

**Interreg**

North Sea Region

**NuReDrain**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

## **NuReDrain Webinar I:**

# **Filter technologies for P removal from drainage water**

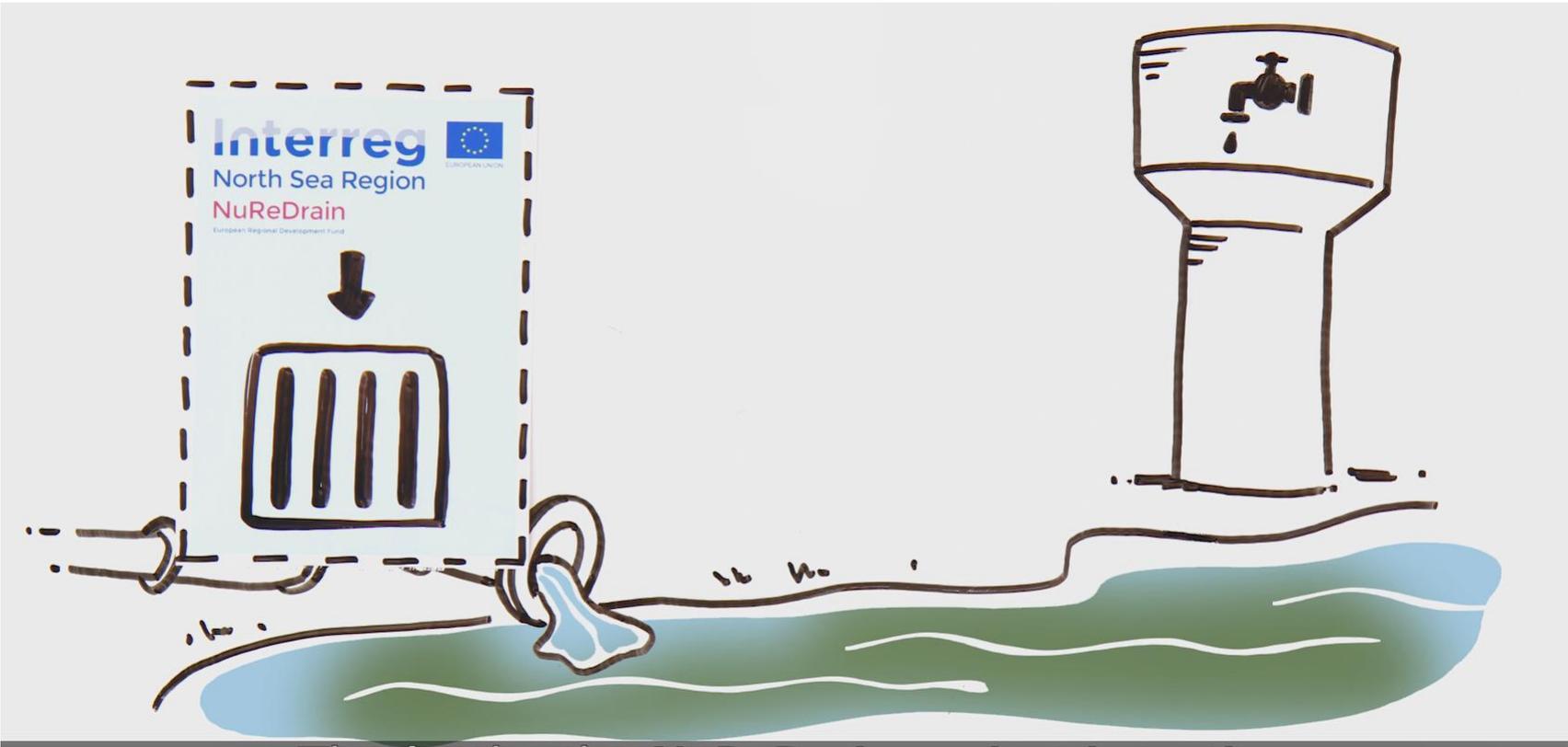
# Practical issues

- Please mute yourself.
- Feel free to ask questions in the chat.
- The webinar will be recorded.
- Handouts will be put available afterwards.

- Nutrient Removal and Recovery from Drainage water
- 1/3/2017 – 30/9/2021
- Interreg North Sea Region
- Project cost: € 2 674 405 - Fund: € 1 337 203
- 11 partners in 3 countries



# Project goal



# Project goals

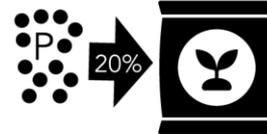
## PROJECT GOALS



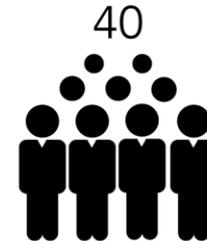
FILTER SYSTEMS ABLE  
TO REMOVE 50% OF  
N (= NITROGEN)



FILTER SYSTEMS ABLE  
TO REMOVE 70% OF  
P (= PHOSPHORUS)



