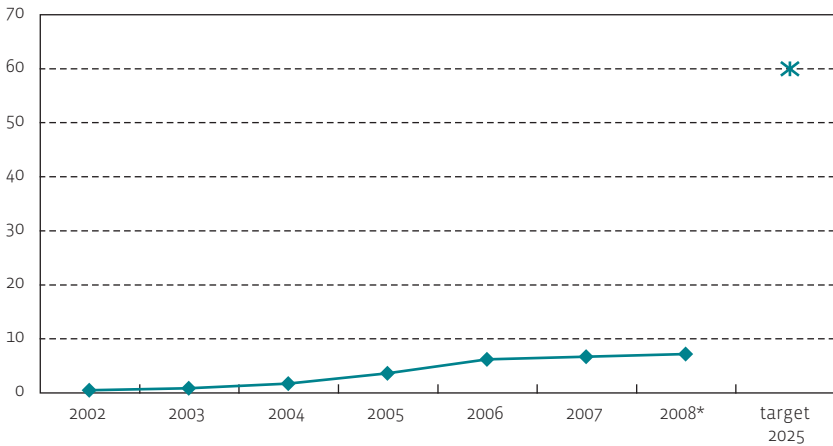




erosion measures (%)



* data as of 1 October 2008

Source: MIRA based on ALBON, LNE (2008)

Measures to counter soil erosion

In the fight against soil erosion the Flemish Region grants subsidies to municipalities for the creation of an erosion suppression plan and for the construction of small-scale erosion suppression works in execution of that plan. Moreover the farmer can conclude erosion suppression management agreements (grass buffer strip, grass path, erosion dam and pool, non-inversion tillage, direct sowing) with the Flemish Land Agency for which he receives compensation. The Flemish government is also investing in communication and awareness concerning erosion suppression measures.

Erosion measures still a long way from target

To evaluate of the effectiveness of the above-mentioned instruments (small-scale erosion suppression works & erosion suppression management agreements), an erosion measures indicator was created by the administration. This indicator measures the effect of both instruments on an equal footing compared to the target defined for each municipality. With an indicator value equal to 100 % the largest soil erosion problems will have been solved in Flanders. A feasible and fair target in the longer term is to achieve an indicator value of 60 % by 2025.

In 2008, the value of the indicator was 7.04 %. In the first years after 2002 the indicator rose strongly each time, in recent years the relative increase has been smaller. In 2007, no new management agreements were concluded, in 2008, only to a limited extent.