

Environment & Health Task Force

Task force composition

Coca-Cola European Union Group, HJ Heinz, Kraft Foods, ECETOC, Monsanto Europe-Africa, Unilever, Veolia Environment

Main Objectives

The task force organises expert groups comprising scientists from member companies and from external organisations to address the following objectives:

- To contribute to the understanding of the risks of agricultural/industrial activities to human health and the environment
- To assess and control of agricultural industrial impact
- To promote the best agricultural practices and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Expert Group on Sustainable Water Management for Crops

Monsanto Europe-Africa (BE), Veolia Environment (FR), Sai Platform (BE), Wageningen University (NL), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (AT), Catholic University of Piacenza (IT), Joint Research Centre (IT)

This activity will consider the sustainable use of water in crop production, taking account of EU policies and environmental capacity and condition. The starting point for the activity will be to receive an overview of the European legislation on water policy, including Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Common Agricultural Policies (CAP). Based on the outcome of this review of current agricultural policies in Europe a series of case studies will be undertaken on the following crops: maize, sunflower, soybean, tomatoes, oranges, carrots and potatoes.

The studies will tackle the following aspects:

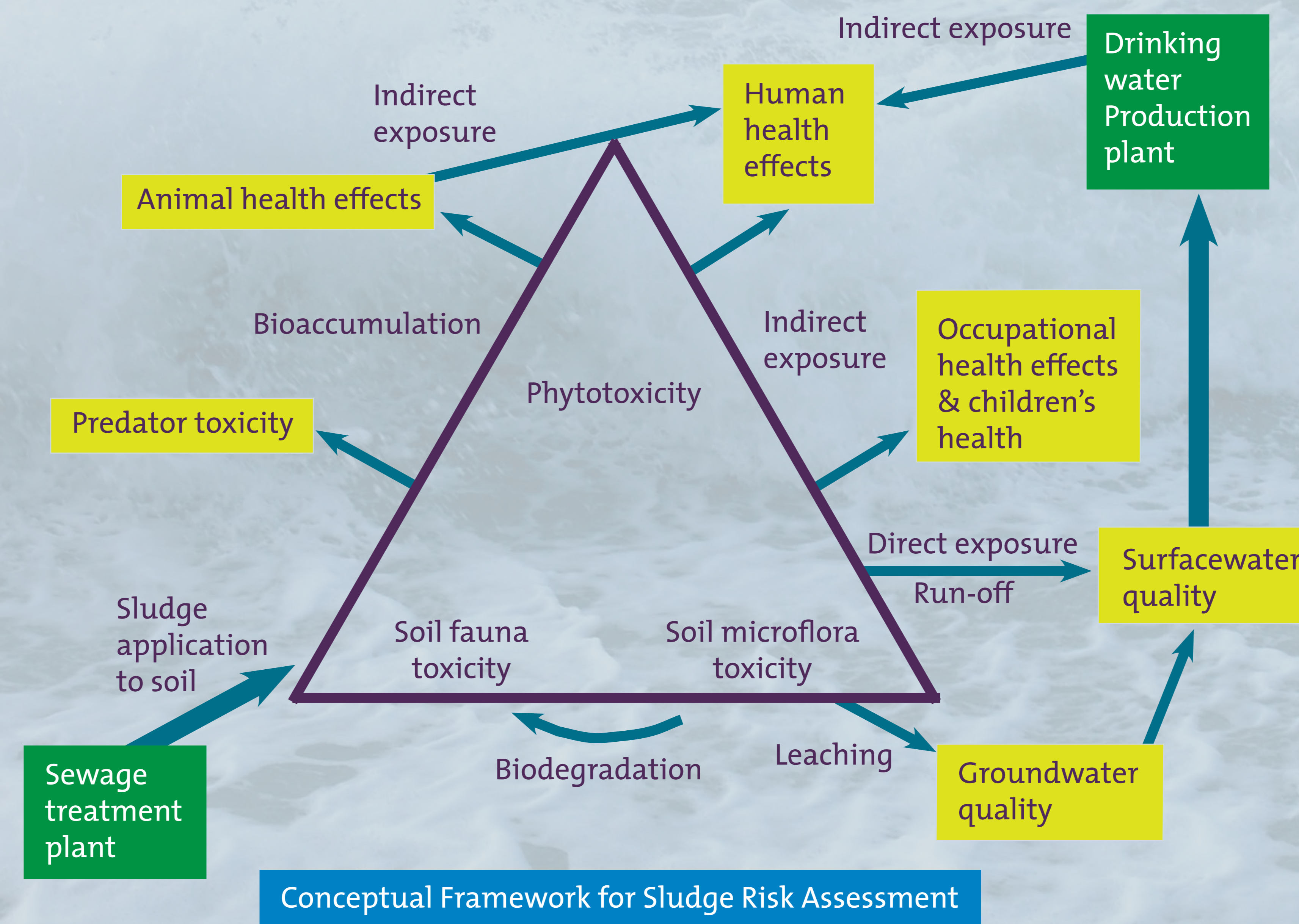
- EU Water Framework and Directive (WFD) and Common Agriculture Policies (CAP)
- Crop Modelling Information and Validation
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), including irrigation industry needs and crop needs.

A key output will be a guidance document for farmers and industry on best practices for sustainable water use.

Expert Group on Risk Assessment of Sewage Sludge

Procter & Gamble (BE), Unilever (UK), Water Research Centre (UK), Research Institute for Plant Nutrition (IT), Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SE), National Environmental Research Institute (DK), Imperial College London (UK) and independent consultant (UK)

The use of sludge in agriculture provides important crop nutrients and soil humus, and if properly managed, does not negatively impact the environment or public health. The aim of the activity was to develop a risk-based framework for assessing the impact of substances on the "sludge system", and moreover to assess the environmental and health impact of the main disposal and recycling routes for sewage sludge. This framework can be used for scientific risk assessment on organic chemicals and was applied to the surfactant LAS, as a case study example.



Publication

Diederik Schowanek, Helen David, Rosa Francaviglia, Jeremy Hall, Holger Kirchmann, Paul Henning Krogh, Nathalie Schraepen, Stephen Smith. Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate (LAS) in Sewage Sludge used on Agricultural Soil, *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* 2007, 49: 245-249.

Expert Group on Water Safety and the Food Supply Chain

WHO(CH), Unilever(UK), Nestlé(CH), University of Darmstadt (DE), Kiwa Water Research (NL), Südzucker/Beneo Group (DE), Water Resource Centre (IL), Groupe Danone (FR), University of Hannover (DE), Veolia Environment (FR) and independent consultant (UK)

In developing strategies for sustainable use of water in the food industry from production through the final product, it is important to make use of the resources available. While water use in the food industry is often classified as potable or non-potable, what is actually important is the suitability for the intended use.

The WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality sets targets for microbial and chemical contaminants in the context of a framework for safe drinking water (water safety plans), which has been applied to the specific requirements of food companies. The framework provides management principles based on sound science to allow them to assess the potential for optimising water use and for assessing the potential impact of changes in water quality on their business.

Publication

ILSI Europe Expert Group on Water Safety. Considering water quality for use in the food industry, *ILSI Europe Report Series* 2008.