20% MATERIAL  
REUSE AS P-FERTILIZER



40 ORGANIZATIONS  
ADOPTING FILTER  
SYSTEMS

# Agricultural waters

drainage water



greenhouse effluent



surface water

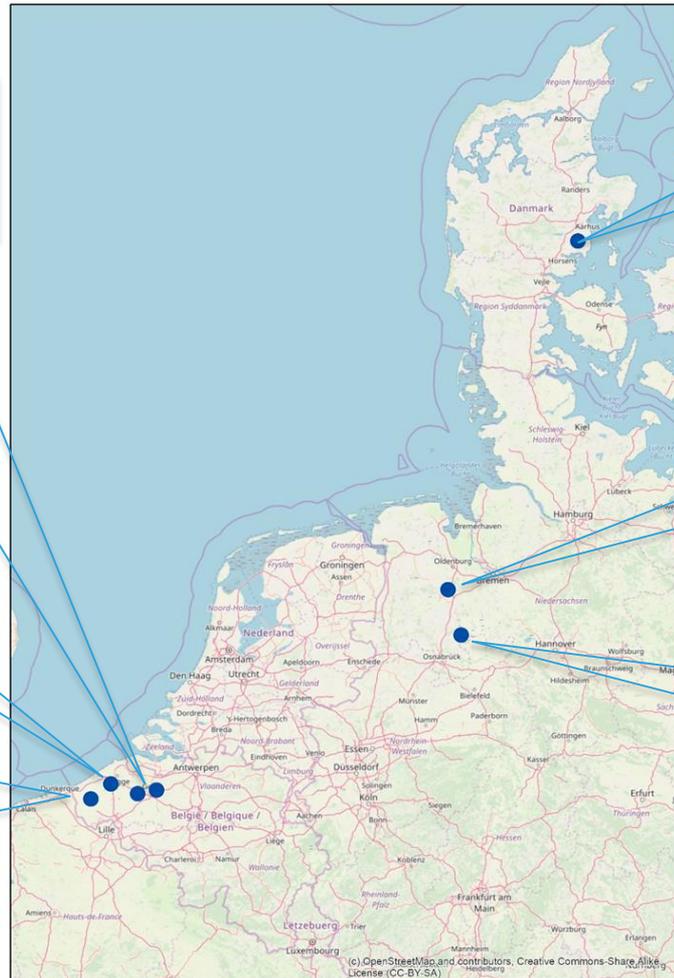


## NuReDrain

water reservoir for drinking  
water production



# 6 field cases



Greenhouse effluent  
N + P removal

Drainage water  
P removal

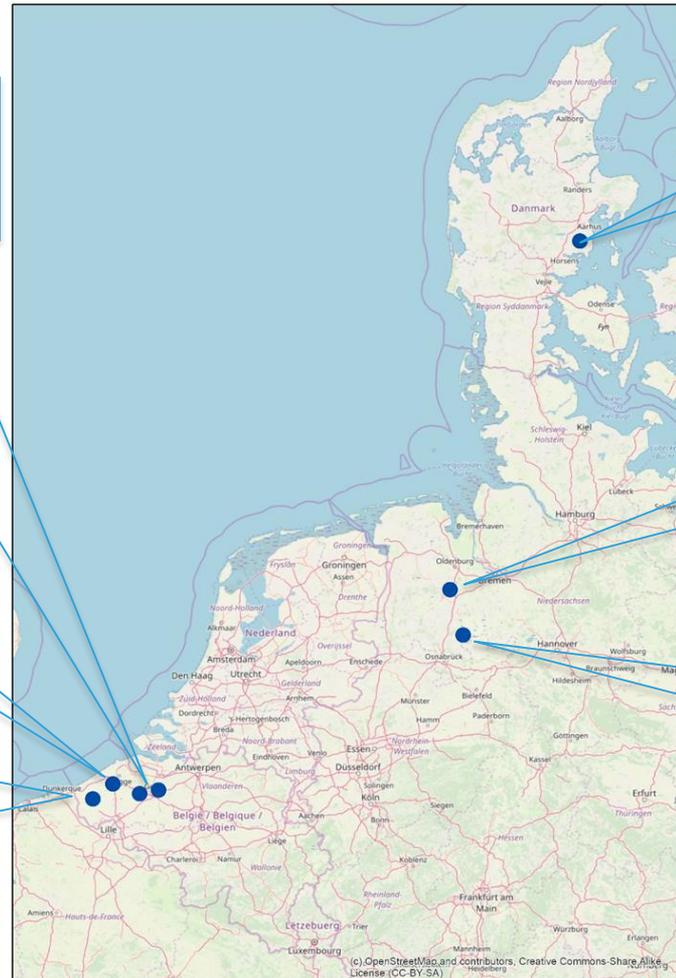
Water reservoir  
P removal

Drainage water  
N + P removal

Surface water  
N removal

Drainage water  
P removal

# 6 field cases



Greenhouse effluent  
N + P removal

Drainage water  
N + P removal

Drainage water  
P removal

Surface water  
N removal

Water reservoir  
P removal

Drainage water  
P removal

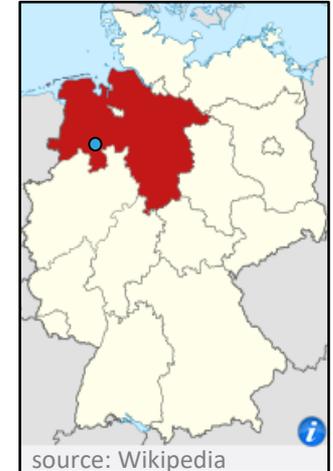
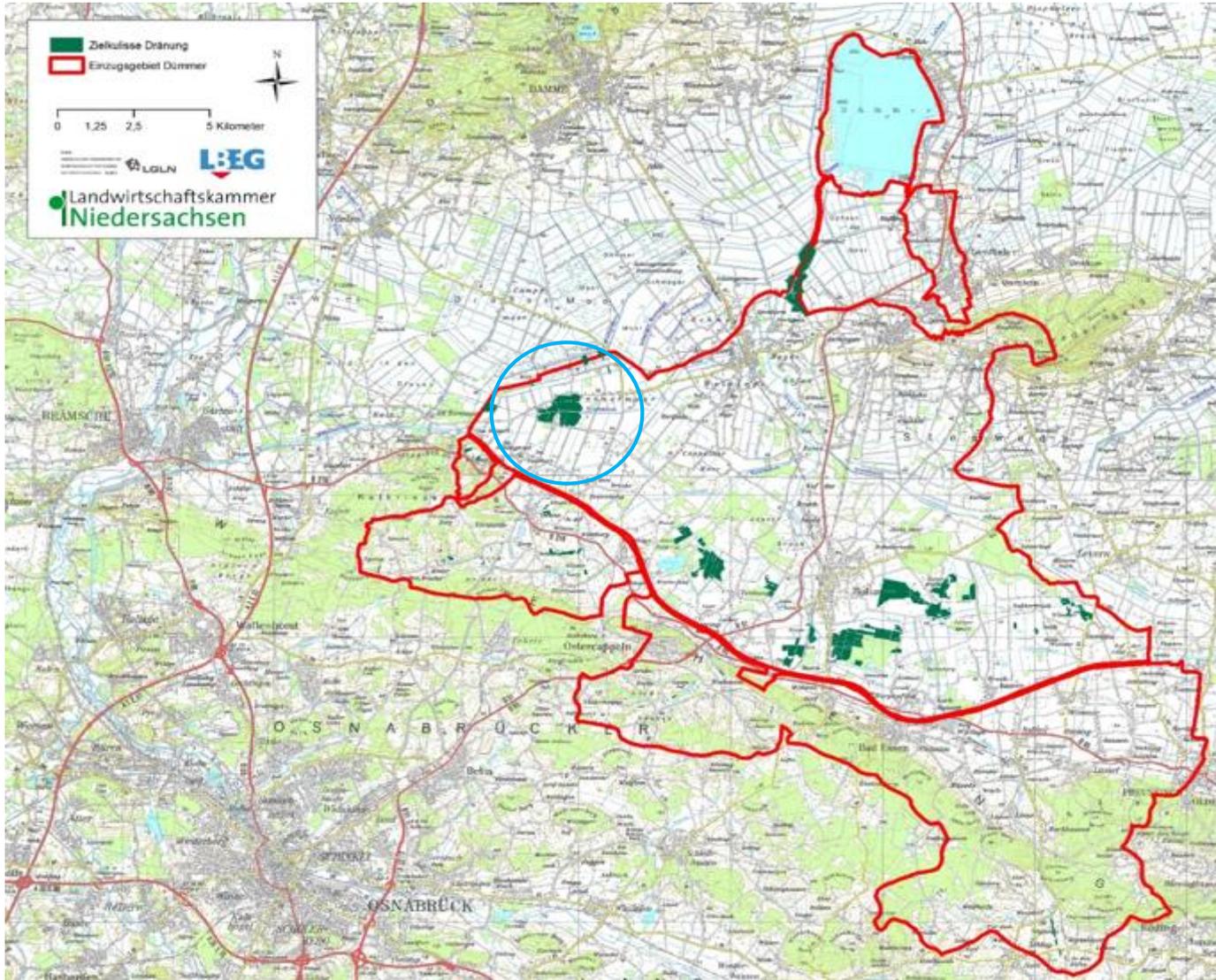


# NuReDrain

- ▶ Phosphorus filtration in drained arable fields

**results from 2nd season**

# High P losses in drained fields

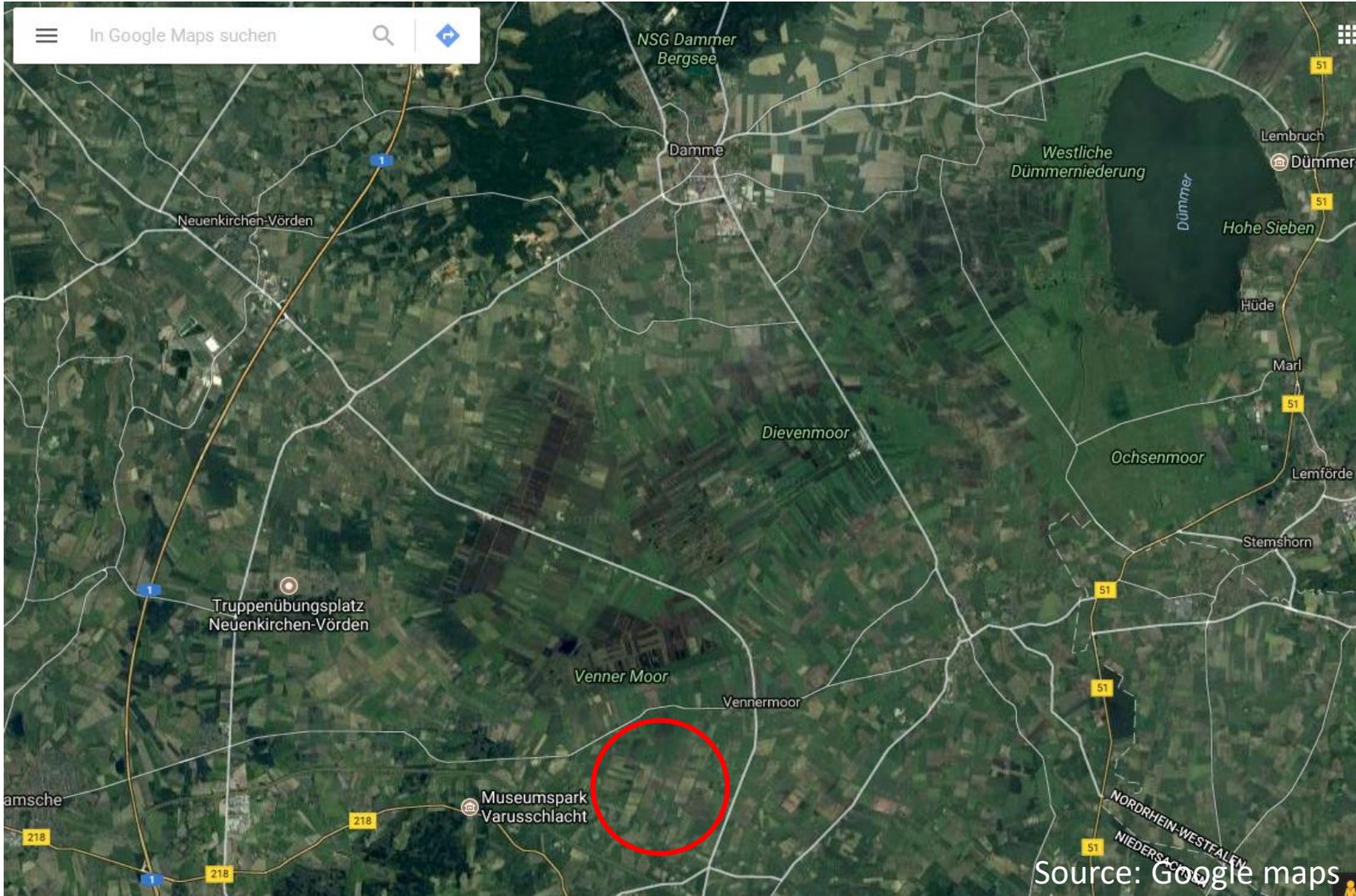


**“Hot Spots”**

↑ P concentration

↑ drainage flow

# Lowland and peat soils



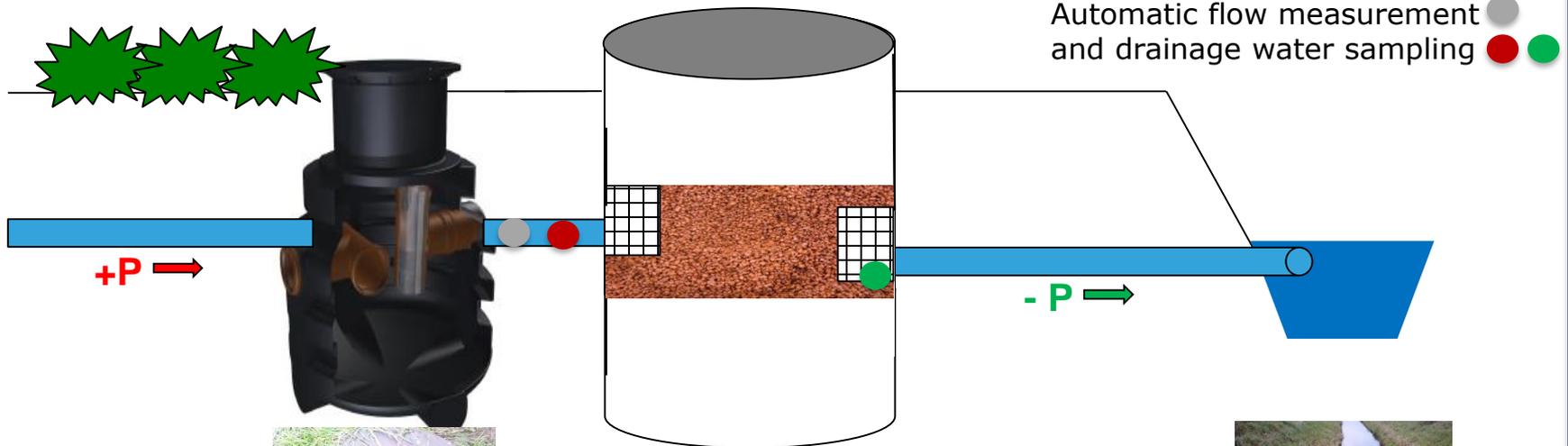
# Test site specification



- Field size: 8,2 ha
- Topsoil: loamy sand, >15% organic substance
- Drainage: single tile drains (8-10 m distance)
- P expected:  $P_{\text{total}} \sim 4,0 \text{ mg/l}$   
 $P_{\text{soluble}} \sim 0,3 \text{ mg/l}$
- Discharge of amorphous organic substance !!!



