How to stimulate the installation and use of on farm bioremediation systems to avoid point pollution

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Situation

– Principles of bio purification were already investigated
– Legislation was changed by the end of 2013

Goals

– Inform and sensitize farmers about the importance of point pollutions
– Define the bottlenecks
– Stimulating the installation of a bio purification system
– Make a brochure and videos and make sure that they are available for the farmers
Project steps

1. Define bottlenecks

2. Make useful tools to inform the farmers

3. Sensitize the farmers
Define bottlenecks

- Survey with 136 farmers for 15 different crops
  - Too little surveys to make big statistical analyses
  - But the bottlenecks seem to be the same for all the different crops
    - Filling the sprayer
    - Outside cleaning of the sprayer
Define bottlenecks

Spillage

Define bottlenecks

Discard remnants

Bad Waste management

Outside cleaning on paved surfaces

Seals
Define bottlenecks

Connection from sewer with river
Make useful tools to inform the farmers

- Brochure
  - At pcfruit: Distributed 600 brochures
Make useful tools to inform the farmers

Diagram showing different plant mixes and labels such as 'Carex acutiformis (Sedge grass)' and 'Salix triandra (Willow)'.
Make useful tools to inform the farmers

- Video
  - YouTube
  - Step by step
Make useful tools to inform the farmers

- Demo-biofilter
  - Combine different elements in a small model
  - Easy transport
Sensitize the farmers

- Project was together with other research stations who did the sensitization in the other crops
- At pcfruit, during the project (2 years)
  - We wrote 16 articles in several magazines
  - We presented the bio purification systems at 18 events
    - Biggest event ‘Werktuigdagen in Sint-Truiden’ in 2015, where 12500 farmers, researchers and people linked with farmer activities attended
  - We gave personal advice for almost 30 farmers
  - We organize workshops (building biofilter in group together with advisers of pcfruit npo) and give farmers the opportunity to order packages so they can build it at home with the YouTube film => 17 biofilters build in 2 years
Sensitize the farmers (workshop)
Sensitize the farmers (Day of the client)