



**CHAP**  
CROP HEALTH & PROTECTION

## Edge-Of-Field Waterbody Safety (e-flows) Assessment Facility

Europe's most advanced edge-of-field water assessment facility will enable environmental testing of new plant-protection products to meet the most stringent regulatory standards, helping to introduce a wider range of more effective products to market more quickly to help farmers tackle threats to their crops.



# Edge-Of-Field Waterbody Safety (e-flows) Assessment Facility

## Working with commercial companies to accelerate the process of bringing safer and more effective plant-protection products to market

e-flows is a state-of-the-art system designed to provide plant-protection companies with a testbed of streams, ditches or ponds that represent edge-of-field surface waterbodies. Its purpose is to accelerate the process of bringing new high-value products to market.

It will provide:

- **Flow-through systems for controlled exposure scenarios.**
- **Mesocosm studies with the highest reliability rating.**
- **Capacity for multiple studies, reducing waiting times.**
- **High diversity to exceed Minimal Detectable Difference criteria.**
- **GLP compliance.**



## Why is the e-flow facility needed?

Companies that wish to register new plant-protection products must demonstrate an acceptable level of environmental risk for the ecosystems found in edge-of-field waterbodies. e-flows can be adapted for multiple conditions to facilitate the needs of agri-companies to complete high-tier risk assessments that are best aligned to regulatory advice and guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

## What will the E-FLOWS facility do?

For the first time in Europe, the new Edge-Of-Field Waterbody Safety (e-flows) Assessment Facility will offer a flow-through mesocosm system that is able to simulate exposure patterns according to the predicted exposure profile (e.g. by FOCUS scenario).

This controlled flow-through ability means that realistic to worst-case exposures can be performed. This provides near real-world conditions in which plant-protection companies can assess the safety of their high-value products in edge-of-field waterbodies – in accordance with best advice for regulatory compliance.

## What are the benefits?

e-flows will support innovative agri-companies dedicated to developing essential new plant-protection products by optimising risk assessment at high tier testing. This will enable them to develop marketable products by providing regulators with the information they need to approve registration, while continuing to protect the environment.

As a result, new products will be brought to market more quickly to tackle challenging crop threats, improving the choices available to farmers in protecting their crops.

## How can agri-companies commission tests using e-flows?

If you have a potential new crop-protection product that requires a more refined aquatic risk assessment before it can be brought to market, please contact us to enquire about the benefits of e-flows testing. Together we can help to give farmers more options in the fight against pests and diseases.

<sup>1</sup> Guidance on tiered risk assessment for plant protection products for aquatic organisms in edge-of-field surface waters. EFSA Journal 2013; 11(7): 3290

To find out more details: Visit [www.fera.co.uk/mesocosm-studies](http://www.fera.co.uk/mesocosm-studies), email: [era@fera.co.uk](mailto:era@fera.co.uk) or call +44 (0) 300 100 0323



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