

# **COST ACTION 869: MITIGATION OPTIONS FOR NUTRIENT REDUCTION IN SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATERS**

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COST 869 (European **CO**operation in the field of **Scientific and Technical Research**) focuses on the steps that need to be taken within the EU Water Framework Directive in order to effectively reduce the nutrient losses from point and diffuse sources to surface waters and groundwater. The Action is undertaken in the context of balancing measures to reduce phosphorus (P) losses with those necessary to reduce other nutrient losses such as nitrogen (N). Such measures are often conflictory, and need to be considered as part of an integrated program of measures.

The outcomes of the discussions within the COST Action will be reported to the new board of the WFD dealing with the interaction between agriculture and water quality.

In August 2009 the following 29 countries participated in the Action: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

Within COST 869, four working groups (WG) are active. Their goals are, respectively, to:

- WG1: develop methodologies to localize critical source areas and transport routes in catchments,
- WG2: study the influence of nutrients on ecological processes in surface waters,
- WG3: evaluate different types of mitigation options,
- WG4: evaluate projects in example areas.

A main activity of WG3 is to develop a database with factsheets about mitigation options. This will be an important tool to share knowledge among participants in the Action. Each factsheet will contain the following information about the option:

- Description, incl. if effect is aimed at nitrogen (N) or phosphorus (P)
- Rationale, mechanism of action
- Relevance, applicability & potential for targeting
- Effectiveness, including uncertainty
- Time frame
- Environmental side-effects / pollution swapping, e.g.
- Administrative handling, control
- Costs
- References

At present (August 2009) a total of 70+ factsheets have been written in draft and are in the process of reviewing. They are available via the website of the Action: [www.COST869.alterra.nl](http://www.COST869.alterra.nl) under "List of options and factsheets".