

Swedish farmers, authorities, industry and scientists in co-operation to reduce risks of Plant Protection Products

In order to reduce the risks with Plant Protection Products (PPP) in Swedish agriculture, co-operation between farmers, authorities, industry and scientist has become indispensable. This has resulted in a cycle between 1 risk reduction programmes, 2 actions and 3 monitoring.

1. National programmes for risk reduction

National programmes have been conducted every fifth year since 1987 by the Chemicals Inspectorate and the Board of Agriculture. The programmes have been developed in co-operation with other key authorities and organisations. The key elements of the programmes have been:

- Phase out unacceptable PPP
- Use of comparative assessment and precautionary principle
- Mandatory training of farmers
- The information campaign *Safe Pesticide Use*



2. The information campaign

New PPP legislation was introduced in 1997. This started a discussion about how detailed the legislation should be, with the result that excessively detailed legislation would not be efficient. Instead, the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF) took the initiative to start the voluntary information campaign *Safe Pesticide Use* in order to promote information to farmers, consultants and retailers.



A safe place for filling and cleaning of the sprayer is one of the actions against potential contamination of water that is suggested in the campaign *Safe Pesticide Use*. In this case a 60 cm deep biobed - containing chopped straw, peat and topsoil - is used.
Photo: Per Emgardsson/LandBild

This initiative was taken together with the Chemicals Inspectorate, the Board of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Farmers' Supply & Crop Marketing Association and the Association of Plant and Wood Protection Industries.

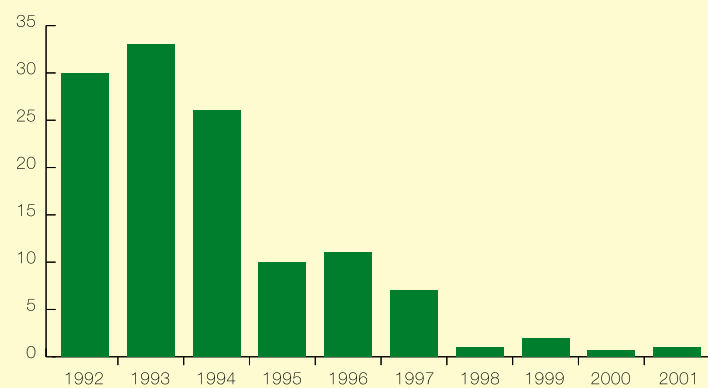
The campaign has distributed information through brochures, courses, leaflets, advertisements and a web site (www.lrf.se/sv). It has focused on:

- Safe filling and cleaning of sprayers
- Safe storage of pesticides
- Safety distance – surface runoff
- Safety distance – wind drift



3. Scientific results

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences has monitored concentrations of PPP in a catchment since 1992. Significant reductions of concentrations of PPP have been demonstrated, as a result of advising and information similar to the recommendations in *Safe Pesticide Use*. The observations have given confidence in *Safe Pesticide Use*.



Average total PPP concentration weighted for time in surface water (µg/l) in May-September. Voluntary consultations in accordance to *Safe Pesticide Use* since 1994.
Dr Jenny Kreuger, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.



the Association of Swedish Growers



the Association of Plant and Wood Protection Industries



the Environmental Protection Agency



the Federation of Swedish Farmers



the Board of Agriculture



the Farmers' Supply & Crop Marketing Association



the Chemicals Inspectorate