



FAIRWAY

EU DECISION MAKERS: MEASURES TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER

Decision support tools can help users identify which measures are most efficient at addressing drinking water protection issues. While there are many DSTs available, the most successful ones are also those that have the best potential for application or usage in the field.

CONTACT

WEBSITE: <https://fairway-is.eu>
EMAIL: fairway@wur.nl

FURTHER DETAILS

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

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KEY MESSAGE

Decision support tools are helpful in advising farmers about best practices in the application of fertilizers and pesticides, in order to both optimize crop yield and prevent water pollution problems.

EXPLANATION

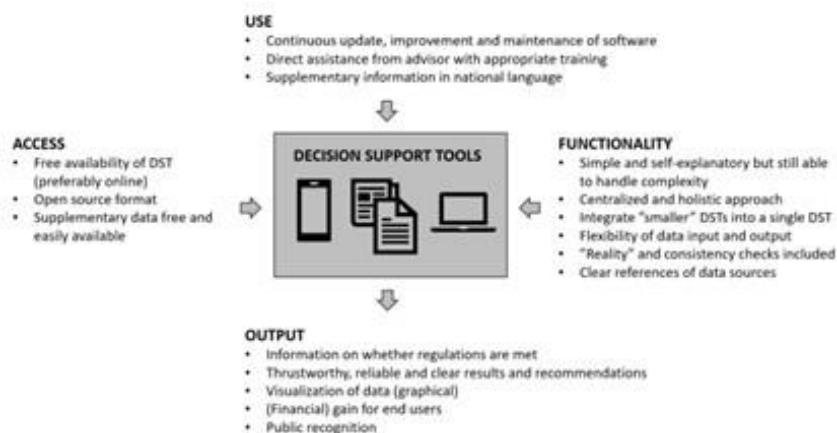
Decision support tools (DSTs) are designed to help end users make more effective decisions about best practice in the most appropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides to minimize the contamination of drinking water. A number are currently in use in European countries, varying according to scale, pollutions addressed and integration of mitigation measures.

EVIDENCE

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. 36 of particular interest were identified, varying in scale of use (field, farm, catchment, regional), pollutants addressed (nutrients, pesticides) and if mitigation measures were integrated.

Criteria for successful DSTs were identified that included

- **Functionality:** simple and self-explanatory (but able to handle complexity), centralised and holistic approach, integration of smaller DSTs into a single one, flexibility of data input and output, reality and consistency checks, reference of data sources.
- **Accessibility:** freely available online, open source, supplementary data available
- **Use:** software update, improvement and maintenance, available support, local language.



Criteria that successful DSTs should fulfil