



FAIRWAY

FARMERS, FARM ADVISORS, POLICY MAKERS

Decision support tools can help users identify which measures are most efficient at addressing drinking water protection issues. While there are many DSTs available in Europe, transferring their use from one country to another is not easy.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[R.K. Laursen et al. \(2019\) Evaluation of Decision Supports Tools. FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 5.2 216 pp](#)

[Nicholson, F et al. \(2020\) How Can Decision Support Tools Help Reduce Nitrate and Pesticide Pollution from Agriculture? A Literature Review and Practical Insights from the EU FAIRWAY Project. Water 2, 768.](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



FAIRWAY received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727984

KEY MESSAGE

Although most EU countries already have comparable decision support tools, designed to address similar problems, there are obstacles to exchanging the tools between countries.

EVIDENCE

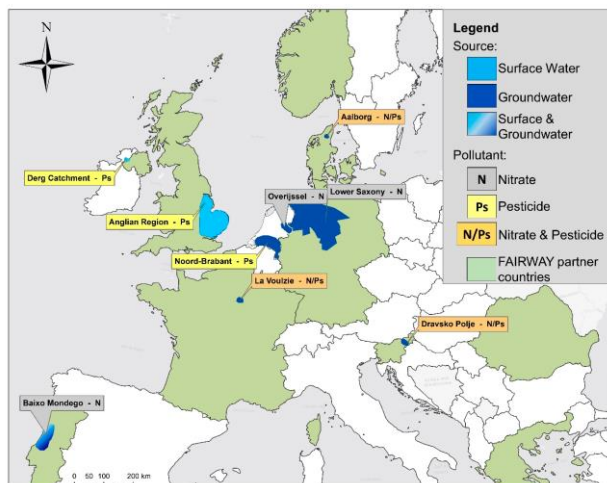
Decision support tools (DSTs) are designed to help end users make more effective decisions about best practice in the appropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides to minimize the contamination of drinking water.

EXPLANATION

FAIRWAY conducted a literature survey and review of DSTs currently used by farmers, advisers, water managers and policy makers in the [FAIRWAY case studies](#) and countries.

Bilateral contact was made with the developers of a shortlist of 12 DSTs for support and access to the software. Nine FAIRWAY case studies then trialed the use of the DSTs with local data and meetings with and demonstrations to stakeholders.

Being able to exchange and test this number of DSTs across the EU is unique and provided valuable information and insights including: information about the needs of farmers and stakeholders in term of functionality, use and access and their attitude towards DSTs. Barriers to exchanging DSTs between countries included differences in: legislation, advisory frameworks, country-specific and statistically sound data, geo-climate and language. Users preferred to either enhance their existing tools or to develop new region-specific ones, rather than attempt to modify a DST developed for another country.



The nine FAIRWAY case study sites involved in the DST evaluation (Nicholson et al. (2020))