**Study Report**

Predicted Environmental Concentrations in Groundwater

of Cyanamide, Calcium cyanamide, Urea and Dicyandiamide after fertilization with PERLKA® using FOCUSPEARL

*Simulations in Potatoes*

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Statement of compliance

This study “*Predicted Environmental Concentrations in Groundwater of Cyanamide, Calcium cyanamide, Urea and Dicyandiamide after fertilization with PERLKA® using FOCUSPEARL- Simulations in Potatoes*” was conducted according to the procedures described herein. This report is a true and accurate record of the results obtained. There were no circumstances that may have adversely impacted the quality or integrity of the study.

The GLP-regulation is not applicable. However, the study was performed in accordance with the Codex of “Good Modelling Practices” (Görlitz 1993 und Travis 1995).

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# Simulation model

The simulation model FOCUS-PEARL 4.4.4 was used for the calculation of the predicted environmental concentrations in groundwater (PECgw) of cyanamide and calcium cyanamide after application of PERLKA®. Solute transport was calculated with the Convection-Dispersion-Equation (CDE). Non-linear sorption was implemented using a Freundlich isotherm. Depth-dependent sorption and transformation parameters were considered according to the common approach in FOCUS (2000) and FOCUS (2009).

# Scenarios

## Soil and climate scenarios of the FOCUS simulation models

The soil and climate scenarios defined by FOCUS 2000 were selected to represent a vulnerability approximating the 90th percentile for each scenario (realistic worst-case). Soils were selected by expert judgment whereas the weather data sets were obtained from the MARS meteorological database (MARS = Monitoring Agricultural ResourceS). The nine locations cover all climatic regions of agricultural relevance in Europe (Figure 1) and are briefly characterized in Table 1. For all scenarios, daily weather data are available for a period of 20 years.



Figure 1: Locations of the nine FOCUS groundwater scenarios

Table 1: Characteristics of the nine weather and soil scenarios created by FOCUS

| **Location** | **Soil type (USDA)** | **Organic Matter [%]** | **Annual average air temperature [°C]** | **Annual sum of precipitation [mm]** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| audun | silty clay loam | 2.4 | 11.3 | 648 + I\* |
| Châteaudun | silty clay loam | 2.4 | 11.3 | 648+ I\* |
| Hamburg | sandy loam | 2.6 | 9.0 | 786 |
| Jokioinen | loamy sand | 7.0 | 4.1 | 638 |
| Kremsmünster | loam/silt loam | 3.6 | 8.6 | 900 |
| Okehampton | loam | 3.8 | 10.2 | 1038 |
| Piacenza | loam | 2.2 | 13.2 | 857 + I\* |
| Porto | loam | 2.5 | 14.8 | 1150 |
| Sevilla | silt loam | 1.6 | 17.9 | 493 + I\* |
| Thiva | loam | 1.3 | 16.2 | 500 + I\* |

\*irrigation

## Crop scenarios

For the simulations a single variation (continuous cropping of potatoes) over a period of 26 years is taken into account according to the recommendations of FOCUS (FOCUS 2000).

# Physico-chemical and Degradation Data

## PERLKA®

The maximum concentration of calcium cyanamide in PERLKA® is about 45%. In order to adequately simulate the slow release of cyanamide from PERLKA® granules to soil, cyanamide was defined as a metabolite. According to experimental data the half-life of PERLKA® (Ca CN2) in soil was found to be between 0.60 days and 1.80 days. The experimental values were normalised to 20 °C using a Q10 factor of 2.2 as recommended by FOCUS (2000). The experimental half-lives were also normalised to pF 2 (field capacity, see appendix A) using an exponent of 0.7 as the model requires degradation at optimised moisture conditions. Also the moisture correction was done according to FOCUS (2000). The geometric mean of all normalised half-lives was found to be 0.721 days. This value was considered for the modelling.

PERLKA® granules cannot be dissolved in water without being transformed to cyanamide. In order to simulate the fate of PERLKA® realistically the sorption constant in soil KOC was set to an artificial, high number (172400 L/kg). This should guarantee that within the model the granules remain at the applied location in soil and are only transformed to cyanamide without leaching to deeper soil layers. This can be considered a worst case selection of the formation of cyanamide.

## Cyanamide

According to experimental data cyanamide is further transformed to urea. Also for cyanamide the experimental half-lives were normalised to 20 °C using a Q10-Factor of 2.2 as given by FOCUS (2000). However, for cyanamide no soil moisture normalisation was done since according to the experimental results the degradation of cyanamide does not increase with soil moisture (Klein 2019). Consequently, the soil moisture correction in the model FOCUS PEARL model is not suitable and the moisture correction was switched off. For the modelling a half-life of 0.78 days was used. The value represents the geometric mean of all experimental data after normalisation to 20 °C but without soil moisture normalisation (see Klein 2019).

