

A peer-reviewed version of this preprint was published in PeerJ on 7 January 2020.

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Pietrzak S, Pazikowska-Sapota G, Dembska G, Dzierzbicka-Glowacka LA, Juszkowska D, Majewska Z, Urbaniak M, Ostrowska D, Cichowska A, Galer-Tatarowicz K. 2020. Risk of phosphorus losses in surface runoff from agricultural land in the Baltic Commune of Puck in the light of assessment performed on the basis of DPS indicator. PeerJ 8:e8396 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.8396>

Risk of phosphorus loss in surface runoff from agricultural land in the Baltic Commune of Puck

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Background. Risk assessment of Phosphorus (P) losses in surface runoff from agricultural land is the basic measure that should be used as a part of actions taken to counteract the water eutrophication in watercourses and water reservoirs. To assess this risk, a new method has been recently developed based on the determination of degree of P saturation (DPS) which depends on P content in soil determined with the use of distilled water (water-soluble P – WSP).

Methods. Based on DPS method, the risk of P losses in surface runoff from agricultural land in Puck Commune (Baltic Sea Coast) was assessed and a critical analysis of assessment results was carried out. The research was conducted on mineral and organic soils from 50 and 11 separate agricultural plots with a total area of 133.82 and 37.23 ha, respectively. In collected soil samples, P content was determined using distilled water (all soil samples), Egner-Riehm method (mineral soils) and extract of 0.5 mol HCl • dm⁻³ (organic soils). The results of determinations P content in water extract from soils were converted to DPS values, which were classified by appropriate limit intervals.

Results & Discussion. It was found that on 96.7% of tested agricultural parcels (96% plots with mineral soils and 100% plots with organic soils) there was a potentially high risk of P losses from soil by surface runoff. At the same time, it was ascertained that in soils from 62% of agricultural plots, there was a large deficiency of plant available P. Due to the above, as well as due to the lack of connection with other factors affecting the P losses in surface runoff such as type of crop and area inclination, it was considered that the assessment based on the DPS index may be unreliable.

1 **Risk of phosphorus loss in surface runoff from agricultural**

2 **land in the Baltic Commune of Puck**

3

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18

19 **Abstract**

20 **Background.** Risk assessment of Phosphorus (P) losses in surface runoff from agricultural land
21 is the basic measure that should be used as a part of actions taken to counteract the water
22 eutrophication in watercourses and water reservoirs. To assess this risk, a new method has been
23 recently developed based on the determination of degree of P saturation (DPS) which depends on
24 P content in soil determined with the use of distilled water (water-soluble P – WSP).

25 **Methods.** Based on DPS method, the risk of P losses in surface runoff from agricultural land in
26 Puck Commune (Baltic Sea Coast) was assessed and a critical analysis of assessment results was
27 carried out. The research was conducted on mineral and organic soils from 50 and 11 separate
28 agricultural plots with a total area of 133.82 and 37.23 ha, respectively. In collected soil samples,
29 P content was determined using distilled water (all soil samples), Egner-Riehm method (mineral
30 soils) and extract of 0.5 mol HCl · dm⁻³ (organic soils). The results of determinations P content in
31 water extract from soils were converted to DPS values, which were classified by appropriate
32 limit intervals.

33 **Results & Discussion.** It was found that on 96.7% of tested agricultural parcels (96% plots with
34 mineral soils and 100% plots with organic soils) there was a potentially high risk of P losses
35 from soil by surface runoff. At the same time, it was ascertained that in soils from 62% of
36 agricultural plots, there was a large deficiency of plant available P. Due to the above, as well as
37 due to the lack of connection with other factors affecting the P losses in surface runoff such as

38 type of crop and area inclination, it was considered that the assessment based on the DPS index
39 may be unreliable.

40

41 **Introduction**

42 The Baltic Sea is a basin affected by strong eutrophication which results in many adverse
43 changes in the marine flora and fauna and in turn leads to large social and economic losses. One
44 of the main reasons for eutrophication of the Baltic Sea waters is the excessive inflow of
45 phosphorus (P) to it through rivers. The inflow from the entire Baltic basin is at 29.3 tons per
46 year, of which 35.7% comes from dispersed sources, mainly from agriculture (*HELCOM, 2018*).
47 12.7 tons of P are brought from Poland to the Baltic Sea by river waters (*HELCOM, 2018*),
48 including 21 or 33% from the agricultural sector depending on the method of assessment
49 (*National..., 2016*). In order to counteract the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, various initiatives
50 and actions have been taken for many years, both at the regional and national level, aimed at
51 limiting the supply of the mentioned component to the waters of the Baltic Sea. In this respect,
52 particularly important arrangements have been recently made at the Conference of Ministers for
53 the Environment of the HELCOM countries held on 3rd October 2013 in Copenhagen. There
54 were specified, among others, expected degrees of reduction of total P loads discharged by the
55 HELCOM Member States to the Baltic Sea. According to them, Poland should reduce the P
56 inflow to the Baltic Sea by 51%, respectively, compared to the reference period 1997-2003