# Setup P filter



Pre-Filter



P-Filter



Venner Bruchkanal

# Preliminary results...

## Drainage water samples

### No filter

	P tot. (mg/l)	P sol. (mg/l)
min	0,04	0,01
max	3,07	0,08

✓ ... below expected values

P tot. (mg/l)	P sol. (mg/l)	LBEG
4,0	0,3	

0,1-0,3mg/l  
OGewV2016

0,07mg/l

✗ ... exceeding ecological targets

0,03mg/l

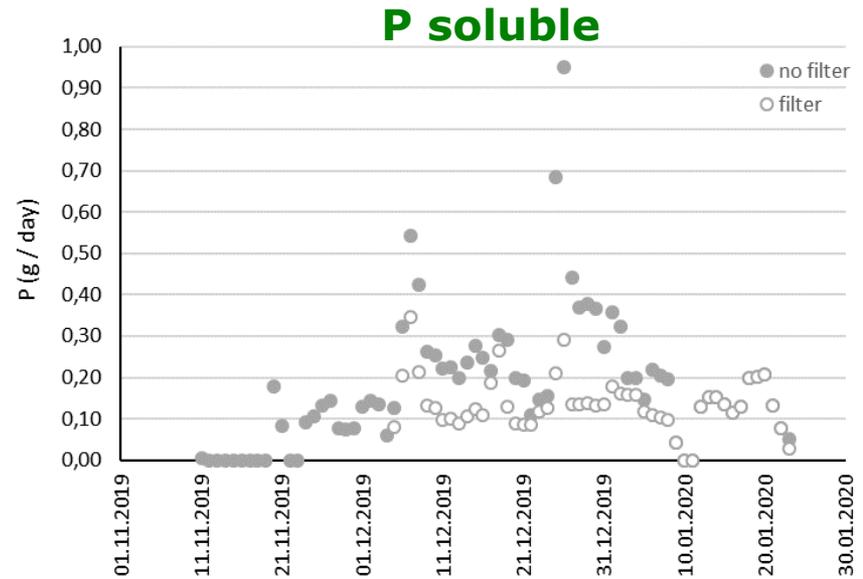
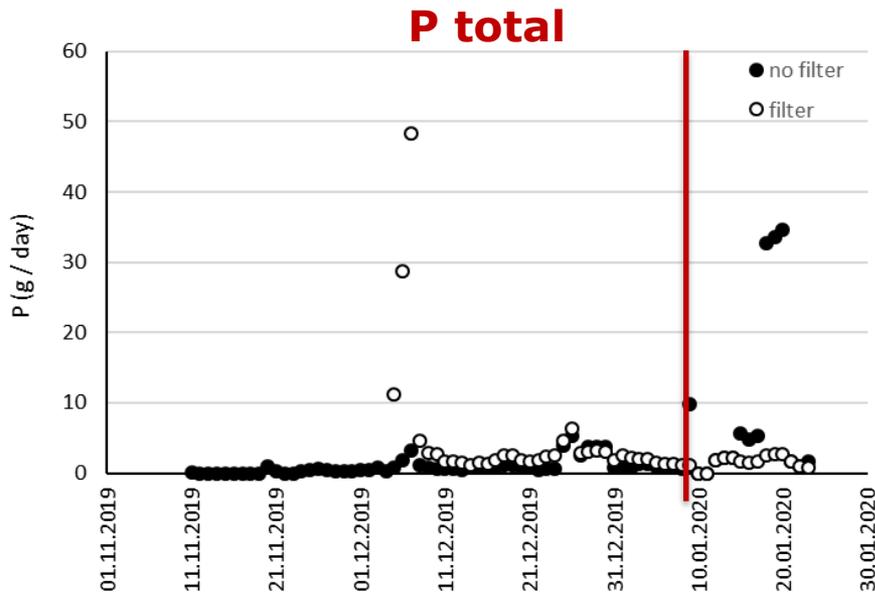
### Filter

	P tot. (mg/l)	P sol. (mg/l)
min	0,04	0,01
max	3,19	0,02

✗ ... revision sampling mode & position

# Preliminary results...

## Flow-balanced nutrient discharge

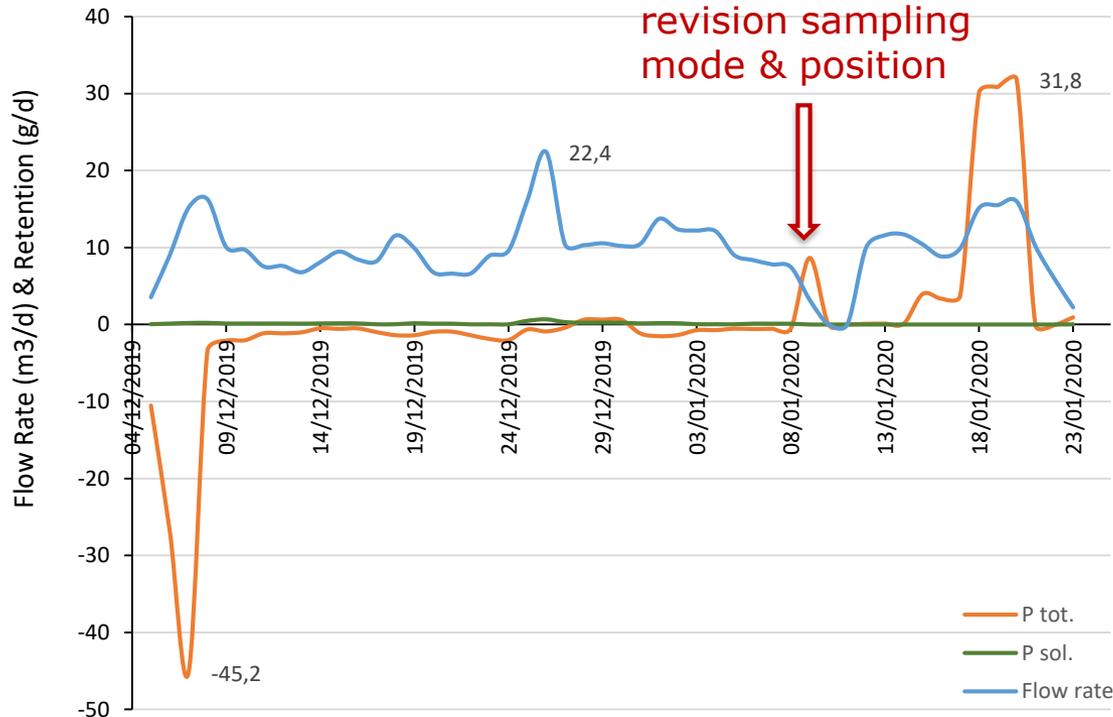


- $P_{tot.}$  is retained after filter revision
- clear reduction of  $P_{tot.}$  by filtering
- the total P discharge is mainly determined by particulate bound P

- $P_{sol.}$  is retained by filter
- no significant reduction of  $P_{sol.}$
- 7%  $P_{sol.}$  of  $P_{tot.}$

# Preliminary results...

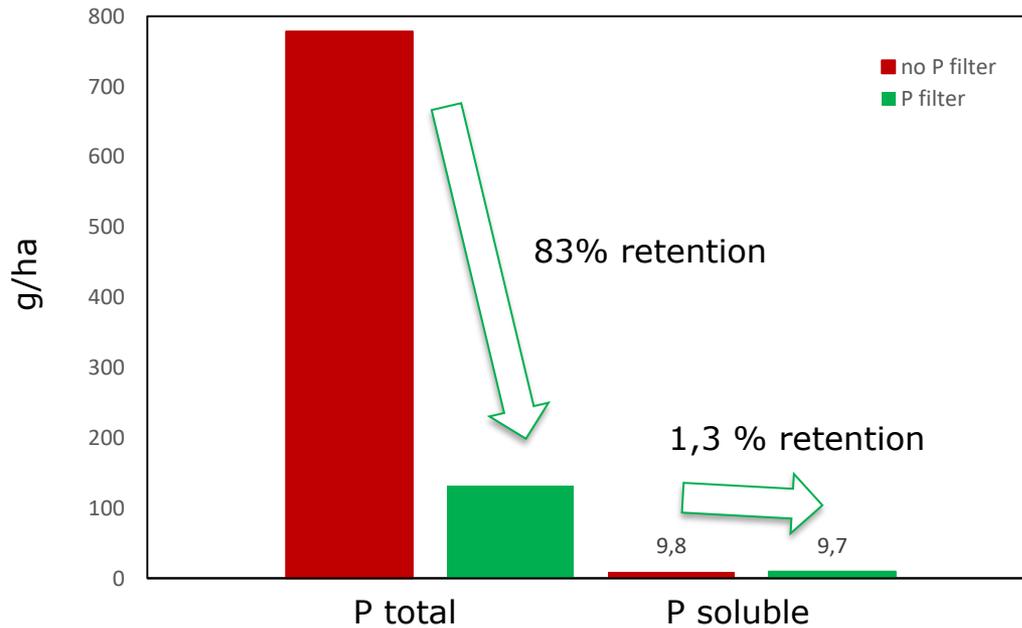
## Flow rate, retention of P total and P soluble



