O.09 - Policy planning and implementation in crop protection; lessons learned in Denmark and The Netherlands

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This paper presents the lessons learned from a historical review of national actions plans on pesticide risk reduction in Denmark and The Netherlands. In both countries the risk reduction began with 50% volume reduction and a phasing out of heavy pesticides. In Denmark the next steps included a gradual lowering of the treatment frequency index (TFI). Recent increases in TFI suggest that the support for the TFI policy is decreasing. In The Netherlands the next step included a 95% reduction in environmental impact. By 2006 already 86% of the 95% had been realised. In the next decade food safety and pesticide residues will probably fill the agenda in The Netherlands, which is not surprising for a country where horticulture dominates arable farming.The historical review revealed a series of success factors. Identifying an urgency of national interest is essential to get the policy development process going. Regular interaction between public and private partners is essential for a smooth policy implementation. A good sequence of actions from government agencies, plant scientists, agricultural industry and farmers is essential for meeting the targets of national action plans. Pesticide risk reduction requires a preceding supply of appropriate IPM strategies.