

**SUSTAINABLE USE OF
PESTICIDES:
CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE
APPLICATION OF
2009/128/DIRECTIVE**

di

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Meeting with EU Commission delegates

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e Forestali**

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN ITALY: THE NUMBERS

- * **Italian fruit and vegetables: 99,5% is respectful of LMR
56.5% zero residues
43,0% under the limits**
- * **percentage of irregularities is decreased from 2,3% in
1995 until 0,55 % in 2014.**
- * **Organic agriculture: 1.492.579 ha, in 2015 (+7,5%
compared to 2014) first country in EU for numbers of
operators**
- * **National Quality System IPM: more than 800.000 ha**
- * **since 1995, Italy has introduced a system of authorization
to buy pesticides with compulsory training for operators
(farmers and agricultural workers that do treatments)**
- * **national care system about pesticides intoxications
nearby Niguarda Hospital – Milan: only 6% of total
chemical intoxications are caused by pesticides (source
Higher Health Institute - ISS)**
- * **tax on pesticides finances research in organic agriculture**

USE OF PESTICIDES FOR CLASS OF PRODUCTS

source: ISTAT – kilograms of pesticides



YEAR	VERY TOXIC AND TOXIC	HARMFUL	NOT CLASSIFIED	TOTAL	TRAPS
2003	10.653.929	20.411.699	126.946.190	158.011.818	625.787
2014	7.614.363	31.539.224	90.823.256	129.976.843	474.460
2015	6.968.297	35.598.156	93.488.256	136.054.709	583.106
2015/2003	-35%	+74%	-26%	-14%	-7%

2009/128/EC DIR.: FARMERS ASK A DIFFERENT APPROACH

**substitution of the quantitative reduction with the
mitigation of risks**

quantity of pesticides depends on:

- * climate conditions and climate changes factories (scientific studies demonstrate the increasing of new parasites and diseases in Italy and Mediterranean area caused by the increasing of temperature)**
- * kind of crops (fruit and vegetables crops are more exposed)**

the National Plan should be a flexible instrument according to the evolution of parasites, diseases, adoption by farmers of technological innovations....



2009/128/EC DIR.: LIMITS AND CONSEQUENCES (1)



- * **LIMIT**
- * **the directive should have been accompanied by a research plan to find less toxic substances and alternative best practices to reduce parasites and diseases**



CONSEQUENCE

many gaps in the pest management (cut off of active substances is quicker than their substitution)

- many crops have no systems of defense against old and new parasites (f.i. Halyomorpha halis, Drosophila suzukii) and diseases

2) Italian farmers have higher costs of production and are losing competitiveness (Third countries can use pesticides forbidden in EU market)



2009/128/EC DIR.: LIMITS AND CONSEQUENCES (2)

* **LIMIT**

- * **Lack of an EU information campaign to improve the knowledge of pesticides among consumers**
- * **why consumers must be informed about organic agriculture and not about farmers' engagements in using pesticides?**

CONSEQUENCE

general alarmism about pesticides among consumers

consumers have an emotional approach about pesticides and don't trust in scientific authorities





2009/128/EC DIR.: LIMITS AND CONSEQUENCES (3)

- * **128 directive undervalued the role of non professional use of pesticides**
- * **Italy hasn't yet adopted the specific law for the implementation of directive**
- * **according to the last census:**
 - **1.620.884 farms**
 - **750.941 farms recorded in the register of enterprises (professional farms)**
 - **869.943 farms not recorded in the register of enterprises**

Who checks this category of non professional farmers that use pesticides too?

ISPRA report about pesticides residues in waters doesn't estimate the impact of non professional use



THE GREATEST LIMIT OF DIRECTIVE 128

- * **The directive doesn't protect health consumers from food products imported from Third countries obtained with pesticides forbidden in EU since longtime**

Questions:

- * **Why EU accepts that EU consumers' health is exposed to toxic active substances used in Third countries ?**
 - * **(f.i. Turkish nuts treated with Endosulfan)**
- * **Why Italian farmers must have higher costs of production to improve sustainability while EU open the frontiers to the import of food products obtained with no sustainable agricultures?**



WHERE IS ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IN DIRECTIVE n. 2009/128/CE?

- * **The sustainable development concerns three aspects: economy, society and environment**

Question:

- * **The market is giving a premium price to farmers that use less pesticides?**
- * **Yes, for organic agriculture: prices in average are from +25% to +40% compared to conventional food**
- * **NO, for compulsory IPM: it only allows to farmers to maintain shares of market**
- * **This is the reason why Italy has developed the IPM Quality National System (SQNPI)**
- * **payments to famers that voluntarily give adhesion to a SQNPI regulation that is more restrictive than the compulsory IPM**



WHAT ITALIAN FARMERS REQUEST

- * **amendments to directive n. 128: risk mitigation**
- * **an investment plan on research to find alternative active substances, bio-based pesticides and best practices (having the same level of efficacy than cut off active substances) – support to start up firms for producing alternative active substances**
- * **operative working of minor crops platform**
- * **to check that Member States are applying the mutual recognition**
- * **more funds to farmers for training and technical advice services**
- * **simplifications for the authorization of low risk active substances**
- * **institutional campaigns (EU and national institutions as Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Health) for consumers about the use of pesticides**
 - **what it is a pesticide**
 - **the EU policy for the sustainable use**
 - **the results of farmers engagements in the sustainable use of pesticides**





Thank you!