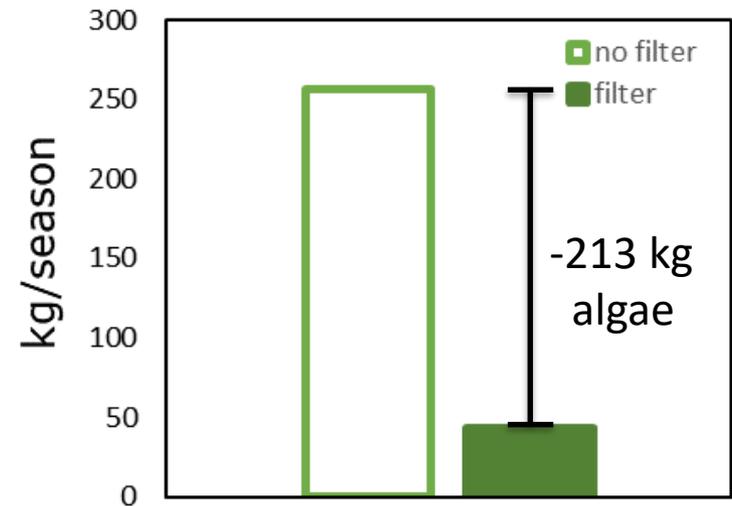
- ↑ fluctuation in flow rate
- (no) effect of flow rate on retention of P<sub>sol.</sub>
- no clear statement about effect of flow rate on P<sub>tot.</sub> retention (hysteresis effect)

# Preliminary results ...

## Extrapolated P loss/season without & with P-filter



**Assumption:**  
1 g P → 330 g phytoplankton



# Cross-check with literature

... average  $P_{tot.}$  export  $0,29 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$  ...

...  $P$  mainly in particulate form ...

... 50 % of the annual  $P_{tot.}$  export in 140 h, hysteresis effect ...

(Ulén & Persson 1999, *Hydrological Processes* Vol. 13, Iss. 17)

→ more data required for statements

... tile discharge highly variable within events ...

(Macrae et al. 2007, *J. Agr. Wat. Man.* Vol. 92, Iss. 3)

→ we can confirm that so far

... the amorphous organic substance is a carrier of  $P$  and causes a high  $P$  input into surface water ...

(Zimmer et al. 2016, *Agricultural Water Management* 167)

→ can explain large differences in results between season 2 & 1 (not shown)

... ICS has a potential for field use due to its high hydraulic conductivity ...

(Chardon et al. 2012, *J. Environm. Qual.*, Vol. 41)

→ due to low hydraulic gradients in the field, it is important to ensure a sufficient hydraulic conductivity of the filter material

... ICS filter efficiency of  $>80$  % in investigations of other project partners ...

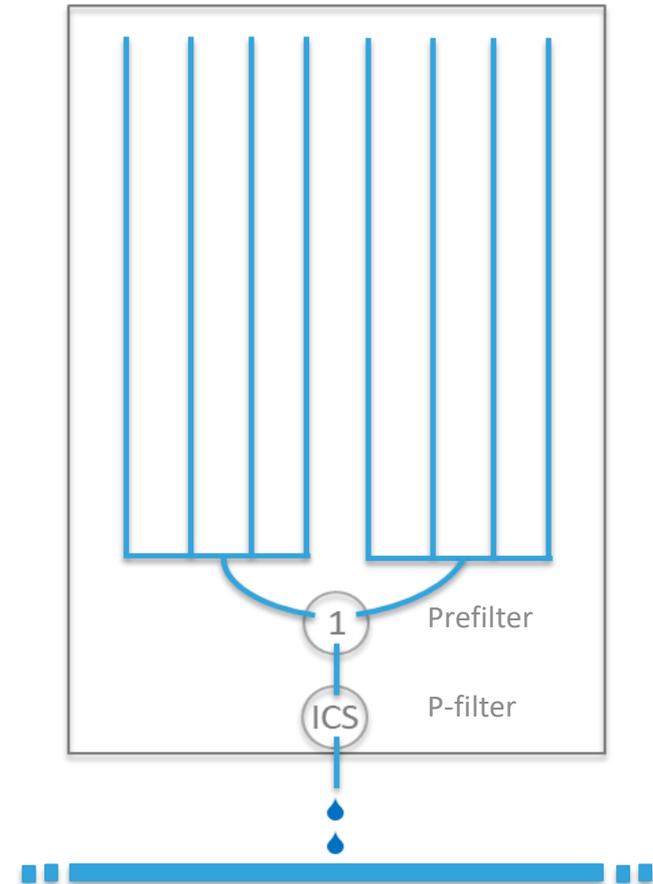
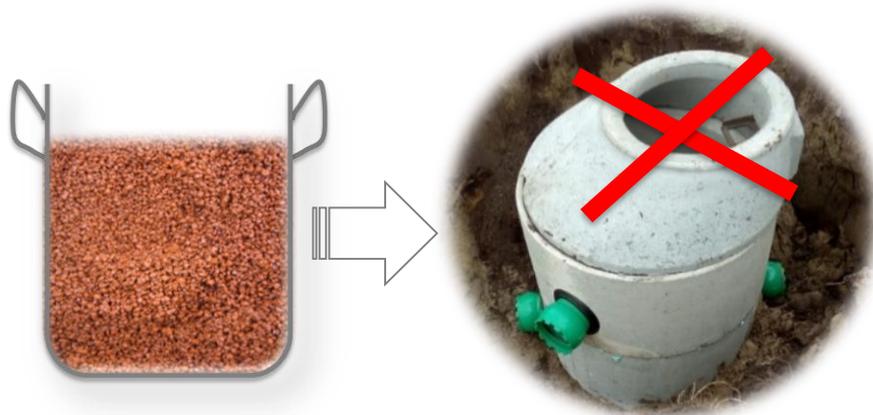
→ can be confirmed so far

# Transfer into practice

**New installation**  
**Extension** of existing drainage collector systems

## Benefits

- Cheap filter material ICS
- Low space consumption
- No energy supply
- Renewable (in own work)
- Long-term filter effect
- Mechanical lifting of filter material



# Future perspectives

- Have a good measuring season
  - **avoid** data loss (poor measuring conditions, damage or malfunction)
  - **avoid** erratic measurement data (backwater, clogging, pref. flow)
- Expand database → long term filter performance
- Improve P-filter → **put it into practice**

## But before...

1. Farmer survey → farmers needs & wishes ( € , § )
2. Develop cooperation (willingness to cooperate & practical implementation)
3. Follow-up project with an improved starting point - **thanks to all project partners!**



<https://northsearegion.eu/nuredrain/>

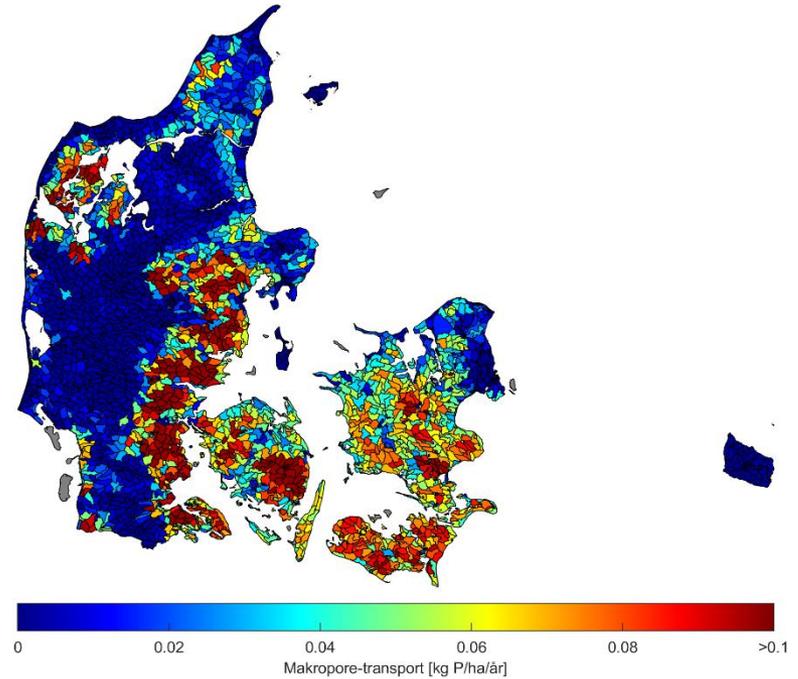
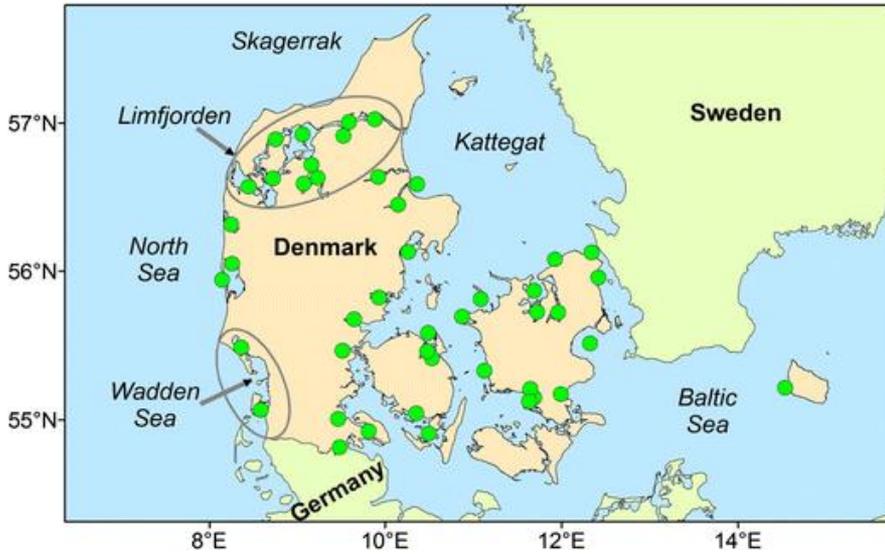


