Indicator Factsheet: Net nutrient balance

Indicator: Nutrient input **Sub-indicator: Net nutrient balance**	
Description	The spatial distribution and development of nutrient surpluses serve as an indicator of the nutrient load in agricultural areas.
Data basis	Agricultural land use* and livestock production from the Farm Structure Survey (FSS), Land use of the Digital Landscape Model (Basis-DLM), as well as official data on mineral fertiliser quantities, biogas production, compost, etc. Nutrient surplus balances are derived from analyses of the above-mentioned data sources in the framework of the 'Nutrient Impact Monitoring of the Fertiliser Ordinance'. *Recently IACS data is not available on national level, therefore FSS is used instead.
Calculation	Total agricultural nitrogen balance excluding deposition, calculated as the difference between nutrient inputs (fertilisers/transport, feed, etc.) and nutrient removals (animal and plant products) and losses. For details on the balance sheet, see Zinnbauer et al. 2023.
Spatial reporting level	**Coverage**: National; **Resolution**: Municipal level; **Reference area**: Utilised agricultural area
Reporting period/interval	Three-year average in cooperation with the 'Nutrient Impact Monitoring of the Fertiliser Ordinance'.
Interpretation	A surplus in the balance tends to lead to nutrient accumulation, resulting in a potential loss of habitat and species diversity.
Limitations	The quality and uncertainties of the data sources and methodology, as well as atmospheric deposition, must be taken into account. This is particularly evident in the context of mineral fertiliser utilisation, given the current paucity of reliable data concerning the regional distribution of mineral fertiliser application rates. The calculation of the indicator and its trends is currently based on agricultural statistics, as higher resolution data, such as IACS data and other data sources within the framework of the 'Nutrient Impact Monitoring of the Fertiliser Ordinance', are not yet available.
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