Sustainable agriculture in the Danube basin towards a balanced nutrient management





Adam Kovacs ICPDR

Mandate

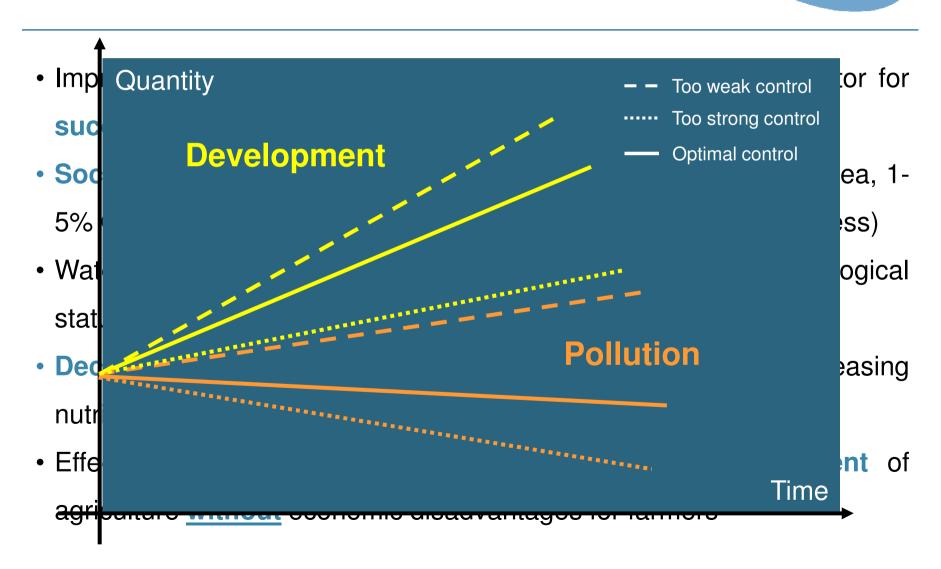


- Ministerial Declaration: agriculture to be addressed at the basin-wide level, need for development of a guidance document
- Heads of Delegations' request for a roadmap on the elaboration
- Main content blocks of the roadmap:
 - 1) Rationale and aims
 - 2) Conceptual approach
 - 3) Expected outcomes
 - 4) Work plan and timeline



Rationale





Aims of the ICPDR



- To develop a guidance document on sustainable agriculture to reduce nutrient pollution from diffuse sources in the DRB
- To recommend sound policy instruments, programs and targeted, costefficient agricultural measures
- To contribute to **sustainable agriculture** by balancing the economic, ecologic and social aspects of agriculture and rural development:
 - ensuring protection of DRB water bodies and Black Sea coastal waters
 - 2) ensuring **profitability** of farmers, **competitiveness** of agriculture and **vitality** of rural areas

Conceptual approach 1)



- Broad discussion process and the close cooperation
- Combining regulative enforcement with farmers' economic benefits:
 - 1) traditional regulative approaches (obligatory measures)
 - 2) agri-environmental programmes (voluntary measures)
 - 3) voluntary measures, incentives sponsored by private initiatives





Conceptual approach 2)



- Target audience: decision makers in the agro-environmental policy field
- Setting up a mechanism to adjust agricultural policies for:
 - 1) more efficiently implement existing legislation
 - 2) better identify, target and finance supplementary measures
- Strategic **framework** to integrate individual national approaches
- Facilitating to design tailor-made national policies





Conceptual approach 3)



- Facilitating a dialogue to jointly implement sustainable practices
- Regional differences to be considered (natural & socio-economic factors)
- Development options according to land productivity and conditions:
 - 1) sustainable intensification of agriculture in the favourable areas
 - 2) integrated rural development in less favourable areas





Expected outcomes 1)



Planned main **building blocks** of the guidance document:

- 1) Summary of the **knowledge base** on agriculture:
 - key facts of the agricultural sector
 - economic drivers and development scenarios in agriculture
 - implementation of existing legal framework and financial mechanism
- 2) Summary of the **nutrient pollution** related issues:
 - current status and trends of water quality related to nutrients
 - catchment modelling (MONERIS application for the Danube basin)

Expected outcomes 2)



- 3) Sound **policy recommendations** in order to facilitate the implementation of efficient agricultural practices within the DRB:
 - policy tools (regulatory, advisory, financial)
 - financing measures and organizing advisory services
- 4) Guidance on efficient agricultural practices for the DRB:
 - principles of cost-efficient measure implementation
 - catalogue of measures/actions (for regions, scenarios and farm sizes)
 - pilot projects and case studies on good practices on nutrient reduction

With whom?



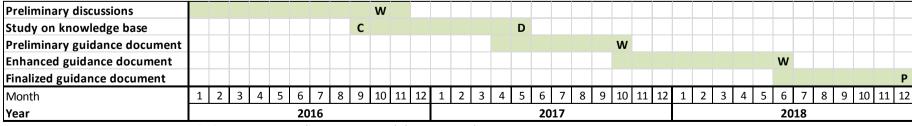


How to get there?



Way of elaboration of the guidance paper:

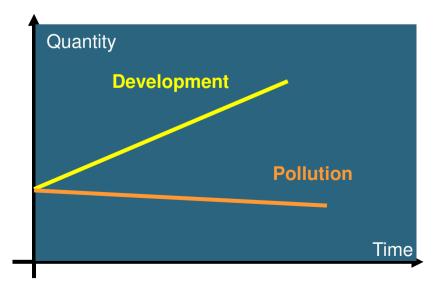
- Core activity of the ICPDR Nutrients Task Group for 2016-2018
- First discussions, information exchange (EC, FAO, Danube Soya)
- Pre-study to be implemented to compile a knowledge base
- Broad workshops, public consultation and follow-up workshops
- Potential pilot project in one of the non-EU MS







- Decoupling agricultural development from pollution is possible
- Water and agricultural policies need to be aligned
- Policy framework is needed for consistent approaches
- Cost-efficient and targeted measures should be promoted



Thank you for your attention!



