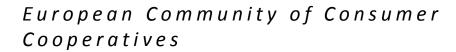


"Pesticides and retailers: the Euro Coop perspective and the Coop Denmark case"

Rosita Zilli – Euro Coop Deputy Secretary - General

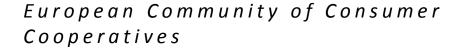
Symposium "Feeding Europe with fewer pesticides" – Brussels, 4th November 2014





About Euro Coop

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





General objectives

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



www.eurocoop.coop



Pesticides – Key advocacy points

- ✓ <u>Minimise hazards/risks to health and environment</u> from pesticides use
- ✓ <u>Improve controls</u> 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 <u>transparent system for reporting/monitoring progress</u>, including development of appropriate indicators
- ✓ **Streamline/co-ordinate policies** (agriculture, environment, food safety etc.)



European Community of Consumer Cooperatives

Pesticides – How do we act?

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



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Pesticides – Some examples (I)

The Co-operative Group UK

- ✓ Strong policy to reduce use of pesticides in <u>all own-brand fresh, frozen, chilled and canned product</u>
- ✓ <u>449 pesticides</u> in <u>Pesticide Policy</u> as <u>banned</u>, <u>prohibited</u>, <u>monitored</u>. Policy reviewed according to interenational conventions . E.g. phasing out alachlor, adicarb, endusolfan
- ✓ Require all growers to <u>fully explore alternative pest management approaches</u>. 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 <u>use of neonicotinoids</u> implicated in billions of honeybee deaths worldwide.



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Pesticides – Some examples (II)

Coop Italy





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

Coop Sweden, Coop Denmark, Coop Norway

Leaders in mainstreaming and promoting products cooming from organic agriculture



Pesticides – Some examples (III)

The case of Coop Denmark

Ms Malene Teller Blume





Thank you for your attention!

Rosita Zilli – Deputy Secretary - General rzilli@eurocoop.coop

