



Buffer zones to reduce pollution and increase biodiversity of water ecosystems

By **Beatrice Pucci**

The inland surface and ground waters are constantly subject to pressure from human, civil, industrial, agricultural and livestock activity. The use of fertilizers, pesticides and chemicals in agriculture, is a serious threat for water quality and compromises water ecosystems, reducing biodiversity. For this reason, many European countries proposed to implement, in addition to good irrigation practices, natural systems which are able to reduce the pollutant load that moves from the fields to the hydrographic networks.

These systems, called buffer zones, have the ability to trap and remove fertilizers pesticides and other pollutants through physical and biological mechanisms. The use of buffer zones by restoring riparian vegetation is one of the strategies used to reduce the effect of diffuse pollution on water resources, increase biodiversity and recovery valuable landscape and environmental elements.



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[Technology synthesis](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Conservation - European Commission Project](#)

[European Commission - Soil-friendly farm infrastructure elements](#)

[Presentation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform](#)

[Conservation buffer zones](#)

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