# New P filter demo site at Fensholt in Denmark

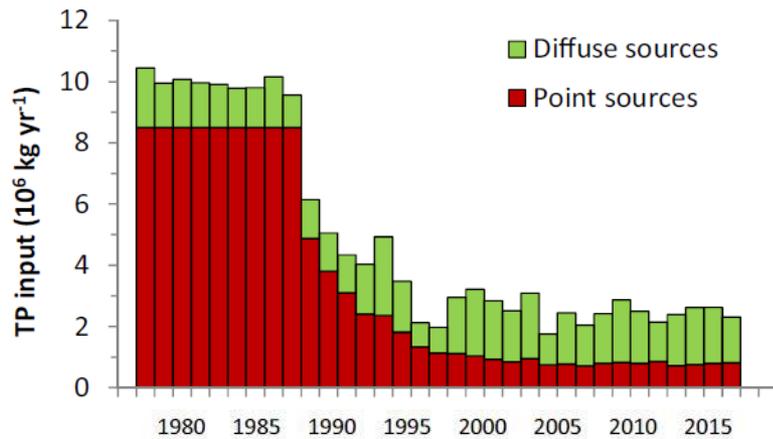
**Lorenzo Pugliese**

*Goswin Johann Heckrath*

# P losses in DK

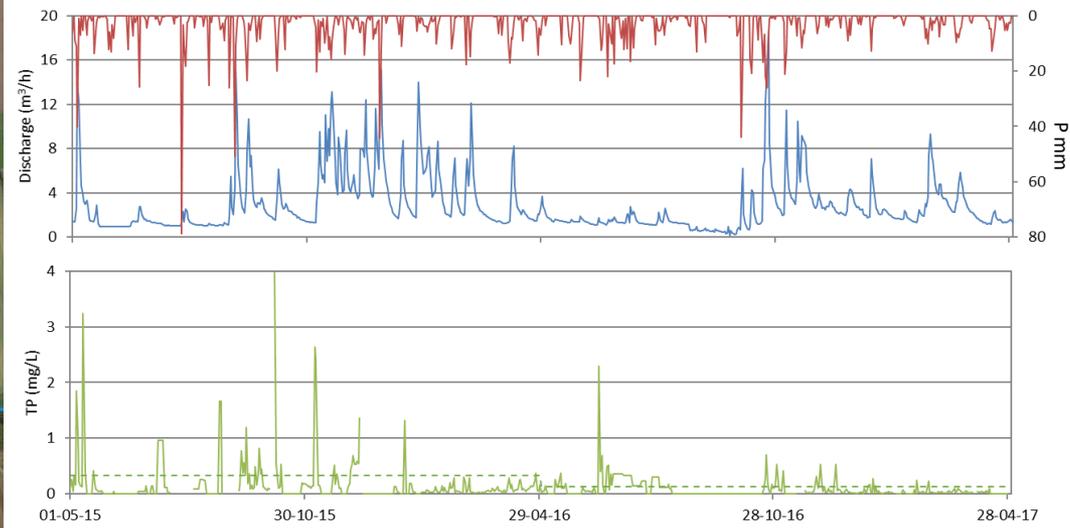
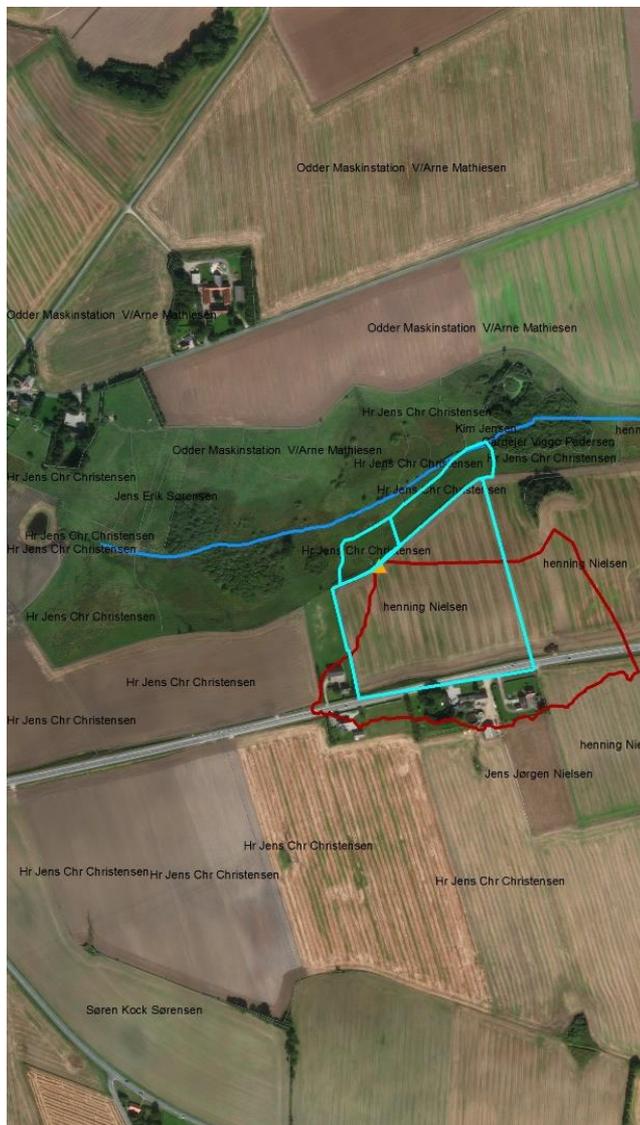


Andersen and Heckrath (2020)



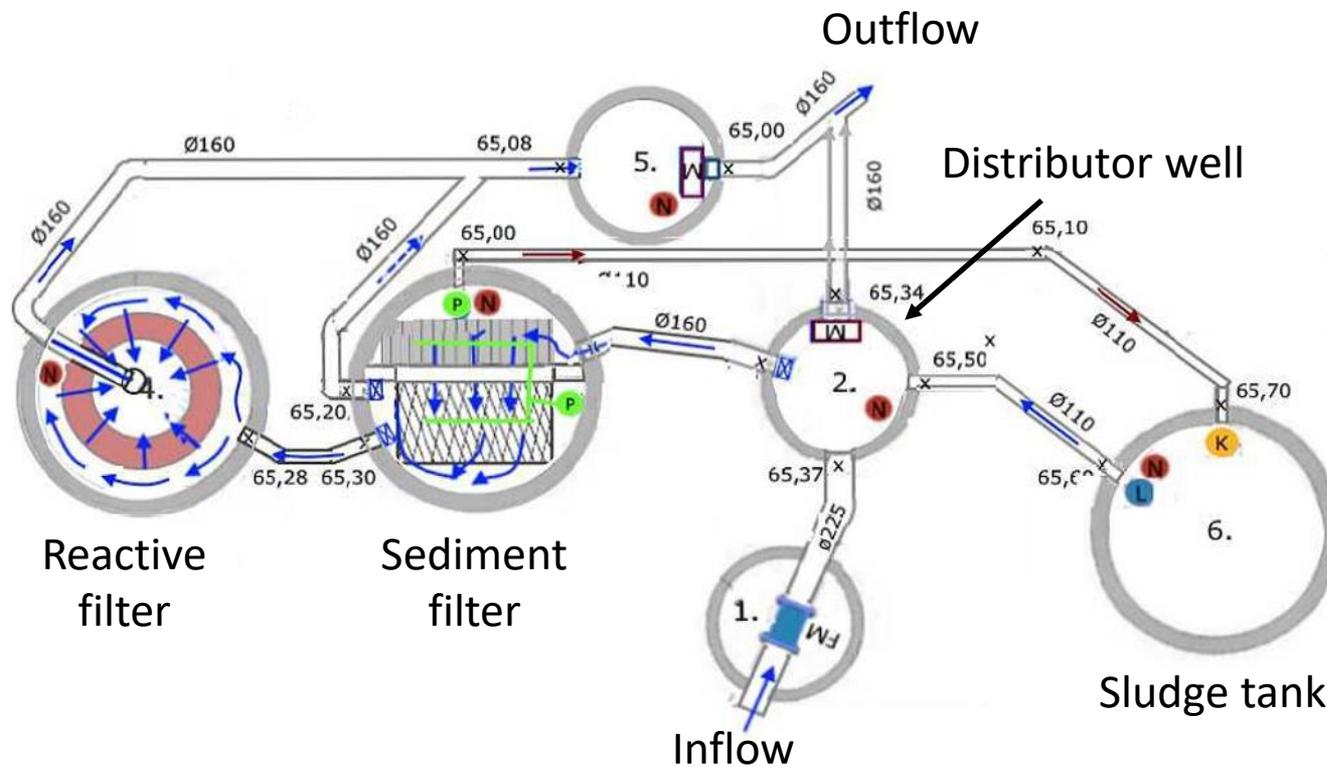
Riemann et al. (2016)

