

O.10 - Environmental risks due to pesticide use at a national scale: indicators calculation on the Belgian sales database

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Belgian pesticide sales statistics are analysed on a period from 1991 to 2005. Risk indicators are calculated in order to compare the effect of pesticides used in agriculture on earthworms, birds, bees and aquatic organisms. These indicators are considered along with the Frequency of Application indicator and a pesticides sales indicator. In general, the risk decreases except for bees. The sales for pesticides used in agriculture are slightly decreasing while the application frequency has increased by 20%. It appears very clearly that the risk pattern is very much influenced by a few active substances. Single risk indicators generally provide divergent analysis of the statistics. The comparison of pesticides sales and the Frequency of Application indicator shows that the reference dose (maximum dose allowed for each application) was reduced about 15% over the analysed period.