

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOWERING DIFFUSE SOURCE WATER POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

Public opinion surveys across OECD countries have over recent years consistently ranked water pollution as one of the top public environmental concerns. There is also a growing global demand for agriculture to increase production of food, feed, fuel and fibre, some of which is supplied by OECD countries. Agricultural activity, however, will always involve some loss of nutrients, pesticides, soils and other contaminants into water systems (i.e. surface water, groundwater and marine environments). In exploring new policy opportunities and market approaches to minimise diffuse source pollution from agriculture across OECD countries, this paper examines the policy: challenges (Section I); reforms (Section II); opportunities (Section III); and policy governance issues (Section IV).

Keywords

agriculture; diffuse water pollution; policies