# Catchment area

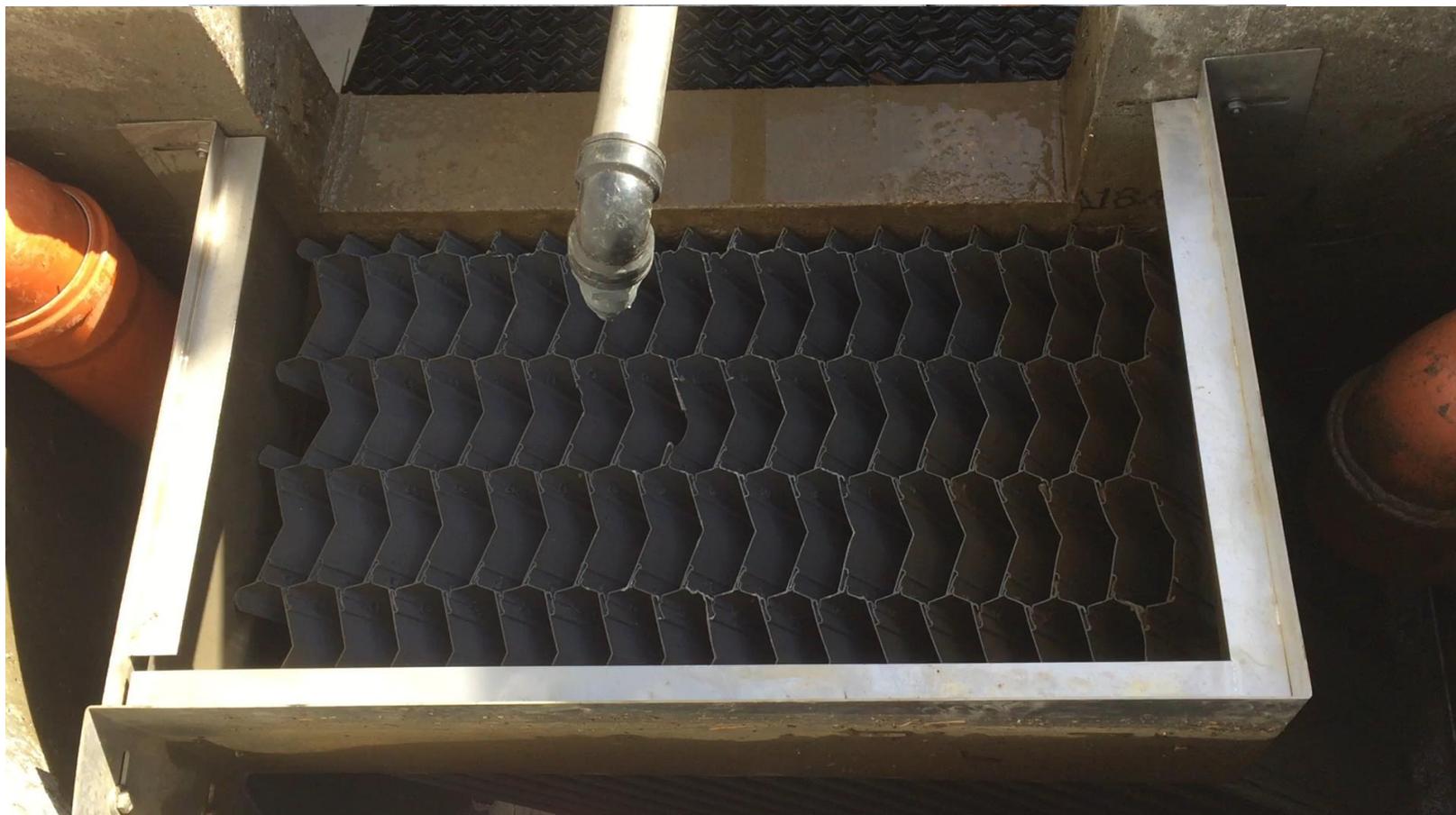


May 2015/16	Catchment area (ha)	8.4
	P (mm)	349
	Q/P (-)	0.30
	TP (kg/ha)	1.1
May 2016/17	Flow weighted average TP (mg/L)	0.32
	P (mm)	246
	Q/P (-)	0.28
	TP (kg/ha)	0.3
May 2016/17	Flow weighted average TP (mg/L)	0.13