For cyanamide an average (geometric mean) sorption constant of 4 L/kg was considered which was based on experimental sorption studies (EFSA 2010).

Cyanamide has a Henry’s law constant of 2.68 10-5 J/mol. However this value cannot be entered directly into FOCUS PEARL but will be internally calculated based on water solubility, vapour pressure and molecular mass.

Plant uptake was not considered since the granules are usually applied before emergence of the crop.

## Urea

According to experimental data cyanamide is further transformed to urea (Vilsmeier et Amberger 1978). The formation fraction from cyanamide to urea was set to 95.7 %.

For the half-life of urea 3.9 days at 20°C was taken. This is the geometric mean given in EFSA (2010). The computer automatically transfers the half lives at standard temperatures into the actual conditions of the scenarios. The sorption constant in soil KOC was set to 7.2 L/kg which was calculated from Hongprayoon (1991). The taken KOC value for urea corresponds to the mean of KOC values ranging from 5.3 to 9.1.

Plant uptake was not considered since the granules are usually applied before emergence of the crop.

## Dicyandiamide

In addition, cyanamide is also transformed to dicyandiamide. The formation fraction from cyanamide to dicyandiamide was set to 4.25 %. For dicyandiamide a half-life of 11.1 days at 20°C was considered. The sorption constant in soil KOC was set to 5.25 L/kg (registration dossier).

Plant uptake was not considered since the granules are usually applied before emergence of the crop.

Calcium cyanamide

Molecular Mass: 80.11 g/mol

Vapour pressure: 0

Water solubility: 800 000 mg/L at 20 °C (value of cyanamide)

Adsorption 172400 L/kg (Koc) (artificial, to reflect immobility of granulated PERLKA®)

100 000 L/kg (Kom)

Freundlich Exponent. 1 (worst case)

Diffusion coefficient in water: 4.3 10-5 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Diffusion coefficient in air: 0.43 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Degradation: DT50: 0.721 d at 20 °C

Temperature correction:

Reference temperature T0: 20 °C (FOCUS, 2000)

Activation energy: 54 kJ mol-1 (FOCUS, 2009)

Moisture correction:

Moisture exponent: 0.7 (FOCUS, 2000)

Reference soil moisture: 100 % FC

Application date: 14 days before the leaf emergence of the potatoes

Application mode: annual application

Application rate: Scenario: 300 kg PERLKA®/ha in potatoes incorporated over 15 cm

Plant uptake factor: 0.0 (worst case)

Cyanamide

Molecular Mass: 42.04 g/mol

Vapour pressure: 0.51 Pa   
Water solubility: 800 000 mg/L at 20 °C

Adsorption 4 L/kg (Koc)

2.32 L/kg (Kom)

Freundlich Exponent. 1 (worst case)

Diffusion coefficient in water: 4.3 10-5 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Diffusion coefficient in air: 0.43 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Degradation: DT50: 0.78 d at 20 °C

Temperature correction:

Reference temperature T0: 20 °C (FOCUS, 2000)

Activation energy: 54 kJ mol-1 (FOCUS, 2009)

Moisture correction:

Moisture exponent: 0 (no correction)

Reference soil moisture: not applicable

Formation fraction: 45%

Plant uptake factor: 0.0 (worst case)

Urea

Molecular Mass: 60.06 g/mol

Vapour pressure: 0.0016 Pa at 25°C   
Water solubility: 624 000 mg/L at 20 °C

Adsorption 5.3 to 9.1 L/kg (Koc, Mean=7.2 L/kg)   
4.18 L/kg (Kom)  
Calculated from Hongprayoon C et al 1991  
Freundlich Exponent. 1 (worst case)

Diffusion coefficient in water: 4.3 10-5 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Diffusion coefficient in air: 0.43 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Degradation: DT50: 3.9 d at 20 °C (EFSA 2010)

Reference temperature T0: 20 °C (FOCUS, 2000)

Activation energy: 54 kJ mol-1 (FOCUS, 2009)

Moisture correction:

Moisture exponent: 0.7 (FOCUS, 2000)

Reference soil moisture: 100 % FC

Formation fraction: 95.7%

Plant uptake factor: 0.0 (worst case)

Dicyandiamide

Molecular Mass: 42.04 g/mol

Vapour pressure: <0.004 Pa at 100°C (assumed to be 0 at 20°C)  
Water solubility: 32 000 mg/L at 20 °C

Adsorption 5.25 L/kg (Koc),  
3.05 L/kg (Kom)  
Registration dossier

Freundlich Exponent. 1 (worst case)

Diffusion coefficient in water: 4.3 10-5 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Diffusion coefficient in air: 0.43 m² d-1 (FOCUS default)

Degradation: DT50: 11.1 d at 20 °C

Reference temperature T0: 20 °C (FOCUS, 2000)

Activation energy: 54 kJ mol-1 (FOCUS, 2009)

Moisture correction:

Moisture exponent: 0.7 (FOCUS, 2000)

Reference soil moisture: 100 % FC

Formation fraction: 4.25%

Plant uptake factor: 0.0 (worst case)

# Results

The global maximum concentrations are summarised in the following tables. The application of 300 kg PERLKA®/ha in potatoes incorporated over 15 cm was considered.

