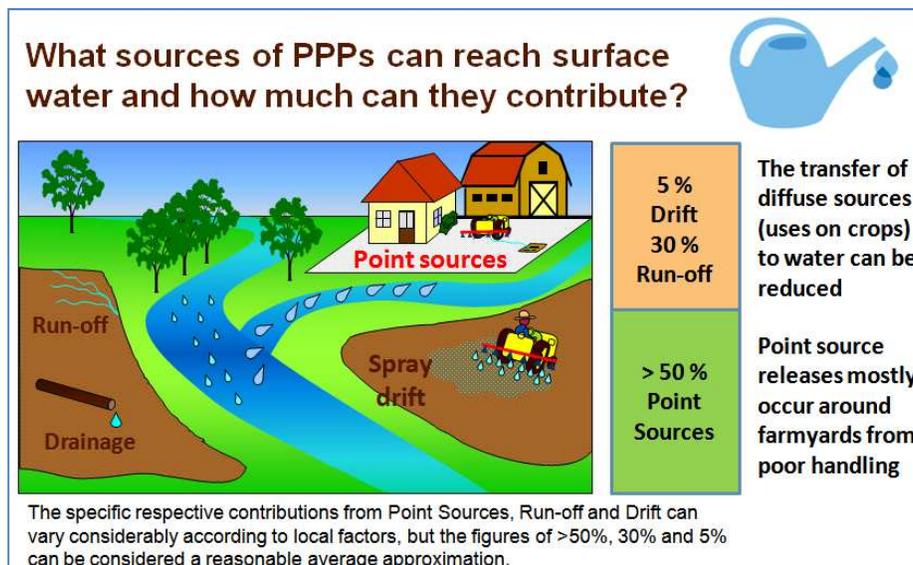


## TOPPS - prowadis

### Train Operators and Promote Best Practices & Sustainability

This Newsletter edition seeks to maintain awareness of the relative contributions to surface water contamination from “point sources” and “diffuse sources” respectively, and to briefly discuss the different challenges they pose.

The TOPPS-prowadis project has focussed over the last three years on reducing entries of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) into surface water from the field (*diffuse sources*). International project teams have developed tools and proposed measures on how to reduce the risk of such PPP contamination resulting from applications in the field. It is impossible to avoid the fact that unpredictable weather conditions, different soils, and landscape factors influence the efficacy of the mitigation measures proposed. For these reasons we can realistically expect to be able to significantly reduce PPP entries to water from diffuse sources such that they do not pose any unacceptable risk, but we will not be able to avoid them completely.



In the case of **point sources**, which result mainly from PPP handling on the farm and in the farmyard, we have the possibility to largely avoid PPP losses to water, because we can control all the relevant factors.

These are:

- Correct behaviour and technique by the operator;
- Environmentally optimized sprayers;
- Putting in place suitable infrastructure.

It is known from a variety of studies that have isolated PPP losses at the farmyard drain, and from measurements at sewage plant outlets that point sources commonly contribute more than 50 % of the PPP findings in surface water. The main risk areas are correct cleaning of sprayers, sprayer filling, and the management of diluted but contaminated liquids which occur on farm through outside cleaning and other maintenance activities. Water contamination from point sources can to a great extent be avoided, so addressing these offers the possibility of quick wins for water protection.

Therefore, while the TOPPS-prowadis project focus has moved on from earlier TOPPS project work which specifically addressed Point Sources, it remains the case that it is still essential to continue to inform, educate and train operators on how to close the Point Source entry route, and to make other stakeholders aware that they too can contribute to improved techniques and infrastructure in order to reduce these risks and the possibility for the mistakes that are typically the causes of point source contamination.

**..... because, water protection starts in the minds of people !**

TOPPS-projects are executed by local experts with support of ECPA. [www.TOPPS-life.org](http://www.TOPPS-life.org)