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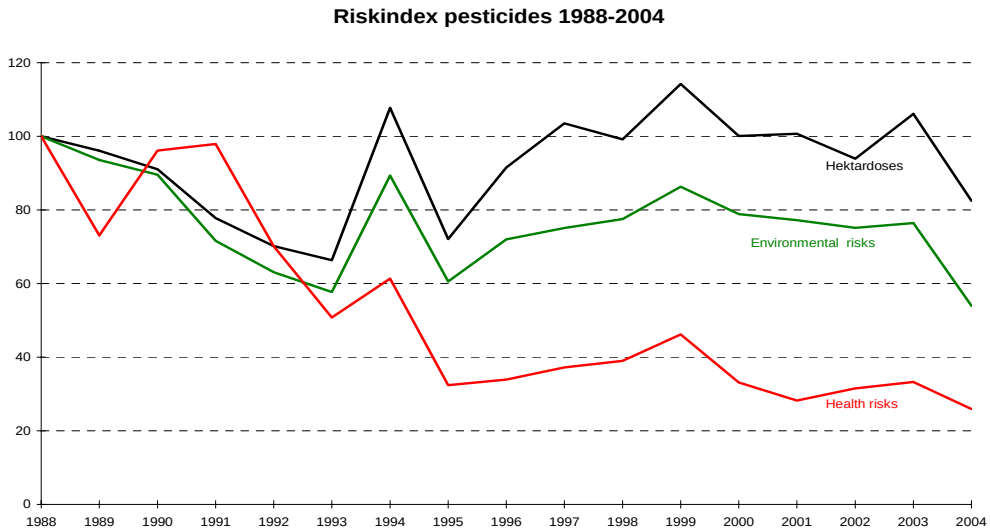
Three case studies from Sweden, where collaboration and partnership relations have been key components in the projects success in achieving risk reduction.

1st case Co-operation with the Government as Initiator.
During the 1990ies Sweden launched several action plans for risk mitigation of pesticides. These programmes were issued by the government and a key component was to get all stakeholders involved in the programmes and to collaborate.

A good start was that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment joined forces to formulate a measurable aim (50 % reduction of the risks) for the programme. The commission to develop the detailed programmes was given to the agricultural, health and environmental authorities as a shared task. Therefore instead of devoting our time to endless discussions on the size of various risks, all parties concerned agreed that use of pesticides is associated with potential risks for the farmer, the consumer of food commodities and for the environment and that uses is not optimal either from an agricultural or from a health and environmental standpoint and that these risks should and could be reduced.

A high pressure from the public opinion and therefore a political agreement over all parties to support the programme and committed co-operation from the Federation of Swedish farmers and the industry branch organisation Swedish Crop Protection has been important. The results achieved can be seen in the figure below.



Reference: Result of action plan on risk mitigation of pesticides Jordbruksverket Report No 2000:4 (in Swedish) and Short Presentation of the action programme at www.kemi.se

2nd case Co-operation with Farmers as the Initiator and Driving Force.

The second case is a programme called ***Safe use of Pesticides*** originating from the policy objectives by the Federation of the Swedish farmers (LRF). This is a practical programme for information and education of the farmer in how he should behave in order to reduce his own risks from spraying pesticides as well as how he should behave in order to reduce environmental pollution. Health and environmental indicators to be used at farm levels have been developed.

The agreed background is that *"Use of pesticides is associated with risks"* and the project was started in order to prevent presupposed problems. The information campaign "Safe Pesticide Use" was launched in 1997 on initiative of the Federation of Swedish farmers (LRF) in cooperation with the Swedish Crop Protection Association, Pesticides Retailers, the Nationals Chemicals Inspectorate (KemI), the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SJV) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The start of the campaign depicts the change in Sweden where authorities and the agricultural sector are closely working together to successfully reach environmental goals.

The campaign is based on comprehensive transfer of know-how, training and counselling as key elements. It is believed that an active participation from the farmers leads to increased flexibility and incentive when it comes to devising creative solutions. An important part of this working model is to produce up-to-date material that is used in courses, field trips and individual counselling. In daily work within the programme it is the local groups that with the information campaign tools discuss their own problems and possible solutions.

Another important part is the implementation of new legislation regarding compulsory book-keeping of pesticide use, regulations concerning the use of pesticides in water-protection areas as well as requirements of using and collecting data of wind velocity and -direction as well as temperature. A goal is to eliminate that pesticide pollution from farm operation is found in measurable amounts in lakes, watercourses or groundwater.

The collaboration between authorities, chemical companies and the farmer organisation guarantee that the information is correct, new and reaches the farmer.

