*Bert:* Hi. I am Bert De Groef and I am one of a team of scientists working at La Trobe University. We all know that fruit is an essential part of a well-balanced diet…

*Freda (voice-over):* Apples and pears are excellent sources of vitamins and fibre that keep us healthy. But there’s another side of the coin.

*Bert:* Most farmers use a variety of pesticides to protect their fruit against pest insects.These chemicals end up in the environment - in our streams and rivers.Not only is this where our drinking water is coming from, it is also home to a bunch of animals, like fish and frogs.

*Freda:* Worldwide, about 1 in 3 species of amphibian are threatened with extinction, and water pollution is an important contributing factor. For example, this frog and his relatives live in a small creek in Southern Australia. He struggles to survive. You can change the life of this frog and thousands like him and we can tell you how.

*Sylvia:* It is really important that we test these pesticides not just for general toxicity, but also for more subtle effects on development and reproduction that may not kill wildlife, but cause diseases.

*Freda:* We’d like to test one of the more common insecticides that is widely used in Australia, the US and developing countries, that’s never been tested for hormone disruption before. We will use a state-of-the-art and very sensitive test developed by our collaborators in France. It uses frogs that are engineered to glow when they are exposed to hormone-disrupting chemicals. You basically scan frogs exposed to different concentrations of the pesticide and the more the frogs glow, the more their hormone balance is disrupted by the chemical.

*Bert:* The best possible outcome would be that the insecticide has no effect at all. But if it does, these experiments will provide good, solid evidence, that we can then take to the policy makers and say, “Look, you *really* got to do something about this!” We need to find sustainable alternatives for the farmers to protect their crop.

*Almas:* We really appreciate your help to make this happen! We can’t do this without you. Your generous help provides a voice for these frogs and the environment in which they live. Thank you so much.