57 (*National..., 2016*). Poland approved this level of reduction as a rough indication, stating that it
58 will adopt a final position after conducting relevant analyses. Regardless of their result, Polish
59 agriculture is expected to face a major challenge to significantly reduce its pressure on the Baltic
60 Sea in terms of P. There is a need to seek and implement effective solutions to reduce P loss
61 from agricultural sources to waters considering the above as well economic reasons and
62 prevention from eutrophication of inland surface waters (according to polish monitoring data, in
63 2012-2015 eutrophication parameters were exceeded in 42% for sites located on flowing waters
64 (rivers) and 66% for stands on stagnant waters (lakes/water reservoirs) (*National..., 2016*).

65 Undoubtedly, the list of measures should include tools and procedures for controlling
66 agricultural land soils in case of P loss in surface runoff. Thanks to the results of such a control it
67 is possible to manage agricultural land so as to minimize the threat posed by the component in
68 question. In this context, it should be stated that the problem of diagnosing threats to rivers and
69 reservoirs by P loss from agricultural soils is by no means new and has been of interest to many
70 researchers for years. This problem is most commonly considered in terms of interactions
71 between the content of plant available P in soil (determined by various methods, for example
72 Mehlich 3, Olsen, Egner-Riehm), and P saturation in runoff water. Using this approach, it was
73 proved that as P content in soil increases, its amount increases along with surface runoff (*Torbert*
74 *et al., 2002; Sharpley & Kleinman, 2003; Pietrzak et al., 2017*), yet the system of cultivation of
75 plants and the type of soil have an impact, too (*Gaj, 2008 after: Sharpley et al., 1981*). It should

76 be emphasized that the existing P agrochemical tests are not equally useful for testing all soil
77 types – which is a factor limiting their use.

78 Another applied approach to assessing P loss from agricultural soils via rainwater and the risk of
79 surface waters eutrophication is based on the determination of the degree of P saturation (DPS)
80 (*Alleoni et al., 2014*). The DPS in its classical formula is expressed in percentage relation of the
81 P content in the soil extract to the P sorption capacity of soil, wherein various approaches are
82 used for determination of the components in this formula (*Nair et al., 2004; Casson et al., 2006*).

83 The procedure for determining the DPS index according to this formula is unique for different
84 types of soil, which can create specific methodological problems and limit the possibilities of its
85 wider use (*Sapek, 2007*). Pöthig et al. (2010) have recently developed a different method for
86 determining this index according to which the only factor from which the DPS parameter
87 depends is the P content in soil determined with the use of distilled water – WSP (water-soluble
88 P). This method is simpler and can be used to assess the risk of P loss from all soils, regardless of
89 their type and use – that is why it is often described as ‘universal’. In the MONERIS model
90 (Modelling Nutrient Emissions into River Systems), developed for quantifying the amount of
91 nutrient emissions from point and diffuse sources in river catchments (*Venohr et al., 2001 after:*
92 *Behrendt et al., 2000*), it is particularly used to determine P saturation in surface runoff.

93 The aim of this work is to test the usefulness of the Pöthig et al. method (2010) to assess the risk
94 of P loss in surface runoff from agricultural soils in the conditions of the Puck Commune. It was

95 assumed that this aim would be achieved by determining and analysing indicators characterizing
96 these soils, such as: P saturation determined by the tested method, content of plant available P
97 determined by the Egner-Riehm method (for mineral soils), content of P soluble in 0.5 mol HCl ·
98 dm⁻³ (for organic soils), as well as data concerning their composition and use.

99

100 **Material & Methods**

101 The research was conducted in the Puck Commune. It is located in Poland, in the north-eastern
102 region of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, on the western shore of the Puck Bay, which is part of
103 the Baltic Sea. This commune is agricultural by nature. The land use structure is dominated by
104 agricultural land (57.3% of the total area of the commune), the vast majority of which is
105 characterized by high yield potential. The area of the commune is largely undulating, with land
106 falls up to approx. 9% (5.14°). Such landform features increase the danger of P loss in surface
107 runoff.

