Left: Pesticide application in Uganda (Photo: Eawag/STPH).
Right: Maintenance of pesticide sampling devices in the field (Photo: Eawag).

ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY

Protecting surface water against diffuse pollution with agrochemicals.

Research Areas

- Quantification of exposure of water bodies with agrochemicals (main focus:pesticides);
- Studying transport pathways from fields to water bodies;
- Modelling exposure of water bodies due to diffuse pollution from agriculture;
- Inter- and transdisciplinary research on mitigating negative effects of pesticide use on human and environmental health.

Regions

Europe with a main focus on Switzerland, Costa Rica, South Africa, and Uganda.

Partners

Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon; Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN); University of Bern; Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute; Instituto Regional de Estudios en Sustancias Tóxicas (IRET); Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica; Ugandan Association for Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH); Makerere University; Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Kampala; and Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, Utrecht University.

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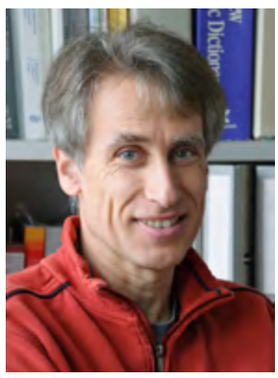
Contribution to the WFSC

The group of Environmental Chemistry at Eawag works on understanding the exposure of the aquatic environment to anthropogenic organic pollutants and the fate of these pollutants in the water cycle. Food and water issues are closely related: food production relies on sufficient water of acceptable quality, on the other hand, food production may impair water resources. Poor practices of pesticide use may also impair human and environmental health at the same time. We contribute to solutions to these intertwined problems.



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