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Van Vooren, L; Reubens, B; Broekx, S; De Frenne, P; Nelissen, V; Pardon, P; Verheyen, K 2017 Ecosystem service delivery of agri-environment measures: A synthesis for hedgerows and grass strips on arable land AGRICULTURE ECOSYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENT, 244 32-51. 10.1016/j.agee.2017.04.015

Background and objective

Despite the existing knowledge on the delivery of individual ecosystem services of non-crop habitats, there is an urgent need for an integrated evaluation of the simultaneous changes in multiple ecosystem services. The main objective was to quantitatively assess the impact of hedgerows and grass strips bordering parcels with annual arable crops on the simultaneous delivery of a set of ecosystem services and from there we identified synergies and trade-offs on virtual parcels.

Search strategy and selection criteria

The systematic literature search is performed conform the PRISMA guidelines. Studies were searched on the Web of Science. 1) The study region is situated within the temperate regions of the globe; 2) empirical data of the indicator of interest are available (modelling studies are thus excluded); 3) true controls are present allowing indicator comparison with and without hedgerows or grass strips and 4) interaction of hedgerows and grass strips with arable crops.

Data and analysis

The authors applied mixed-effect models to define an effect relationship for each hedgerow or grass strip and ecosystem service indicator combination. In this relationship, the dependent variable was the natural logarithm of the ratios ($\ln(R)$). The authors did not perform a traditional, weighted meta-analysis because most studies did not report variances. When enough data with the required statistics were available, a mixed model as well as the traditional, weighted meta-analysis method was applied and compared.

Number of papers	Population	Intervention	Comparator	Outcome	Quality score
60	Arable crops	1) Grass strips; 2) Hedgerows	1) No grass strips; 2) No hedgerows	Metric: Soil sediment interception; Effect size: Logarithm of ratio of the considered metrics in the intervention to the considered metrics in the control	75

Results

- Average soil sediment interception by the grass strip was 90%.
- Grass strip width was a significant explanatory variable.
- Average soil sediment interception by the hedgerows was 91% and no study reported negative $\ln(R)$ values, indicating that hedgerows are very effective under a wide range of circumstances.

Factors influencing effect sizes

- Field edge width : The wider the grass strip, the more soil sediment was intercepted.

Conclusion

Grass strips and hedgerows are very effective in increasing soil sediment interception.