108 The research was conducted in 61 agricultural plots from 22 farms taking part in the project
109 „Modelling of the impact of the agricultural holdings and land use structure on the quality of
110 inland and coastal waters of Baltic Sea set up on the examples of the Municipality of Puck
111 region – Integrated info-prediction Web Service WaterPUCK” (*Dzierzbicka-Głowacka et al.*,
112 2019) (this project was established, among others, to determine the impact of farms located in

113 the Puck Commune on the pollution of surface and ground waters and ultimately the Baltic Sea,
114 with biogenic compounds).

115 In the spring of 2018, soil samples from the above mentioned agricultural plots were taken for
116 chemical analysis based on the guidelines included in the PN-R-04031: 1997 standard to
117 determine the percentage of floating particles (i.e. the fraction content <0.02 mm), the organic
118 matter content in the layer of 0-5 cm, pH in the layer 0-30 cm, the content of plant available P in
119 layers 0-5 and 0-30 cm, the content of WSP in the layer of 0-5 cm. In this regard:

120 – fraction content below 0.02 mm was determined by the sedimentation (pipette) method
121 according to PN-EN ISO 17892-4: 2016 standard;

122 – organic matter content was determined as a loss on ignition at 550°C by the weight
123 method according to PN-EN 12879: 2004 standard;

124 – pH measurement of soil was conducted in 1N suspension of KCl by potentiometric
125 method according to PN-ISO 10390: 1997 standard;

126 – the content of available P forms in mineral soils was determined by the Egner-Riehm
127 method, with the use of calcium lactate solution (pH ~ 3.55) according to PN-R-04023: 1996

128 standard, in organic soils the content of available P was determined in the extract of 0.5 mol
129 $\text{HCl} \cdot \text{dm}^{-3}$ according to PN-R-04024: 1997 standard; the content of WSP was determined by

130 the method of Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy ICP-OES after
131 stages involving drying soil samples in the air and sieving them (through the sieve <2 mm),

132 preparing a suspension in the ratio: 1 g of soil in 50 ml of distilled water, agitation for 2 hours,
133 filtration through a 0.45 µm filter.

134 The results of analysis of soil samples were ordered and evaluated according to the principles
135 and criteria presented below.

136 1. Based on the organic matter content, the soils were divided into mineral and organic. With the
137 content of more than 10% (threshold value between mineral and organic soils) organic soil was
138 classified as organic (on the basis of: *Szymanowski, 1995; PN-R-04024: 1997*).

139 2. According to the accepted standards, the assessment of soil acidification was conducted,
140 defining their reaction classes: very acidic, acidic, slightly acidic, neutral and alkaline under
141 conditions where their measured pH was in the following ranges: ≤ 4.5 ; $(4.5-5.5>$; $(5.5-6.5>$;
142 $(6.5-7.2>$ and >7.2 .

143 3. An assessment of P content in soil was conducted with respect to threshold values given in the
144 following standards: PN-PN-R-04023 and PN-R-04024: 1997, for the following abundance
145 classes: very low, low, medium, high and very high – Table 1. The basis for the assessment was
146 the percentage share of the soil samples tested in individual reaction and abundance classes.

147 4. Based on the results of the P content determination in soil using water extract, DPS indices
148 were calculated using the equation (*Pöthig et al., 2010*):

$$149 \text{ DPS}(\%) = \left\{ 1 / [1 + (1.25 \cdot \text{WSP}^{0.75})] \right\} \cdot 100$$

150 where: WSP – is the content of water soluble P, mg P·kg⁻¹ of soil.

151 On the basis of the determined P saturation indices, the risk of P loss by surface runoff was
152 assessed using the limit intervals specified by Pöthig et al. (2010) – Fig. 1. It was assumed that if
153 the DPS value exceeds 80%, there is a high risk of P loss from the soil by surface runoff, DPS
154 values lower than 70% were considered as safe, and values between 70 and 80% as tolerable.
155 The results of laboratory tests were also developed statistically determining the basic parameters
156 of descriptive statistics and correlations between the analysed soil indices. The statistics of the
157 results were prepared with the use of the Statistica 6.
158 Irrespectively of the research and assessments discussed above, indoor work was conducted
159 aimed at determining the area and type of development of agricultural plots selected for research,
160 recognizing the categories, types and soils subtypes occurring on them as well as inclination of
161 slopes in the research area. In these works the following were used: the results of own terrain
162 observations, a 1:25 000 soil-agricultural map of the Puck Commune in a vector format
163 developed by IUNG-PIB Puławy and maps of selected agricultural plots acquired with the use of
164 Google Earth Pro.

