

Proposal of the Czech National Action plan to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides

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The new EU legislation on pesticides obliges all EU member states to establish the so-called National Action Plans (NAPs) on the sustainable use of pesticides. The intention behind the NAPs is to bring about a reduction in pesticide risks to humans and the environment in the member states in the future. In the Czech Republic (CZ), the proposal of this document is now being prepared. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of the NAP and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment establishes, evaluates and updates NAP every 5 years. The targets of the NAP focus on 1) risk reduction resulting from pesticide use 2) optimization of the use of plant protection products (PPPs) eliminating negative impact on agriculture production. Those targets resulted from identification of the most endangered areas by PPPs (e.g. human health, water resources, and the environment). Further sub-goals mainly involve taking specific measures aimed at achieving risk reduction (e.g. building up advisory services for plant protection, improving public awareness of pesticide health risks, establishing control system overseeing compliance with rules, harmonizing duties of state institutions involved, creating crop specific guidelines and promoting innovation and research of non-chemical methods for plant protection). The specific objectives of the Czech NAP are to be accomplished by the year 2020 and they are 1) 15% residue reduction in plant commodities produced on the territory of the CZ, 2) 15% residue reduction in water resources (surface and underground) and 3) 15% reduction in the number of inhabitants supplied by water containing PPPs residues compared to the period 2008-2010. The State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) plays an important role in the process of implementation and fulfilling measures set up in the NAP. The main responsibilities of the SPA cover tasks dealing with: hot spot management, promoting IPM, information about PPPs safety handling, proposal of legislative acts concerning replacement of toxic PPPs and interlink activities of Ministries and other institutions.