

# The future of food and farming

The use of pesticides for the production of specialised crops

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Regulation 1185/2009 Statistics EU Regulatory Framework Directive 2009/128 Sustainable Use

Regulation 396/2005 Residues

Food Safety



# Pesticides are used safely

- >80000 food samples analysed/year by MS CAs
- 97.8% compliance with MRLs overall
- Non-compliance
  - 4.7% for non-EU countries
  - 1.2% for EU countries
- Based on this data:



Commission audits to non-EU countries







#### **SUD**

"a framework to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides"





#### **Commission work on SUD**

- Report to EP
  - Evaluation of National Actions Plans (NAPs)
  - Survey of MS
  - Missions to MS
- Feedback to MS on NAPs
- Launch of SUD web-portal







### Commission work on SUD - 2018-19

- IPM enforcement
  - Better Training for Safer Food Specific sessions on vines, fruit & veg
  - Establishment of criteria to assess implementation of the 8 IPM principles
- Second Report to EP
  - Evaluation of round 2 NAPs
  - Audits to MS
  - Questionnaire to MS on lessons learned
- Establishment of Harmonized Risk Indicator(s) at EU level







## Conclusion: MS have taken actions....

- Sprayer testing 900K sprayers tested
- Operator training 4m operators trained
- Prohibition or aerial spraying, except under derogation
- Restrictions in public areas e.g. quotas for golfcourses in Denmark





# But, weaknesses in some MS.....

- Aerial spraying not explicitly prohibited
- Sprayer testing systems not established
- Delays in training operators
- IPM remains underused





# And in general, MS have not:

- Established specific targets and timetables
- Defined the measures to achieve the targets
- Described how to measure progress (Indicators)



### And therefore are unable to.....

- Quantify success, or otherwise, of their NAP
- Measure progress
- Communicate with citizens









# Specialised crops

- Vegetables, fruits, nursery stock and flowers
- EU production > €70 billion per year
- 22% of EUs total plant production in value
- Part of our culture e.g. early potatoes, asparagus, strawberries etc.





# Commission actions to support sustainable PPP use on specialist crops

- One evaluation to authorise PPPs for use on protected crops, seed treatment and post-harvest treatment in all MS
- Data protection benefits for PPPs authorised on minor crops
- Co-funding of the EU Minor uses co-ordination facility from 2015-2018
- Research funding under Horizon 2020





# SUD and fruit & veg: A success story

- Participation in private QA schemes
- Highly knowledgeable, specialist growers
- Supermarket/consumer pressure to reduce use
- Widespread adoption of biological controls
- Virtually zero chemical PPP use in certain protected crops





SUD and vines: Searching for

alternatives.....

Intensive use of PPPs

Reliance on copper



- Integrated Production in IT
- Alternatives to copper
  - Specifc project under German NAP







#### SUD and olives: Plant health

- Xylella bacterial disease of olives, with potential to transfer to other species
- Importance of IPM and good plant health practices
  - Monitoring for the introduction/spread of pests
  - Physical controls cutting down infected trees
  - Hygiene measures to prevent spread





#### Conclusions

- Sophisticated, integrated regulatory system
- High level of food safety
- But citizens, and legislation, require more
- SUD/IPM highly developed in some crops
- Need for greater ambition by MS