165

166 **Results & Discussion**

167 The research covered soils taken from 61 separate agricultural plots with a total area of 171.05
168 ha. 50 plots with a total area of 133.82 ha were agricultural lands (AL) made from mineral-
169 derived soils (with an organic matter content of 2.53-7.01%), and 11 plots with a total area of

170 37.23 ha were AL made from organic soils (characterized by organic matter content at the level
171 of 25.60- 68.17%). Given the genetic criteria, the following types and subtypes of soils occurred
172 in the research area in the given proportions (constituting the share in the area):

- 173 – brown soils – 61.9%,
- 174 – brown soils, lessive soils, podzolic soils and rusty soils made from gravel and sands –
175 10.2%,
- 176 – lessive soils – 3.7%,
- 177 – black soils – 2.4%,
- 178 – peat and muck-peat soils – 21.8%.

179 Among mineral soils, in terms of the agronomic category, medium soils dominated, covering
180 49.7% of their area, followed by light and very light soils, whose share in the mineral soil area
181 was respectively 39.1 and 11.2%. On most plots with mineral soils, grains were grown, while
182 most of the plots with organic soils were covered with permanent grassland. The area of these
183 plots was largely undulating – Fig. 2, with landfalls of up to approx. 9% (5.14°). Such landform
184 features increased the danger of P loss in surface runoff.

185 The analysed soils in the 0-30 cm layer – which is treated as a diagnostic layer in the analysis of
186 agrochemical properties of soils for the needs of fertilizer consultancy, were characterized by a
187 pH within 4.2-7.2 (average 5.4). In 62.3% of plots, these soils were characterized by a very

188 acidic and acidic reaction, in 31.1% of plots slightly acidic, and in 6.6% neutral, whereby the
189 share of mineral and organic soils in individual reaction classes varied – Fig. 3.

190 In the range of the optimum pH value – which can be assumed at 5.6 to 7.0 for mineral soils (for
191 the majority of cultivated species of plants in Poland) (*Kocoń, 2014*) and at 4.5 to 5.5 for organic
192 soils (*Moraczewski, 1996; Barszczewski et al., 201;*), there were soils covering 34.4% of plots,
193 including 30% plots with mineral soils and 54.5% plots with organic soils.

194 The available P content in the discussed layer of analysed soils reached values from 3.6 to 66.5
195 mg $P_{ER} \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average 33.3 mg $P_{ER} \cdot kg^{-1}$) in case of mineral soils and from 171.0 to 707.0 mg
196 $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average 340.6 $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$) in case of organic soils. P content in these in relation to
197 62.3% of plots was „very low” and „low”, compared to 3.8% „medium” – Fig. 4. In 4.9% of all
198 plots, soil fertility in P was „high” and „very high”. In comparison with mineral soils, the share
199 of organic soils was much smaller in the abundance classes „very low” and „low”, and much
200 higher in the classes „medium” and „very high”.

201 In the soil layer of 0-5 cm – treated as a standard in environmental research on establishing
202 relationships between the quantitative state of P in soil and surface runoff (*Sharpley et al., 1985;*
203 *Schindler, German & Gelderman, 2002; Hansen et al., 2012*), P content ranged from 3.6 to 68.8
204 mg $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average 35.4 mg $P_{ER} \cdot kg^{-1}$) in mineral soils and from 136.0 to 526.0 mg $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$
205 $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average 284.6 $P_{HCl} \cdot kg^{-1}$) in organic soils. In this layer of mineral soils, the P content was on
206 average 6.5% higher than in the 0-30 layer. In organic soils, the P content in the shallower of the

207 analysed seams was 16.6% lower than in the deeper ones. In turn, the content of WSP at the level
208 of 0-5 cm of the tested mineral and organic soils determined in water extract was in the range of
209 2.2-58.5 mg $P_{H_2O} P \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average 24.6 $P_{H_2O} P \cdot kg^{-1}$) and 13.7-79.5 mg $P_{H_2O} P \cdot kg^{-1}$ (average
210 40.3 $P_{H_2O} P \cdot kg^{-1}$), respectively. At this level of mineral soils there was on average 39.0% less P
211 than in organic soils. Calculated on the basis of WSP in the analysed soils, their DPS was 59.1-
212 94.4% (average 87.8%) for mineral soils and 85.1-95.5% (average 91.4%) for organic soils. For
213 soils from 59 plots, including 48 with mineral soils and 11 organic soils, the DPS values were set
214 at 80% and higher – Table 2. There was a high risk of P loss from these soils to water following
215 the approach to determining this risk suggested by Pöthig et al. (2010).

