"Empowering farmers to protect water"

Dr. Volker Laabs, BASF SE
TOPPS Chairman, November 2018
TOPPS 2019+ Project Objectives

- Develop and optimize farmer outreach and decision-support tools

- Set up TOPPS catchments to...
  - demonstrate efficiency of water protection concept and BMPs*
  - test and fine tune farmer engagement approaches

- Maintain and expand strong TOPPS partner and EU expert network for water protection in agriculture

- Contribute to goals of EU Water Framework Dir., Sustainable Use Dir., and CAP reform

*BMPs: Best management practices (diagnosis + measures)
1. Strengthen the dissemination and uptake of BMPs via
   - development of web-based decision support tools
   - reach-out to farmer schools/universities and associations

2. Demonstration catchment initiatives to showcase BMP effectiveness and develop stakeholder cooperation blueprints

3. Maintain training/partner platforms in countries to
   - keep training materials updated
   - provide lighthouse trainings at country level
   - conduct an international TOPPS Expert Academy (in 2020)
Module 1: New DS-Tools and Stakeholders

Tasks

- Decision Support tool for **holistic catchment diagnosis**
  - develop web-based tool to diagnose field vulnerability for runoff, drainage and leaching transfer

- Self-diagnosis tool for **integrated water protection** on farms
  - develop central landing site webtool for farmer/advisors to access all TOPPS DST uses (FES, spray drift, EOS/Step-Water, ...)
  - pilot uses and translate final tools into relevant languages

- Engage **new stakeholder groups** to disseminate BMPs
  - Farmer schools/universities: learning curricula
  - Farmer/grower associations: vocational training
Module 2: Demonstration Catchments

Tasks

- Identify suitable catchments & partners (max. two catchments)
- Conduct initial catchment audit and field vulnerability classification
- Develop catchment management plan as multi-stakeholder activity: Kick-off trainings, infrastructure improvements, BMPs
- Yearly evaluation of BMP implementation progress, water monitoring data:
  - follow-up on unexpected results & learnings
Module 3: Training & Partner Platforms

Tasks

- **Core countries** (BE, DE, FR, ES, IT, NL, PL)
  - provide basic set of trainings, update of materials
  - engage new stakeholder groups (schools, associations)

- **Extension countries** (GR, HU, PT, RO, SK + 2 new EU MSs)
  - intensify existing training activities, update of materials
  - strengthen expertise and outreach of partners

- **EU TOPPS Academy**
  - Expert workshop: Provide high-level expert trainings on all relevant water pollution pathways
Summary

The TOPPS 2019+ multi-stakeholder project will in the next 3 years...

- Produce new state-of-the-art training and decision support tools for water protection in agriculture

- Provide „seeing is believing“ experiences in demonstration catchments

- Continue to bring together an EU network engaged for achieving practical and effective water protection in modern agriculture
Thank you for your attention!

... and also a big thank you to all of our project partners!