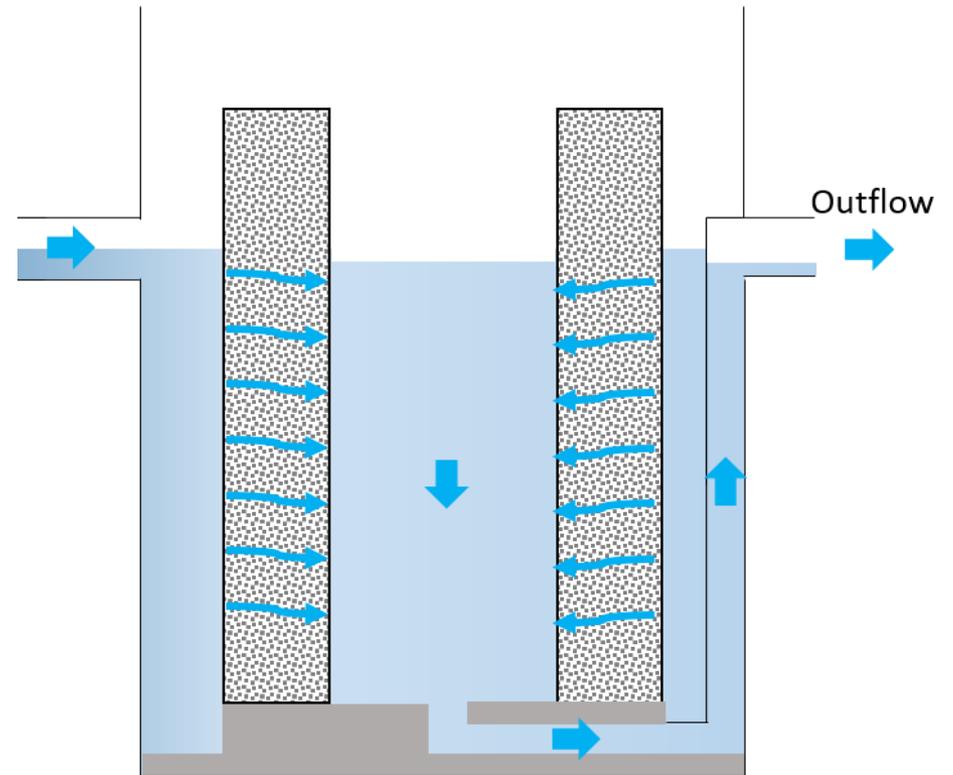
# System Design



# Sediment filter



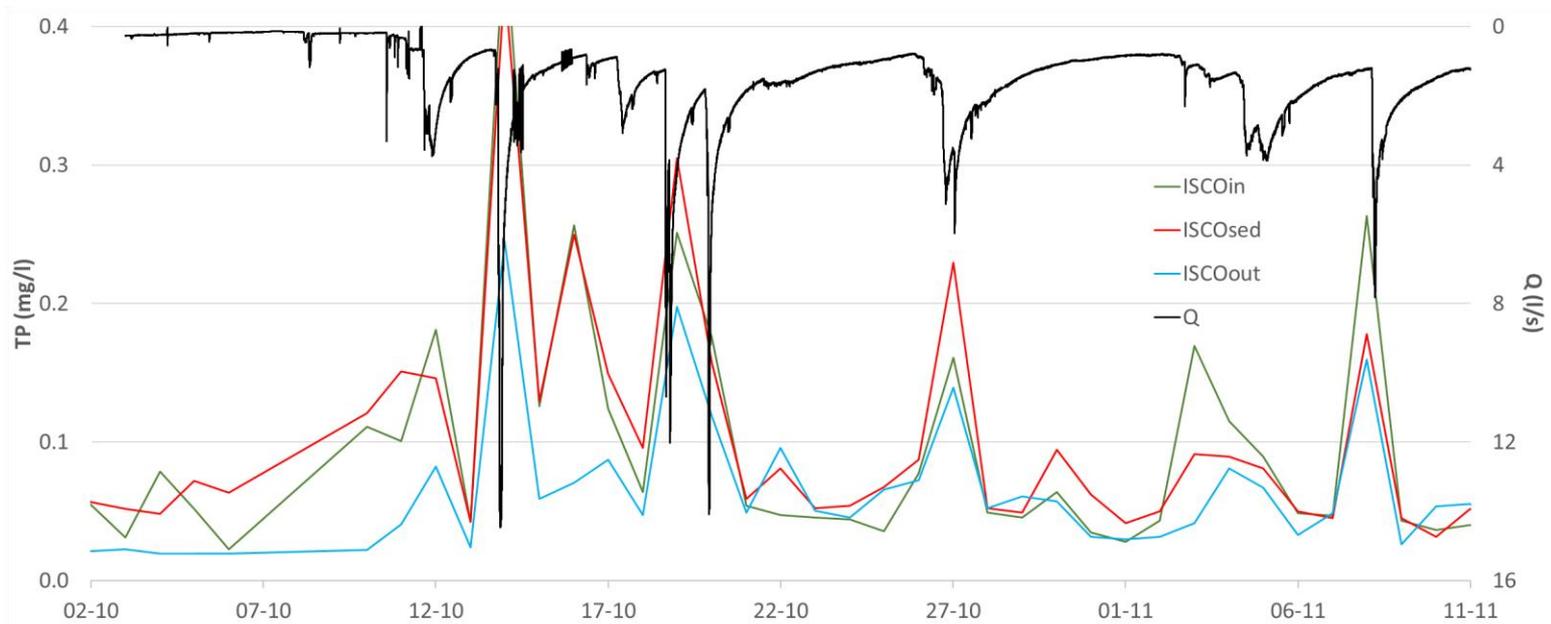
# Reactive filter



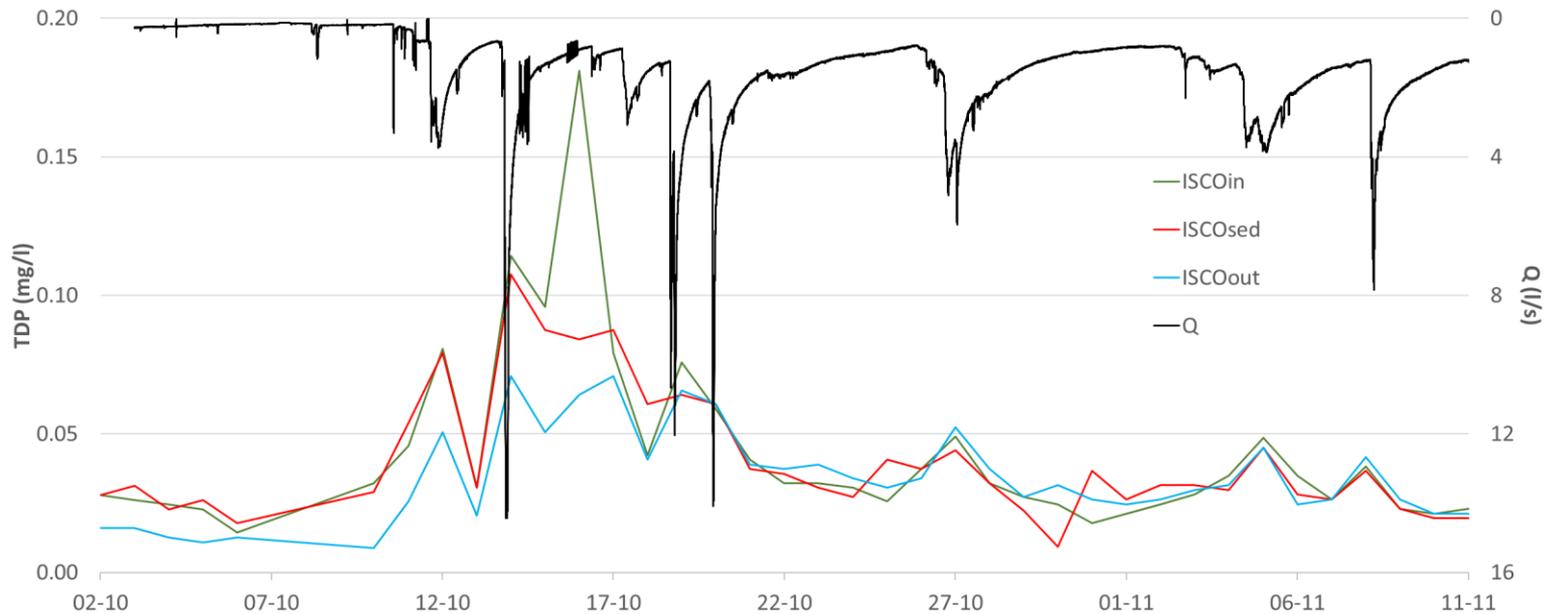
# Monitoring programme



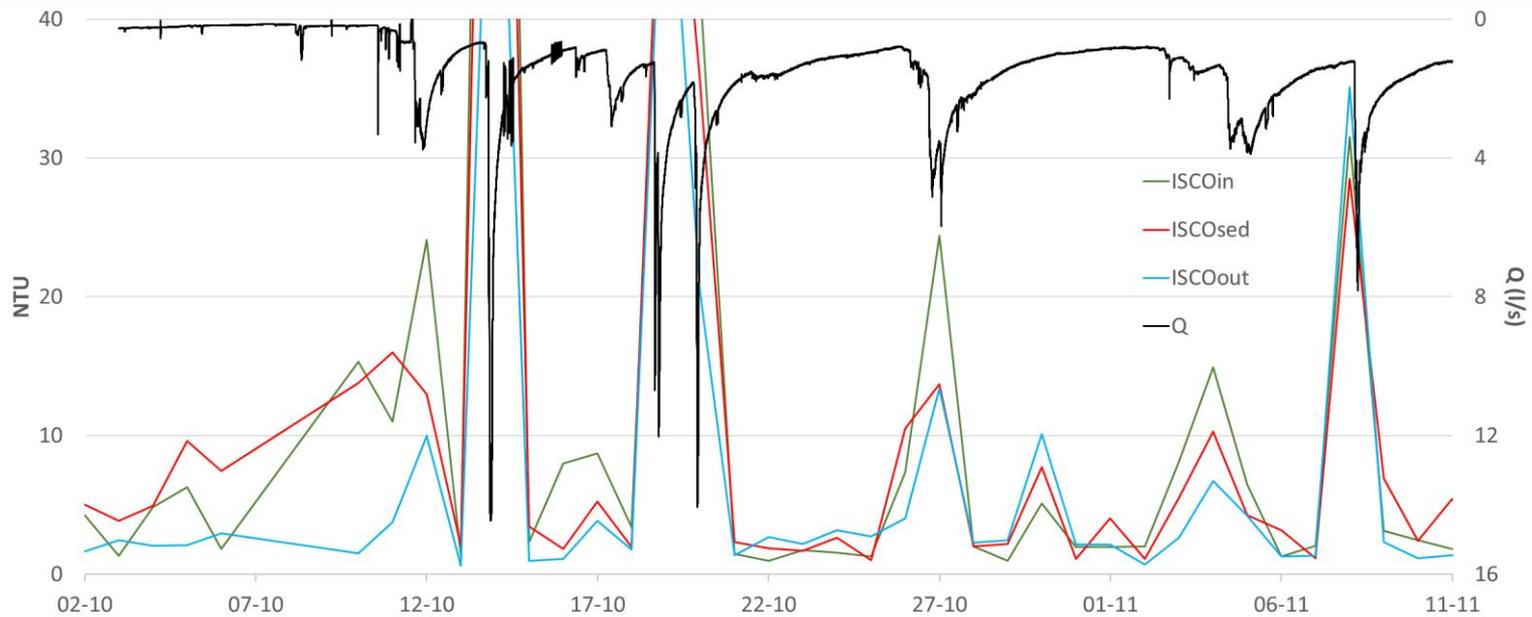
# Results – Total phosphorus



# Results – Dissolved reactive phosphorus



# Results – Turbidity



# Results



	Q (m <sup>3</sup> )	Average removal (%)					
		ISCOin-ISCOout			ISCOsed-ISCOout		
		TP	TDP	Turb	TP	TDP	Turb
Until 18 oct	1413	51	39	44	59	40	53
After 18 oct	3538	1	-6	-8	15	-13	5
feb-20	6346	19	-1	13	18	-5	17

## *Challenges*

- ***Sediment retention***
- *Replacement of reactive filter material*

## *Possible improvements*

- Alternative physical removal of sediments (?)
- Flocculation with aluminium and iron



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# Q & A

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**Interreg**

North Sea Region

**NuReDrain**

European Regional Development Fund



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# Reducing phosphorus (P) losses from drained agricultural fields with iron coated sand (ICS) filters

**Hui Xu**, Stany Vandermoere, Stefaan De Neve

Department of Environment

Ghent University



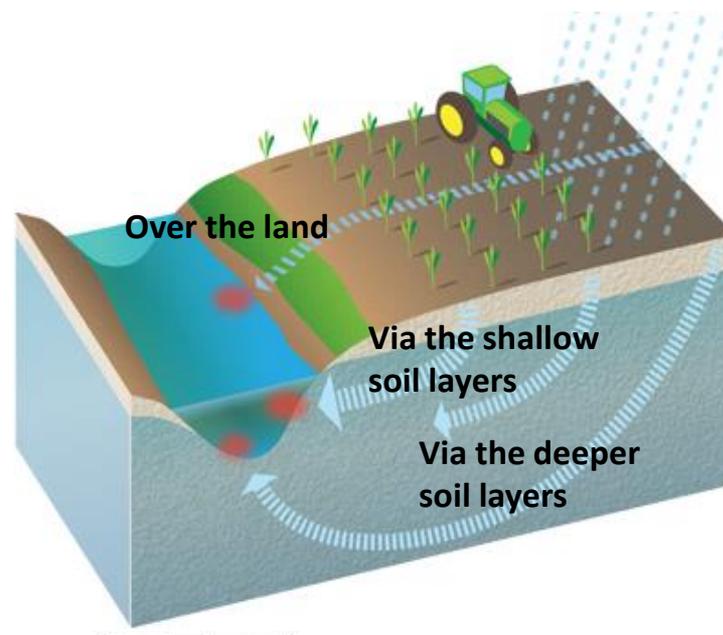
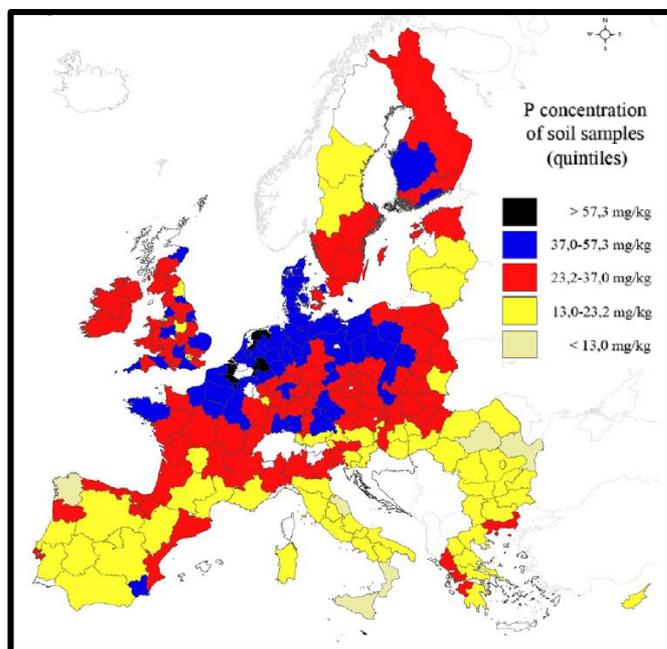
**GHENT  
UNIVERSITY**

# Why is it important?

In Northwest Europe, agricultural P losses  
→ eutrophication problems in surface water

High to very high soil P test values

17—40 % is drained in NW Europe



# What do farmers need?

- Reduce P loads as much as possible  
( $< 0.1$  ppm, Water Framework Directive)
- For individual drainage pipe with water flow of  
6-8 m<sup>3</sup> per day
- Process discontinuous flows
- Low cost and easy to install

# Phosphorus Filter Development

- Phosphorus sorbing materials (PSM) & Principle
- Lab-scale evaluation
- Field-scale evaluation
- Development of prototype
- Performance of prototype

# PSM: Phosphorus Sorbing Materials

Iron coated sand (ICS)



