

*“Pesticides and retailers: the Euro Coop
perspective and the Coop Denmark case”*

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About Euro Coop

- ✓ European Community of Consumer Co-operatives
- ✓ Members' figures (20 countries)
 - Turnover: €76 billion+
 - 450,000+ employees
 - 36,000+ points of sale
 - 4,500+ local and regional co-operatives
 - Consumer-members: > 30,000,000
 - Market leaders in IT, DK, FI and SK – among top 5 retailers in other countries



General objectives

- ✓ **Represent** the members before the EU Institutions
- ✓ Exchange of **experiences**, **best practices**, **Know-how**
- ✓ Providing information on **key policy issues**



Pesticides – Key advocacy points

- ✓ **Minimise hazards/risks to health and environment** from pesticides use
- ✓ **Improve controls** on pesticides use/distribution
- ✓ **Reduce the levels of harmful active substances**, in particular by replacing the most dangerous (including non-chemical) alternatives
- ✓ Encourage the use of **low-input** or **pesticide-free** crop farming
- ✓ Establish a **transparent system for reporting/monitoring progress**, including development of appropriate indicators
- ✓ **Streamline/co-ordinate policies** (agriculture, environment, food safety etc.)

Pesticides – How do we act?

- ✓ Sustainability is a **founding value** of all co-operative enterprises → statutory bound to operate following the principles of **economic**, **social** and **environmental sustainability**
- ✓ Consumer co-operatives' **primary aim is to satisfy consumer – members' need and expectations**, not to maximise profits → able to look **beyond classical production & consumption paradigm** to the benefit of the whole society
- ✓ Unlike other private retailers, **education** and not only information to consumers is among axes of action



- ❖ Frontrunners in promoting **organic agricultural production**
- ❖ Developers of **own-brand lines** for organic/ecological products (Änglamark, Vivi Verde etc.)
- ❖ Responsible for **controls** throughout the supply chain beyond legislative obligations (implementation of « Code of Practices »)
- ❖ **Educate/inform employees/consumer-members** to the impact of pesticides in food production

Pesticides – Some examples (I)



The Co-operative Group UK

- ✓ Strong policy to reduce use of pesticides in **all own-brand fresh, frozen, chilled and canned product**
- ✓ **449 pesticides** in **Pesticide Policy** as **banned, prohibited, monitored**. Policy reviewed according to international conventions . E.g. phasing out alachlor, adicarb, endosulfan
- ✓ Require all growers to **fully explore alternative pest management approaches**. Regular compliance auditing across the supply chain. When breached: sourcing suspended
- ✓ **Paraquat**: to be banned by 2014
- ✓ In 2009: first UK supermarket to ban the **use of neonicotinoids** implicated in billions of honeybee deaths worldwide.

Pesticides – Some examples (II)



Coop Italy

- ✓ Since 1992: limits not only residues from single substances but from cumulated substances → if more substances are contemporary allowed, residues from single substances must decrease
- ✓ Precautionary principle embedded in all its policies → ongoing scientific monitoring and contribution, rigorous controls on the whole supply chain from primary resources to point of sale
- ✓ Ensures that all its own-brand products as well as feed for animals used to produce its own-brands are GM-free
- ✓ Pioneers in Italy to mainstream and promote products coming from organic agriculture

Coop Sweden, Coop Denmark, Coop Norway

Leaders in mainstreaming and promoting products coming from organic agriculture

Pesticides – Some examples (III)

The case of Coop Denmark

Ms Malene Teller Blume



Thank you for your attention!

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