216 There were numerous interactions between the analysed soil indices. First of all, they occurred
217 between indices describing mineral soils. In this case, each parameter analysed was correlated
218 with all others (according to the peer-to-peer mechanism) – Table 3. These were positive and
219 mostly strong or very strong dependencies.

220 There was a relatively low correlation between the pH value of the soil and its P content
221 determined by the Egner-Riehm method both in the layer up to 5 and 30 cm. However, this
222 correlation indicates that by reducing the acidity of soils plant available P would increase. It is
223 worth emphasizing that the pH of soil is one of the factors that have the greatest direct impact on
224 the P availability. In acid soils, a large part of this component is immobilized by Manganese

225 (Mn), Iron (Fe) or Aluminium (Al) compounds. The use of liming on such soils increases the
226 amount of plant available P.

227 The P content was most strongly correlated with 0-5 and 0-30 cm soil profiles, which indicates
228 that it was quite homogeneously accumulated in the topsoil. Hence, the data regarding P state
229 may prove equally useful to quantify P loss in surface runoff from agricultural land at each of
230 mentioned levels.

231 There were fairly strong correlations between WSP and P content determined by the Egner-
232 Riehm method. Similarly strong relationships were found between WSP and P content in
233 Brazilian and German soils defined by Mehlich-1 and CAL (calcium-acetate-lactate) methods
234 based on the P-extraction by a mixture of calcium lactate and calcium acetate (*Fischer 2018*). In
235 case of such correlations, it is possible to convert the results obtained with one method to another
236 with great accuracy. As DPS is a function of $P_{H_2O_w1}$ ($R=1$), then in a view of a relatively strong
237 relationship between $P_{H_2O_w1}$ and P_{ER_w2} and P_{ER_w1} , the latter two indices also remained in a
238 strong relationship with DPS.

239 While all the analysed indices in mineral soils were correlated, in case of organic soils only
240 P_{HCL_w1} and P_{HCL_w2} were statistically correlated, with the moderate degree of this correlation –
241 Table 4, ignoring the natural relationship between DPS and $P_{H_2O_w1}$ (DPS is a function of
242 $P_{H_2O_w1}$).

243 The correlation between the P contents in soil profiles 0-5 and 0-30 cm of organic soils is less
244 stronger than in mineral soils which may result from the fact that they were not usually mixed
245 when used (mainly for grasslands) and therefore did not favour homogenisation of their top layer
246 composition – including P content. The lack of correlation between $P_{H_2O_w1}$, P_{HCl_w2} and
247 P_{HCl_w1} indicates that P transfers from soil to water and 0.5 mol HCl extracts in a different way
248 and in disproportionate amounts due to their different extraction possibilities (HCl solution is an
249 aggressive extractant, water – not).

250 In the light of presented research results and analyses as well as the purpose of the work, it
251 should be stated that the risk of P loss to waters based on the DPS is arguable. As established, the
252 share of agricultural plots with soils at high risk of P loss by surface runoff ($DPS \geq 80$) was
253 96.7%, with 96% plots with mineral soils and 100% plots with organic soils. The obtained results
254 indicate that, in environmental terms, soils practically in the whole analysed area of agricultural
255 lands were overly supplied with P, and suggest that measures need to be taken in this area to
256 prevent its outflow to waters, e.g. by decreasing phosphate fertilizers application. However, the
257 results of agronomic tests revealed that in order to obtain satisfactory crops, the P content in
258 assessed soils should be significantly increased rather than decreased (therefore, in terms of soil
259 P management various or even contradictory conclusions emerge from environmental and
260 agronomic assessments). They were indeed largely characterized by very low or low level of P –
261 in case of plots with mineral soils, 72% of them were affected by this problem. It should be

262 emphasized that in case of serious P deficiencies in soil (as identified in the research area),
263 relatively small amounts of this component are found in surface runoff (*Pietrzak et al., 2017*),
264 which, given the episodic character of the formation of runoffs, indicates that the risk of surface
265 water quality under these conditions should not be overestimated.

266 With regard to the above, it is worth adding that from an agronomic point of view the vast
267 majority of analysed soils requires not only increased application of phosphate fertilization, but
268 also liming in order to optimize their pH. This treatment would increase the resources of plant
269 available P and would be productively justified, yet it could be considered unnecessary in terms
270 of DPS-based analyses.

