

OSPAR CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

MEETING OF THE OSPAR COMMISSION

COPENHAGEN: 26-30 JUNE 2000

**OSPAR Recommendation 2000/1 on Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for
the Reduction of Inputs of Agricultural Pesticides to the Environment
through the Use of Integrated Crop Management Techniques**

RECALLING Article 2(1) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“OSPAR Convention”);

RECALLING the OSPAR Strategy with regard to Hazardous Substances (reference number: 1998-16);

RECALLING that the OSPAR Action Plan 1998 - 2003 requires, *inter alia*:

- a. the development of descriptions of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and/or Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for certain identified sectors, sources and substances, *inter alia*, pesticides from the agricultural sector;
- b. the adoption of appropriate programmes and measures (including BAT/BEP) for these sectors, sources and substances with a view to continuously reducing discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances;

RECALLING PARCOM Recommendation 94/7 on the Elaboration of National Action Plans and Best Environmental Practice for the Reduction of Inputs to the Environment of Pesticides from Agricultural Use;

RECALLING that the OSPAR Commission published in 1999 a background document on The Reduction of Inputs of Agricultural Pesticides to the Environment Through the Use of Integrated Crop Management Techniques;

NOTING Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, which requires, *inter alia*, the application of the principles of good plant protection practice as well as, wherever possible, the principles of integrated control, and corresponding legislation of other Contracting Parties;

RECOGNISING that the use of some agricultural pesticides, although necessary to agriculture, poses a threat to the marine environment;

RECOGNISING that reducing risks to the marine environment requires a change in the practices of pesticide users;

RECOGNISING that the use of integrated crop management (ICM) techniques is a key way of reducing risk from pesticide use.

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC RECOMMEND:

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purposes of this Recommendation:

- a. **"Pesticides"** means products intended to protect plants against pests;
- b. **"Pests"** means harmful organisms, including diseases, weeds, insects and other invertebrate species;
- c. **"Integrated Crop Management (ICM)"** means an approach to agricultural production which integrates a range of farming practices focusing on crop protection with measures to preserve and enhance the environment and ICM practices and techniques means practices and techniques aimed at achieving ICM;
- d. **"Cultural Control"** means the modification of crop management practices (e.g. crop rotations, drilling dates) to control the pest directly, or to make the environment less favourable for pest invasion, development and/or dispersal;
- e. **"Mechanical Control"** means the use of tools and machinery to control the pest directly or to make the environment less favourable for pest invasion, development and/or dispersal (e.g. rolling to help control soil dwelling insect pests, cultivation to control weeds);
- f. **"Biological Control"** means the use of living organisms, excluding host plants, as pest control agents.

2. Purpose and Scope

Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment by the application of Best Environmental Practice for the reduction of inputs of agricultural pesticides to the environment through the use of integrated crop management techniques.

Scope

2.2 This Recommendation applies to agricultural pesticides used as part of an integrated approach to arable and horticultural production. However, as ICM is a dynamic, whole-farm process which is not only crop-specific but also location/site-specific there are no set rules about how it should be implemented. Therefore, the elements described under section 3 (Programmes and Measures) are not intended to be prescriptive or represent an exhaustive list but, instead, represent general guidance.

3. Programmes and Measures

3.1 National authorities should provide guidance on best environmental practice and the adoption of ICM practices and techniques. Such guidance could cover the following elements:

- a. **Cultural Controls**
 - crop rotations;
 - use of pest and disease resistant varieties;
 - use of management practices which encourage the build-up of natural populations of beneficial insects;
 - use of interplanting;

b. Mechanical Controls

- mechanical weeding;
- ploughing;

c. Biological Controls

- use of beneficial and predatory insects and other natural controls;

d. Advice on When to Use a Pesticide

- crop monitoring and crop diagnosis;
- forecasting diseases;
- use of pest and weed threshold techniques;

e. Pesticide Use

- choosing the right product;
- using the minimum effective dose;
- timing the application correctly;
- spraying in the right weather conditions;
- improved spraying techniques such as the development of low drift spray equipment;
- observing the specific need to protect watercourses, including protection from inputs via groundwater (e.g. the use of no-spray zones);
- filling of spray equipment where it is possible to contain spillages;
- minimising the need to spray over hard surfaces/ground to avoid run-off to water courses.

3.2 Successful technology transfer is a key factor in the promotion of ICM. National authorities should, therefore, develop strategies for promoting the effective transfer of improved technologies and techniques to farmers and their advisors. These may include:

- the use of demonstration farms;
- use of computer systems and decision support models;
- the use of assurance schemes and crop protocols;
- ensuring the results of research are brought to the attention of those preparing relevant educational and training programmes;
- increasing opportunities for farmers and advisors to receive training in ICM practices and techniques;
- providing economic incentives to change farming practices.

3.3 National authorities should consider the use of periodic surveys and other methods for monitoring the uptake of ICM practices and techniques. The survey should include, where possible, monitoring the use of pesticides (e.g. number of sprays per year) in order to assess whether the dependency on pesticides has been reduced.

4. Implementation Reports

4.1 Reports on the implementation of this Recommendation should be submitted to the appropriate OSPAR Working Group in the intersessional period 2004-2005. Subsequent progress reports on implementation should be made on a four yearly basis until this Recommendation is fully implemented.

4.2 When reporting on implementation, the Appendix should apply.

Implementation Report Formats

The format for implementation reports concerning OSPAR Recommendation 2000/1 on Best Environmental Practice for the Reduction of Inputs of Agricultural Pesticides to the Environment through the Use of Integrated Crop Management Techniques as set out below should be used to the extent possible.

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country

Reservation applies

Is measure applicable in your country

If not applicable, then please state why not-----

Means of Implementation:	Legislation	Administrative Action	Negotiated Agreement
	YES / NO*	YES / NO*	YES / NO*

Please provide brief details on such means.

- Please provide information on:
- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
 - b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
 - c. the reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported;
 - d. if appropriate, progress towards being able to lift the reservation.
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* Delete whichever is not appropriate

II. Implementation Report on Application and Effectiveness

Please provide information on the steps taken in your country on the elaboration of BEP for reducing inputs of agricultural pesticides through the use of ICM. Please provide brief details of particular initiatives:

- (i) cultural controls;
- (ii) mechanical controls;
- (iii) biological controls;
- (iv) advice on when to use a pesticide;
- (v) pesticide use;
- (vi) use of technology transfer;
- (vii) surveys of uptake of ICM by farmers.