Calcium cyanamide and cyanamide are not expected to leach into groundwater. However, concentrations up to 8.07 µg/L (Porto) and 12.9 µg/L (Jokioinen) were simulated for Urea and Dicyandiamide, respectively. The high concentrations at Jokioinen could be caused by low degradation due to cold temperature conditions in Finland, whereas the high rainfall amounts could be responsible for the leaching in Porto.

Table 2: 80th percentile of annual leaching concentration for PERLKA®, cyanamide, urea and dicyandiamide

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scenario | Potatoes, 300 kg/ha incorporated over 15 cm | | | |
| Location | 80th percentile of concentration in leachate | | | |
| Calcium cyanamide (PERLKA®) | Cyanamide | Urea | Dicyandiamide |
| µg/L | µg/L | µg/L | µg/L |
| CHATEAUDUN | 0 | 0 | 0.03546 | 3.321323 |
| HAMBURG | 0 | 0.000001 | 0.631439 | 10.761868 |
| JOKIOINEN | 0 | 0.000083 | 1.232639 | 12.907164 |
| KREMSMUENSTER | 0 | 0.000074 | 0.542465 | 7.502221 |
| OKEHAMPTON | 0 | 0.001639 | 2.214717 | 7.99696 |
| PIACENZA | 0 | 0.000048 | 0.512621 | 2.667603 |
| PORTO | 0 | 0.002022 | 8.074749 | 3.665435 |
| SEVILLA | 0 | 0.00093 | 2.994988 | 1.963396 |
| THIVA | 0 | 0.000006 | 0.003557 | 0.236656 |

# Conclusion

Concentration of calcium cyanamide, cyanamide, urea and dicyandiamide were calculated in the leachate. It should be noted that the formulated PERLKA® as such cannot leach to groundwater because the granules are immobile. In the model, this is reflected by the artificially high adsorption coefficient (KOC) of 172,400 L/kg, invariably resulting in groundwater concentrations of 0 µg/L for the product PERLKA®. Instead, the key metabolite cyanamide, which is formed rapidly upon contact water/moisture, and in turn shows rapid biological degradation, may nevertheless reach groundwater by leaching (Table 2). However concentration of cyanamide in ground water for all locations was below 0.002 µg/L. Cyanamide is further transformed to urea (formation fraction 95.7%) and dicyandiamide (formation fraction 4.25 %). Concentrations up to 8.07 µg/L (Porto) and 12.9 µg/L (Jokioinen) were simulated for Urea and Dicyandiamide, respectively. The high concentrations at Jokioinen could be caused by low degradation due to cold temperature conditions in Finland, whereas the high rainfall amounts could be responsible for the leaching in Porto.

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# Appendix: PEARL FOCUS Summary Output file

## 300 kg PERLKA®/ha in potatoes incorporated over 15 cm

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RUN\_ID | RESULT\_TEXT | SUBSTANCE | PRLKA | CN2 | HS | LOCATION | APPLICATION\_SCHEME | CROP\_CALENDAR | SOIL\_TYPE | METEO\_STATION | IRRIGATION\_SCHEME |
| 97 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0 | 0.03546 | CHATEAUDUN | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | CHAT-SPOTATOES | CHAT-S\_Soil | CHAT-M | FOCUS |
| 98 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.000001 | 0.631439 | HAMBURG | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | HAMB-SPOTATOES | HAMB-S\_Soil | HAMB-M | No |
| 99 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.000083 | 1.232639 | JOKIOINEN | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | JOKI-SPOTATOES | JOKI-S\_Soil | JOKI-M | No |
| 100 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.000074 | 0.542465 | KREMSMUENSTER | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | KREM-SPOTATOES | KREM-S\_Soil | KREM-M | No |
| 101 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.001639 | 2.214717 | OKEHAMPTON | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | OKEH-SPOTATOES | OKEH-S\_Soil | OKEH-M | No |
| 102 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.000048 | 0.512621 | PIACENZA | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | PIAC-SPOTATOES | PIAC-S\_Soil | PIAC-M | FOCUS |
| 103 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.002022 | 8.074749 | PORTO | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | PORT-SPOTATOES | PORT-S\_Soil | PORT-M | FOCUS |
| 104 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.00093 | 2.994988 | SEVILLA | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | SEVI-SPOTATOES | SEVI-S\_Soil | SEVI-M | FOCUS |
| 105 | Concentration closest to the 80th percentile (ug/L) | PRLKA | 0 | 0.000006 | 0.003557 | THIVA | PERLKA\_Potatoes\_300 | THIV-SPOTATOES | THIV-S\_Soil | THIV-M | FOCUS |