.