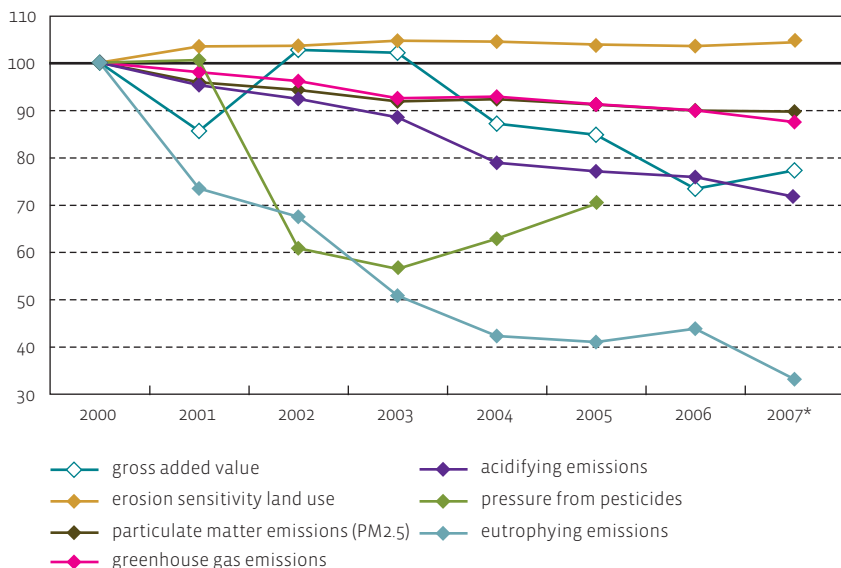


index (2000=100)



* provisional figures

Source: MIRA based on ILVO, K.U.Leuven, UGent, VITO, VMM

Decreasing environmental pressure due to shrinking livestock number and manure policy

The environmental pressure from agriculture and the volume of the activities, expressed as a gross added value, decreased between 2000 and 2007. The eco-efficiency is increasing for acidifying and eutrophying emissions. For all other pressure indicators the reduction remains lagging behind the agricultural activity, including the greenhouse gas emissions. The increase of scale and a reduced livestock since 2000 determine the falling trend in the emissions.

The acidifying and eutrophying emissions fell by 28 % and 67 % in the period 2000-2007. The driving forces behind this drop are the manure policy implemented and the conjuncture. This expressed itself in a shrinking number of livestock. The manure policy led to a decreasing use of chemical fertiliser, the application of low-emission techniques, a lower level of nutrient content in animal feeds and an increase in manure processing. The shrinking number of livestock explains the reduction in the greenhouse gas (-13 %) and fine particle (-10 %) emissions. The erosion sensitivity of the land use kept increasing by 4 % between 2000 and 2007, due to the cultivation of more erosion sensitive crops such as maize and potatoes. The lack of data prevented an up-to-date evaluation of the policy concerning crop protection. The increasing use of just a few treatments such as flufenoxuron, fenoxycarb and aclonifen weakened the previous beneficial effects of the product policy.

	2000	2005	2006	2007
gross added value (10 ⁶ euro)	2 943	2 494	2 158	2 272
erosion sensitivity (index)	118	122	122	123
fine particle emissions (PM _{2.5}) (tonnes)	2 568	2 340	2 307	2 301
greenhouse gas emissions (ktonnes CO ₂ -eq)	10 112	9 221	9 091	8 843
acidifying emissions (10 ⁶ Aeq)	4 170	3 212	3 161	2 987
crop protection agents (10 ⁹ Seq)	33.5	23.5
eutrophying emissions (Eeq)	24.5	10.0	10.7	8.1