271 Doubts over the adequacy of determining the risk of P loss from soils to waters by means of DPS
272 threshold values are increased by the results of the assessment conducted with respect to all
273 analysed organic soils, which were mainly under grasslands. DPS for these soils exceeded 80%
274 each time so the risk of P loss to waters was high. However, it is difficult to take it as a deciding
275 conclusion as grassland is a biological filter that protects against the release of pollutants into
276 waters. The fact that this approach overlooks the aspect of landform features contributes to the
277 uncertainty as to the risk of P loss in surface runoff from agricultural land soils to waters
278 determined by DPS index. In these assessments, the inclination factor should be taken into
279 account as it contributes to the risk of surface runoff –Table 5. In the research area there were
280 sometimes significant landfalls which undoubtedly affected the dynamics of P outflow to waters.

281 In addition, it should be considered that the outflow was shaped by a number of other factors,
282 such as: physical and chemical soil properties (including pH and organic matter content), soil
283 and plants cultivation, atmospheric conditions (*Ulen, 2013; Sapek, 2014*).

284 As indicated above, the problem of determining the risk of P loss in surface runoff from
285 agricultural soils to waters is complex. The assessment of such a risk should by no means depend
286 solely on the value of DPS index.

287

288 **Conclusion**

289 The research was conducted on a typical undulating area of agricultural land in the Puck
290 Commune, 78.2% of which consisted of arable land and 21.8% of grassland. In terms of
291 mechanical composition, agricultural land soils were predominantly medium and light, whereas
292 alluvial soils were entirely of organic origin. Most of them were characterized by high acidity
293 (on more than 62% of agricultural plots the soils had a very acidic and acid reaction) and
294 deficiency of plant available P. In the latter case, over 62% of the analysed soils – including 72%
295 of mineral soils and over 18% of organic soils – were characterized by very low and low content
296 of the mentioned component. The DPS (determined on the basis of P content extracted in the
297 water extract) in almost all of the assessed soils exceeded 80%. Hence, taking into account the
298 existing criterion of DPS index assessment, there was a high risk of P loss in surface runoff to
299 water. It seems, however, that this assessment should be approached cautiously as it does not

300 correspond to the results of the agronomic assessment of the P content in soil (conducted in
301 terms of requirements for application of phosphate fertilization). It also disregards other factors
302 affecting P loss in runoff, such as the type of crop or area inclination.

303 In the light of the above, it can be concluded that the problem of determining the risk of P loss in
304 surface runoff from agricultural land to water is still open. There is a need for further work on its
305 solution.

306

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Figure 1 (on next page)

Correlation between DPS and WSP of soils; own elaboration (based on: Pöthig et al., 2010)

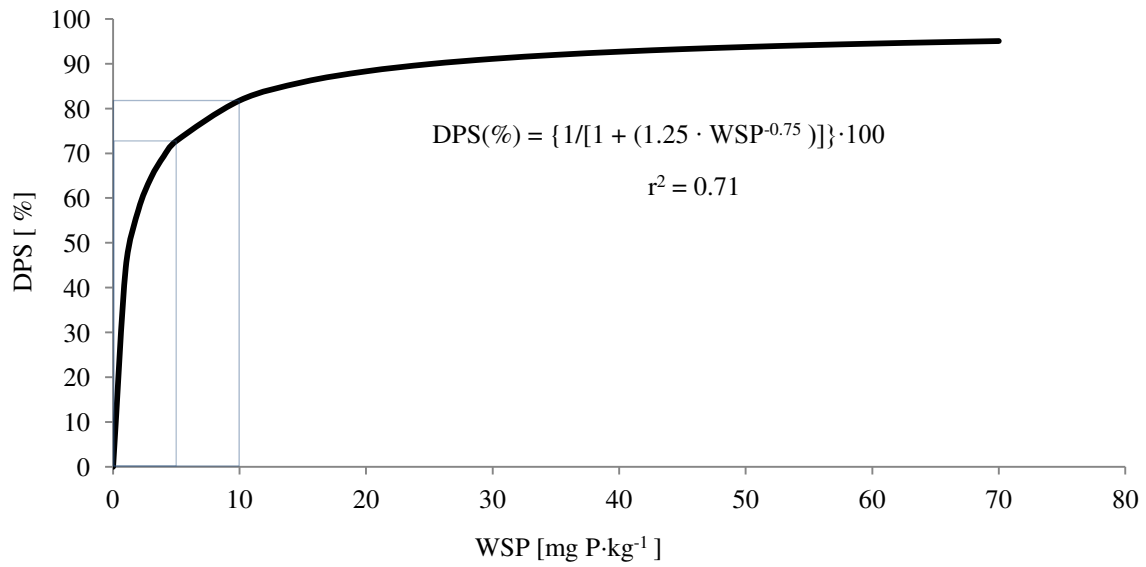


Figure 1: Correlation between DPS and WSP of soils; own elaboration (based on: *Pöthig et al., 2010*).

