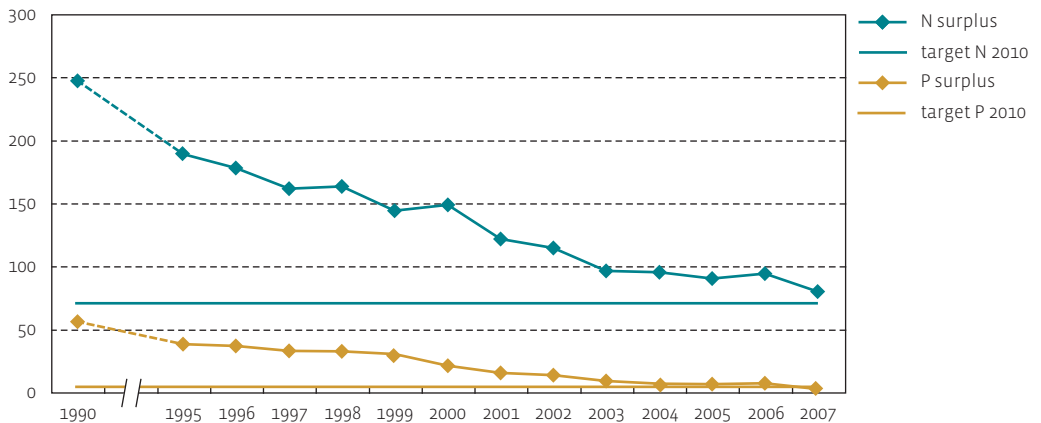




surplus (kg/ha)



Source: ILVO based on VLM

Targets for 2010 almost achieved in 2007 already

The surplus on the soil surface balance of agriculture is the difference between the quantity of nutrients that end up on the agricultural soil (via fertilization and deposition) and the quantity that disappears via crop extraction and ammonia emissions from the soil or manure. This surplus eventually gets into the air and water or stays in the soil. In 2007 the surplus was reduced by 68 % for nitrogen (N) and by 95 % for phosphorus (P) compared to 1990. The indicative target P (MIRA-S 2000) for 2010 was thus already reached in 2007.

Decrease driven by reduced fertilizer use

The remarkable decrease is mainly a consequence of a reduced use of fertilizers between 1990 and 2007: -45 % for N and -92 % for P. In addition, the animal manure production decreased (-17 % for N and -25 % for P) due to a shrinking number of livestock and a lower nutrient content of the feed. The increasing manure processing and export avoid the load on the Flemish agricultural soil. The sharp decline from 2006 to 2007 is caused by the increased manure processing, the further decrease in fertilizer use and the reduction in animal manure production. This decrease runs in parallel with the stricter manure policy since 1 January 2007.

The target for nitrogen for 2010 (MINA plan 3+, 2008-2010) was aimed not so much at the avoidance of eutrophication, but rather at general protection of the water extraction. Although the indicative target for phosphorus was reached, this is not evident in a strong improvement of the water quality.

| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2006 | 2007 | target 2010 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| nitrogen surplus (kg N/ha) | 247 | 189 | 149 | 94 | 80 | 70 |
| phosphorus surplus (kg P/ha) | 55.9 | 38.0 | 21.1 | 7.0 | 2.6 | 3.6 |