By-product from drinking-water industry

Ball-milled and acid pretreated glauconite

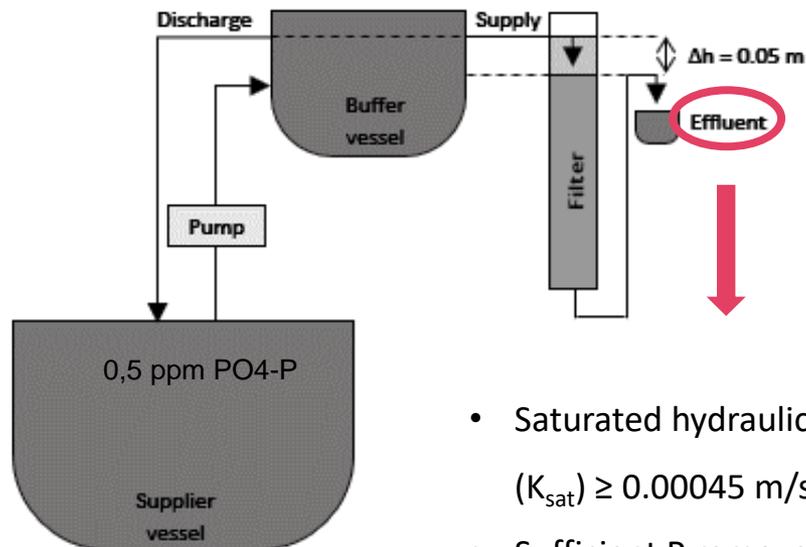


Abundantly available natural mineral

# Principle: P is removed from water by absorbing into iron coated sand (ICS)



# Prepare and test filters at lab scale



- Saturated hydraulic conductivity ( $K_{sat}$ )  $\geq 0.00045$  m/s
- Sufficient P removal



# At field scale

Three experimental sites



**Zedelgem**  
-three individual drains  
-max water flow 8 m<sup>3</sup>/day

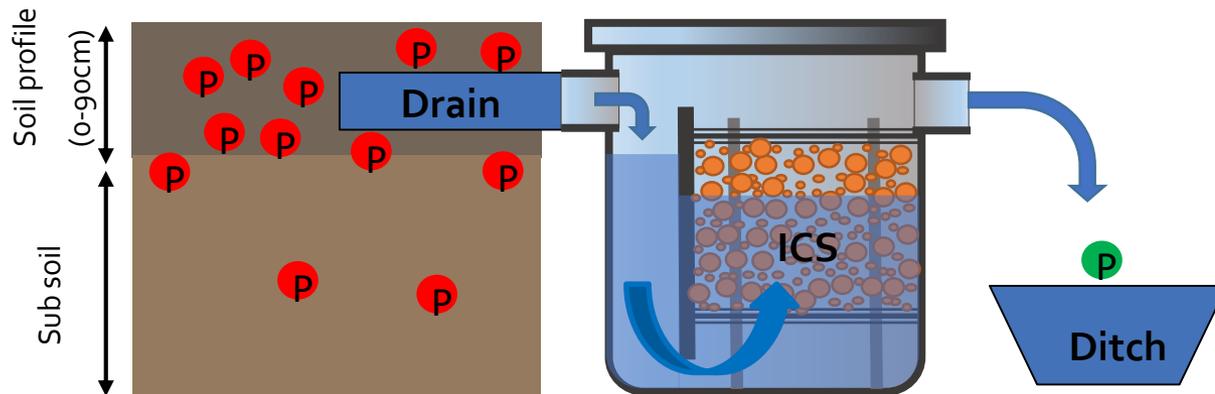


# Simple bucket filter



low  
tlet

# Prototype development



## Key features:



upward-oriented outlet



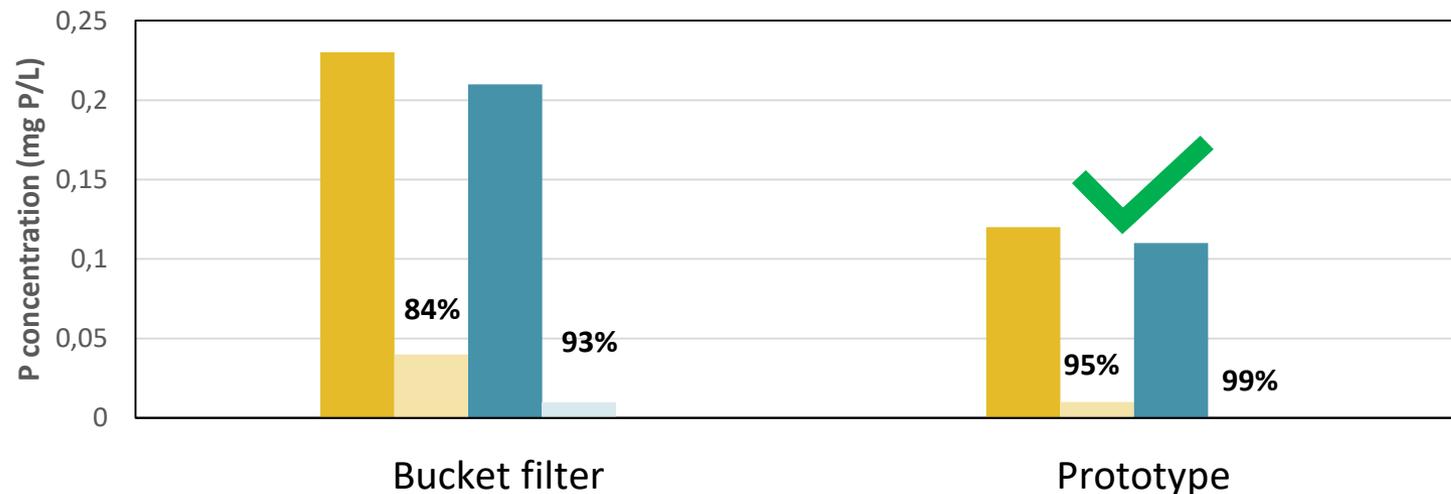
mesh netting at bottom & top



# Prototype performance

## P removal efficiency

- Volume weighted average TP concentration inlet
- Volume weighted average TP concentration outlet
- Volume weighted average DRP concentration inlet
- Volume weighted average DRP concentration outlet



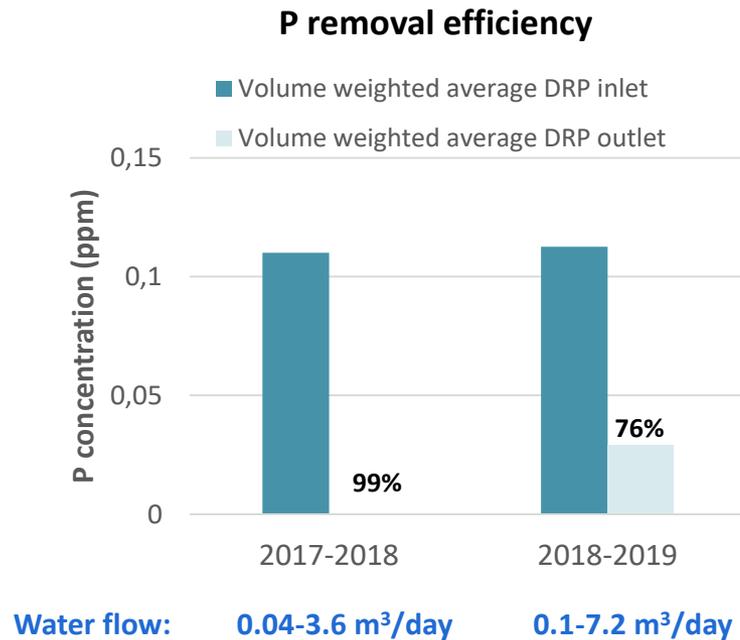
Water flow: 0.04-4.3 m<sup>3</sup>/day

0.04-3.6 m<sup>3</sup>/day

TP: total phosphorus  
DRP: dissolved reactive phosphorus

# Prototype performance

## -Seasonal variation



2017-2018

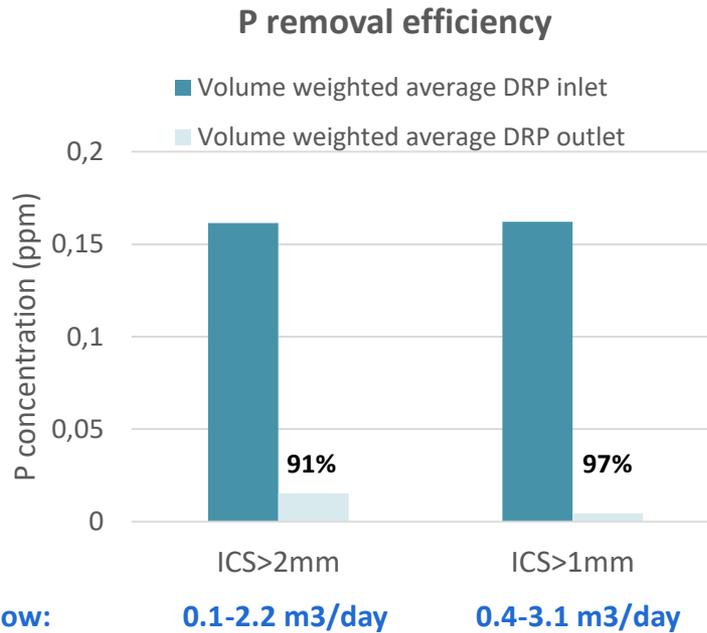


2018-2019



# Prototype performance

## -Effect of particle size



# Evaluation of the filter

- Only applicable for individual drains
- Mostly remove dissolved reactive P
- + Low-tech solution: easy installation and operation
- + High P removal efficiency
- + Low cost of filter materials: ICS is industrial by-product
- + Causes no other contaminations
- + No impact on accessibility and landscape

# Q & A

## Next seminars

- Friday 25/9 – 10h -11h30:

### **P recovery and P removal modelling**

- Friday 2/10 – 10h – 11h30:

### **Filter technologies for N removal from agricultural waters**

<https://northsearegion.eu/nuredrain/>

# Acknowledgements