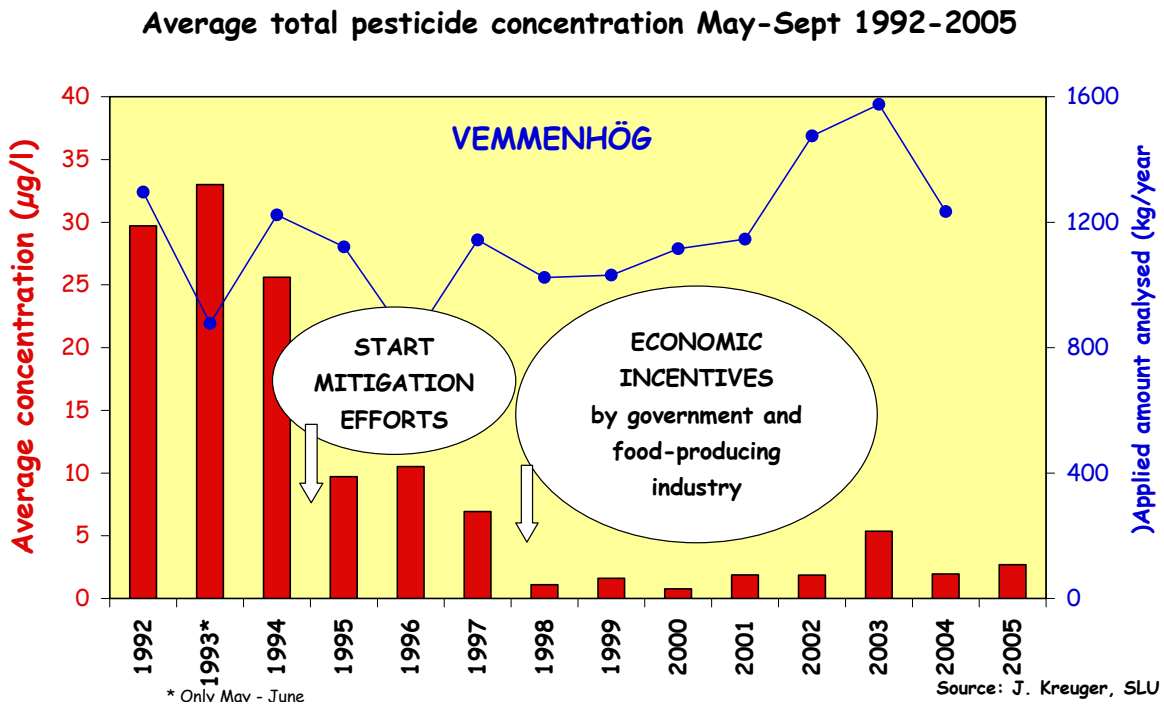
Reference: More info can be found at www.lrf.se/sakertvaxtskydd

3rd Case; Co-operation with Researchers at Agricultural University as the Initiator.

A research monitoring project was initiated at the Swedish Agricultural University in 1990 that aimed at investigation pesticide sources, pathways and occurrence in stream water within an agricultural catchment area. In order to get a fuller picture the 2nd year and onwards the farmers were involved and interviewed on their use of pesticides. As the farmers were taking their time to give the researchers information on use of pesticides, the researchers wanted to give something back. Since 1994, farmers in the catchment area have received extensive information and feedback regarding best management practises for pesticides adapted to local conditions on the farm and yearly review of what amount of pesticides appear in their stream water. The project has continued during the entire 1990's. The results demonstrate a considerable reduction in overall pesticide findings in the stream, with concentrations down by more than 90% without decrease in use of pesticides. The most notable decrease in concentration levels and transported amounts occurred in 1995, coinciding with the onset of

the site specific information efforts. The decreasing levels of pesticides in stream water from the catchment area can primarily be attributed to an increased awareness amongst the farmers on better routines for the correct handling of spraying equipment and application procedures, including the practice of total weed killing on farmyards.

Reference: J Kreuger and E Nilsson. Catchment scale risk –mitigation experiences – key issues for reducing pesticide transport to surface waters. *In 2001 BCPC Symposium Proceedings NO. 78: Pesticide Behaviour in Soil and Water*



In the area of general chemicals we also have examples where the Swedish Construction Federation has adopted an ambitious programme on "Building without substances that are hazardous to health and the environment. This programme has been developed together with suppliers of construction material, the constructors and the environmental and health authorities. This has increased its stringency and trust wordiness and its usefulness. The programme is ongoing and can be found at **www.bastaonline.se** *I could also talk about that project if you wish.*