

February 2018

Manfred Roettele – TOPPS Project Manager

Invitation for the 2nd TOPPS academy course

Best Management Practices to protect water

21-25th May 2018 at University Turin, Italy

1. TOPPS – A reminder

The TOPPS projects (www.topps-life.org) are an ECPA¹ initiative to reduce losses of Plant Protection Products (PPP) to water, which began with an EU Life program co-funded project to reduce point source pollution. TOPPS stands for Train Operators and Promote best Practices & Sustainability. Project work is carried out with the support of local partners and associations in various EU countries.

The TOPPS concept is to develop and disseminate a framework of commonly agreed and practical Best Management Practices (BMPs) aimed at reducing or eliminating water contamination by PPPs.

TOPPS provides risk diagnosis tools and a toolbox of mitigation measures comprised of BMP recommendations. By means of active dissemination in theory and practice through the TOPPS partner network we try to reach authorities, advisers, farmers and stakeholders and to gather support for widespread BMP adoption and implementation throughout the EU (e.g. by referencing TOPPS - BMPs in official national water stewardship recommendations and trainings, National Action Plans, Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans, etc.).

2. TOPPS - Academy course

Experience in the TOPPS projects shows that consistent BMP implementation to protect water needs to be enacted at each of the different steps in the crop protection process i.e. when planning to spray, spray tank filling, spraying, equipment cleaning, and disposal of excess spray solution after spraying. The key elements that need to be addressed in this context are the PPP itself, infrastructure, application equipment, and agricultural practices. The first TOPPS academy course took place in October 2016 and was well attended by, amongst others, representatives from authorities and organisations responsible for agricultural training and advisory services.

The overall goals of the TOPPS academy course are:

- Develop a broad understanding of diagnosis tools and BMP mitigation measures throughout the crop protection process in theory and practice.

¹ ECPA = European Crop Protection Association, Brussels

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- Transfer knowledge on Best Management Practices to reduce losses of PPP to water via the main entry routes: point sources, runoff/ erosion, spray drift, drainage and leaching.
- Strengthen dissemination activities to farmers and advisers through official and private involvement and support.
- Provide hands-on experience and insight into practical aspects of the implementation of BMPs.

3. Who should attend the TOPPS Academy Course?

The course is intended for persons interested in both theoretical and technical aspects of reducing PPP losses to water. It will concentrate on practical solutions which can be implemented by farmers. The course will highlight the need for wider implementation of trainings and consistent recommendations. Please see below some examples of the kinds of people who could benefit from attending the course (and recipients of this invitation are encouraged to pass it on to relevant contacts as appropriate):

- Senior advisors (e.g. involved in advisor training programs) in national farmer/grower associations, chambers of agriculture, etc.
- University/Farmer school teachers involved in education for agricultural engineers
- Agricultural advisors of drinking water providers, water agencies
- Representatives from Agricultural and Environmental Ministries (e.g. those involved in water protection, and/or definition of good agricultural practices, and/or definition of EU CAP 2nd pillar environmental measures, and/or definition of NAPs of EU Sustainable Use Directive for Pesticides)
- River Basin Managers (e.g. involved in water protection in relation to agriculture)
- Persons in all regulatory or stakeholder organizations involved in regulatory and stewardship activities

The course will be restricted to 30 persons and will require participants to cover their travel and accommodation costs. The cost for the course itself will be covered by ECPA.

Course language is English.

The course will run for three days, from 22 to 24th May 2018 at the University of Turin (May 21st* and May 25th are planned as travel days). The course is offered to participants from all European countries.

For hotel accommodation (based on 4 nights) cost will be approximately €350. Hotel reservations will be made through the course organizers. Travel connections are to the Airport of Turin or Airport of Milan (Malpensa). Further travel details will be given after registration.

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* please note that in some countries the 21st of May 2018 is a public holiday.

4. Programme of the TOPPS academy course (shortened outline – note: the final programme will be issued after registration)

First day - Reduce PPP - losses from point sources (morning theory, afternoon practice)

- a) Correct behaviour of the operator
- b) Improvement of equipment (Sprayer cleaning / filling /transport)
- c) Infrastructure (Remnant management/ washing & filling place / storage)

Second day - Reduce PPP losses from Spray drift (theory, practice)

- a) Field crop sprayers, bush & tree crop sprayers, and handheld equipment
- b) Adjustment of sprayers
- c) Risk diagnosis and effects of mitigation measures
- d) Drift measurement

Third day - Reduce PPP losses from Runoff / Erosion, Drainage and Leaching (theory, practice)

- a) Risk analysis (understand water movement in soils and landscape)
- b) Perform a runoff risk audit in the field
- c) See mitigation measures in the field (in and out of field) and discuss BMP measures toolbox.
- d) Mitigation measures to reduce PPP contamination risk due to drainage and leaching
- e) WRAP UP & CLOSE at 16.00 [to allow travel home that evening, or the following morning]

Course participants will receive a folder containing all the course documentation, and a certificate of attendance.

Please see next page for the Registration Sheet that needs to be filled out and returned.

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Registration sheet

If you wish to participate in the TOPPS academy course, please send your registration details using the form below **by April 3rd 2018** to the TOPPS project manager by E-mail: **Manfred.Roettele@Betterdecisions.de**

We will confirm the registrations by 16th April 2018, subject to the restricted number of places available.

Registration details for TOPPS academy course - Turin University 21st to 25th May 2018	
First name	
Last name	
Title	
Organization	
Professional position	
Address	
Post code	
E-mail	
Telephone	

If you have further questions
Please contact

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