Figure 2(on next page)

View of an exemplary agricultural plot from the research area and the shape of its longitudinal profile; Map data © 2019 Google Earth Pro



Figure 2: View of an exemplary agricultural plot from the research area and the shape of its longitudinal profile; Map data © 2019 Google Earth Pro.

Figure 3 (on next page)

Distribution of soil pH in tested agricultural plots, in the 30 cm layer

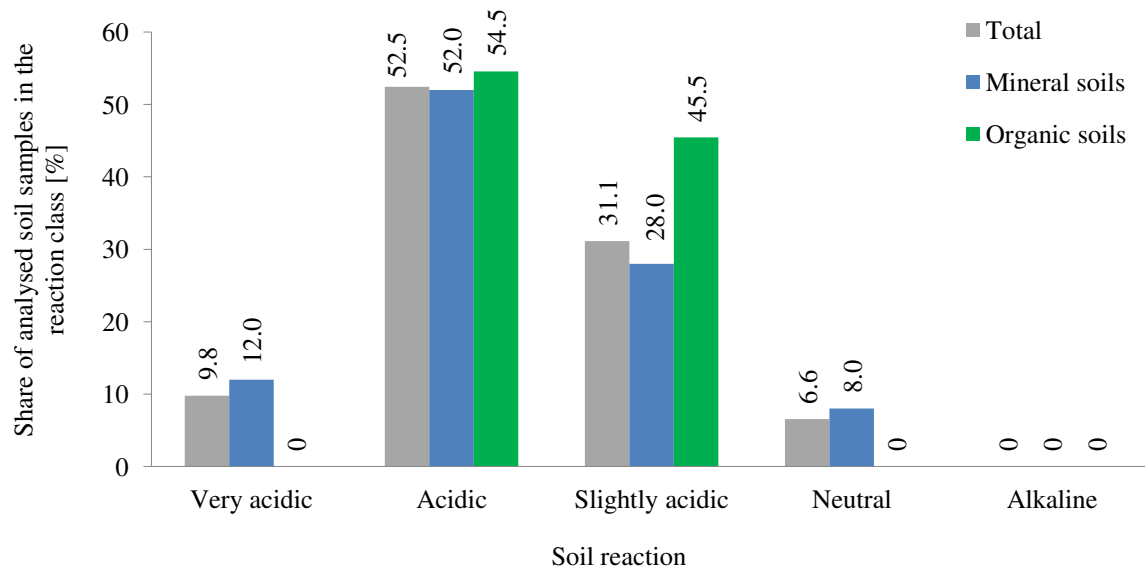


Figure 3: Distribution of soil pH in tested agricultural plots, in the 30 cm layer.

Figure 4 (on next page)

Distribution coming from the tested agricultural parcels, in the layer of 30 cm

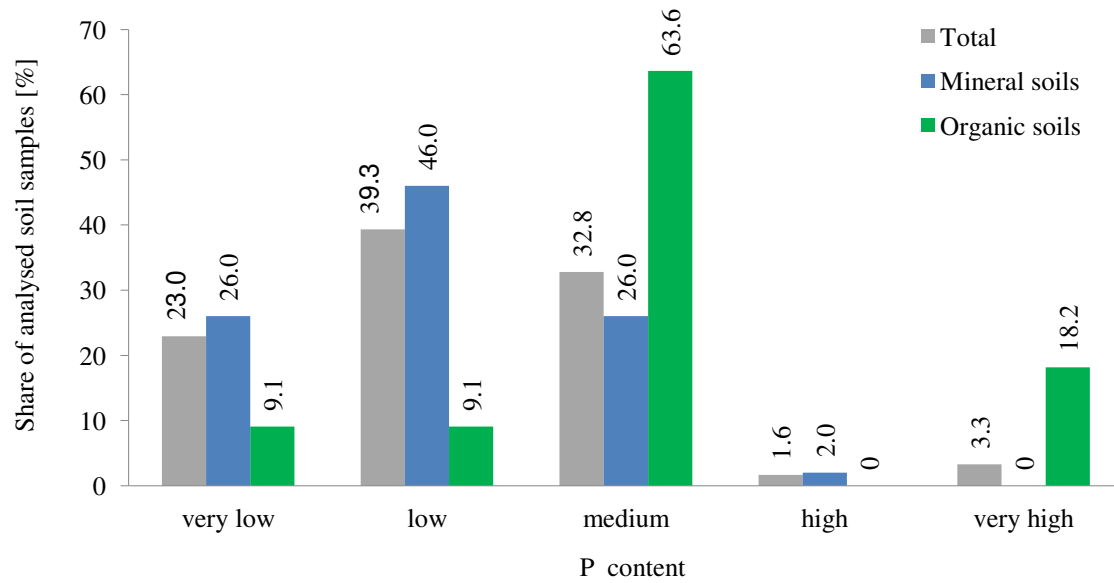


Figure 4: Distribution coming from the tested agricultural parcels, in the layer of 30 cm.

