

# FOOTPRINT

## Innovative tools for reducing the risk of pesticides impacting on water resources in the EU

### What is FOOTPRINT?

- FOOTPRINT is an innovative project funded by the European Commission (Jan. 2006- Jun. 2009) through its six Framework Programme for Research and Development.
- FOOTPRINT develops 3 software tools to help reduce the transfer of pesticides to water resources throughout the EU.
- The 3 tools operate at 3 scales for 3 different categories of users:
  - Policy- and decision-makers at the EU or MS level
  - Water managers at the catchment level
  - Agricultural advisors at the farm level

### What are the objectives of FOOTPRINT?

- Reduce the transfer of pesticides to water resources and their associated impacts through the provision of applied software tools.
- Assess the benefits provided by alternative crop protection and cropping strategies (e.g. product substitution, reduction of application rate, shift of application dates, changes in crops, installation of buffer zones).
- Provide advice to pesticide users on how to handle pesticides and how to reduce the risk to the environment.
- Contribute significantly to awareness building with regard to the environmental and health risks posed by pesticides.

### What is so special about FOOTPRINT?

- The FOOTPRINT tools result from a true transfer of technology from state-of-the-art science to very applied tools adapted to their users.
- The FOOTPRINT tools are ideally suited to support current and upcoming EU and MS legislation initiatives with regard to pesticides (CAP, WFD, The Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides).
- The initiative has been acclaimed by all those who have come into contact with the project, may they be scientist, practitioners or policy- and decision-makers.



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### Can the FOOTPRINT tools be used for policy-making?

- Being funded as part of SSP (Scientific Support for Policies), the 3 FOOTPRINT tools have been designed from the start as decision support tools for policy-making and implementation of EU and MS policies.
- The advantage of the 3 FOOT tools is that they share the same underlying science and databases whilst being fully adapted to their scale of application.
- Consistent risk assessments can thus be performed at the EU/MS scale, then at the catchment scale then at the farm scale, allowing coherent actions to be taken to reduce water contamination.

### Can the FOOTPRINT tools be applied throughout the EU?

- The FOOTPRINT tools can be deployed throughout the EU25.
- The tools can also integrate local data where available.

### Will the tools be widely available?

- The FOOTPRINT tools will be provided for free through the FOOTPRINT web site from the Autumn 2009.
- New bespoke versions to address the specific needs of a user community or a EU country can be developed
- Any farmer in the EU will have access to FOOTPRINT technology, allowing them to assess and reduce the risk to water resources resulting from the use of pesticides.

### Will the FOOTPRINT tools be supported in the long term?

- The FOOTPRINT tools clearly represent a major breakthrough towards the reduction of pesticide contamination throughout the EU.
- There is widespread consensus that FOOTPRINT should continue beyond the end of the EU project so that the 3 FOOT tools are widely disseminated, supported and further improved.
- Calls have already been made for the development of national and regional versions of the FOOTPRINT tools.
- FOOTPRINT partners have taken steps to create a self-financing support structure which will ensure the long-term sustainability of the FOOTPRINT initiative from mid-2009.

### Who is behind FOOTPRINT?

- FOOTPRINT is made of 15 partner institutions representing 9 EU countries.
- For further information:
  - Visit [www.eu-footprint.org](http://www.eu-footprint.org)
  - Contact the project coordinator (Dr Igor G. Dubus)
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