



EU Conference on Endocrine Disruptors

Potential impacts on agriculture

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Introduction



Introduction (I-I)

- **Who are Copa and Cogeca?**
- **Copa**
Created in 1958, Copa represents 23 million European farmers and family members
- **Cogeca**
Created in 1959, Cogeca represents 22, 000 European agricultural cooperatives
- **Copa and Cogeca**
In 1962, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the biggest and most active lobby organisations in Brussels



General framework

General framework (I-II)

Legislative framework

- Reg 1107/2009, Reg 396/2005, Sustainable Use Directive, Water Framework Directive, other restrictions (neonics, national)
- Restrictive hazard based system in Europe
- Loss of active substances (a.s.)

Production conditions

- Differences among MS: climate, geography, crop systems
- High diversity of crops and ecosystems in Europe

General framework (II-II)

Principles applied in food protection

- Public health: farm to fork approach
- Environment: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Consumers expectations: price and quality
- Competitiveness: costs and yields
- Risk management
- Science-based decision-making



Importance of plant protection

Importance of plant protection (I-III)

- **Some figures and comments**
 - 30 – 40% of food loss due to pest and diseases (without treatment)
 - 70% of increase in food demand (and therefore production) by 2050
 - Downward trend in use of pesticides in EU
 - Consumers look for high quality products at affordable prices
 - **More than one-tenth of all pests (global level) have reached more than half the countries that grow their hosts**

Importance of plant protection (II-III)

- **Risk assessment for active substances (EFSA)**
 - Environment and health risks
 - Maximum Residue Levels (MRL)
- Active substances are safe

EDs can therefore be treated like most other substances of concern for human health and the environment, i.e. be subject to risk assessment and not only to hazard assessment (EFSA, 2013)

Importance of plant protection (III-III)

- **Risk management (European Commission)**
 - Conditions for autorisation
 - Sustainable Use of Pesticides – storage, handling and application

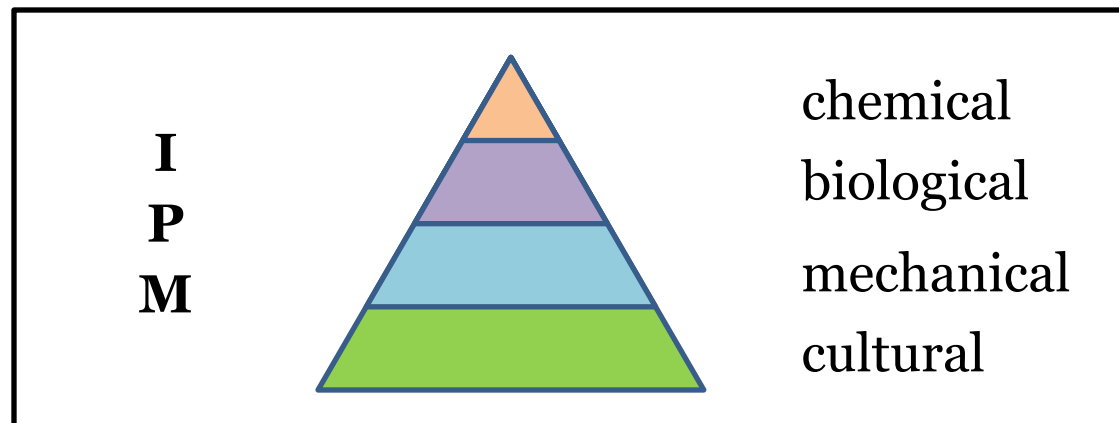
→ Active substances are used safely and sustainably
- **Still something missing:**
 - Already measures in place to reduce risks for human health and the environment...
 - ... but there is a need to take into account the socio-economic impact of the loss of PPP**



Effective plant protection

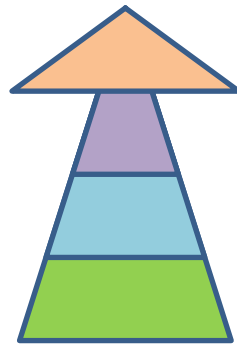
Effective plant protection (I-V)

- **Based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**
 - Enough alternatives for crop rotation and in each group of treatments (mechanical, biological, chemical)
 - Effectiveness of the different alternatives
 - Cost of plant protection solutions (product, labour, machinery, financial costs...)



Effective plant protection (II-V)

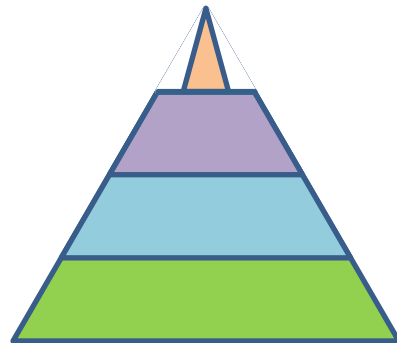
- less **viable** solutions → more use of Plant Protection Products (PPP)



Threats:

- higher costs for farmers
- environmental risks
- development of resistances
- loss of quality production

- Less alternatives in PPP → more use of existing ones



Threats:

- less adaptability to infestations
- development of resistances
- lower compliance with MRL

Effective plant protection (III-V)

- **Major Crops**
 - Cereals, oil and protein crops
 - 15% of the EU's wheat crop is exported annually
 - Large quantities of oilseeds, animal feedstuffs and rice are imported (i.e. about half the oilseed meals used in animal feed)
 - 70% of the cultivated area
 - Usual cost per treatment (fruit production): 40 –50 euros/ha
 - Some of them face other restrictions (neonicotinoids)

Effective plant protection (IV-V)

- **Minor Uses and Specialty Crops**
 - Fruits and Vegetables:
 - 50 billion euros annual – 17% of the value of EU agricultural production
 - 3% of the cultivated area
 - Usual cost per treatment (fruit production): 100 – 150 euros/ha
 - Small scale crops but also major crops in specific situations (seeds, storage or transport)
 - Most at the forefront of IPM
 - Increasing lack of economically viable crop protection

Effective plant protection (V-V)

- **Current situation**
 - Only 3 low-risk active substances and 4 basic active substances approved at EU level
 - Lack of mutual recognition in the different authorisation zones (less availability in some MS)
 - Lack of effective extension of use for Minor Uses and Specialty Crops
 - Too slow procedure for emergency recognition → lack of pro-active availability of tools against emerging risks



Conclusions

Conclusions (I-II)

- **Variable impacts depending on crops/climate conditions/MS**
 - On production
 - Quantity: loss of yield
 - Quality: marketing standards
 - On competitiveness (increase of costs, lack of reciprocity)
 - On adaptability to new climate conditions, new pests and diseases (lack of alternatives)
 - On threats to agriculture (development of resistances)

Conclusions (II-II)

- **Wider implications**
 - Land use change
 - Supply chain (food, feed, fuel)
 - Food waste
 - Jobs (specially in rural areas)
- **Special attention to Minor Uses and Specialty Crops**



**Thank you for your
attention**

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