Table 1 (on next page)

Assessment of P content; own elaboration (based on: *PN-PN-R-04023*; *PN-R-04024:1997*)

1 Table 1: Assessment of P content; own elaboration (based on: *PN-PN-R-04023*; *PN-R-*
2 *04024:1997*).

3

Abundance class	Abundance assessment	Ingredient content, mg P·kg ⁻¹ of soil dry matter	
		mineral soils	organic soils
V	very low	≤ 22	≤ 174
IV	low	(22-44>	(174-262>
III	medium	(44-65>	(262-349>
II	high	(65-87>	(349-523>
I	very high	> 87	> 523

4

5

Table 2 (on next page)

Share of agricultural plots with soils in various DPS thresholds

1 Table 2: Share of agricultural plots with soils in various DPS thresholds.

2

DPS thresholds, %	Risk of phosphorus loss from soil:	Type of soil		
		mineral	organic	total
		Number of plots (share, %)		
70 <	lack	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.6)
<70-80)	acceptable	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.6)
≥ 80	big	48 (96.0)	11 (100.0)	59 (96.7)

3

Table 3 (on next page)

Correlations between analysed indices of mineral soils

Explanation: pH_{KCl} - soil acidity measured in a suspension of KCl solution; P_{ER} - P content in soil determined by the Egner-Riehm method; $\text{P}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ - water soluble P (WSP) content; DPS - degree of P saturation; w1 - layer 0-5 cm; w2 - layer 0-30cm; * - correlation significant at $\alpha = 0.05$; ** - correlation significant at $\alpha = 0.01$

1 Table 3: Correlations between analysed indices of mineral soils.

2

3 Explanation: pH_{KCl} – soil acidity measured in a suspension of KCl solution; P_{ER} – P content in
 4 soil determined by the Egner-Riehm method; $\text{P}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ – water soluble P (WSP) content; DPS –
 5 degree of P saturation; w1 – layer 0-5 cm; w2 – layer 0-30cm; * – correlation significant at $\alpha =$
 6 0.05; ** – correlation significant at $\alpha = 0.01$.

7

Index	pH_{KCl}	$\text{P}_{\text{ER_w2}}$	$\text{P}_{\text{ER_w1}}$	$\text{P}_{\text{H}_2\text{O_w1}}$	DPS
	Spearman rank correlation coefficient (R)				
pH_{KCl}		0.3655**	0.3244*	0.4017**	0.4017**
$\text{P}_{\text{ER_w2}}$			0.9552**	0.8474**	0.7474**
$\text{P}_{\text{ER_w1}}$				0.8176**	0.8176**
$\text{P}_{\text{H}_2\text{O_w1}}$					1**
DPS					

8

Table 4 (on next page)

Correlations between analysed indices of organic soils

Explanation: P_{HCl} - P content in soil determined in the extract of 0.5 mol HCl dm^{-3} ; other explanations as in Table 3

1 Table 4: Correlations between analysed indices of organic soils.

2

3 Explanation: P_{HCl} – P content in soil determined in the extract of 0.5 mol HCl dm^{-3} ; other
4 explanations as in Table 3.

5

Index	pH_{KCl}	P_{HCl_w2}	P_{HCl_w1}	P_{H2O_w1}	DPS
	Spearman rank correlation coefficient (R)				
pH_{KCl}		0.4828	0.4771	0.4863	0.4863
P_{HCl_w2}			0.6196*	0.0866	0.0866
P_{HCl_w1}				0.3091	0.3091
P_{H2O_w1}					1**
DPS					

6

Table 5 (on next page)

Assessment of runoff risk for all soil types; own elaboration (based on: *DEFRA 2005*)

1 Table 5: Assessment of runoff risk for all soil types; own elaboration (based on: *DEFRA 2005*)

2

Specification	Inclination:			
	>7° (12.3%)	3-7° (5.2-12.3%)	2-3° (3.5-5.2%)	<2° (3.5%)
runoff risk	high	moderate	low	low

3

4