

# BRABANT CASE STUDY



Collective actions to improve water quality in the Dutch province

Brabant  
[www.fairway-project.eu](http://www.fairway-project.eu)  
[www.schoon-water.nl](http://www.schoon-water.nl)

## THE PROVINCE: NOORD-BRABANT

In Noord-Brabant, drinking water is produced from groundwater, abstracted from 39 locations to supply 2.5 million people. Monitoring showed that pesticide use in agriculture and urban areas is a threat to water quality. Since 2001, several parties work together to protect drinking water.



## 'CLEAN WATER FOR BRABANT'

**Goal:** reduce pesticide emission to groundwater  
**Initiators:** the province, the local water authorities and the drinking water company.  
**Participants:** municipalities, civilians and over 300 farmers and contractors.  
**Advisers:** CLM Research & Advice and Delphy

## FARMERS

- Advice on alternatives for chemical plant protection products
- Local meetings to share experiences
- Monitoring yearly pesticide use and its effect on water quality



## CITIZENS AND PROFESSIONAL USERS

- Lessons at schools about water quality
- Campaign to promote sustainable gardening
- Advice on management of municipal green space, holiday parks and sports fields
- Non chemical innovations on hard surface and in green in cities

## LESSONS LEARNED:

- Engage farmers, contractors and supermarkets: synchronize their goals.
- Cooperate with local advisers who can give farm-specific advice.
- Promote new techniques: almost every farmer is interested in innovation. New machines can secure long-term results!



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