



Expectations from NGOs

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***3rd Workshop Towards Chemical Pesticide-free
Agriculture, 23 October Helsinki***

This presentation is about:

- Who is PAN Europe
- What citizens want vs what is being done
- Which roadmap Europe needs, and how this workshop can be part of this



“European network which has set itself the goal of paving the way for a chemical-pesticide-free agriculture on the basis of excellent research on a joint scientific, political and social level.”

ZALF PR of 17/5/19

1. Who is PAN Europe

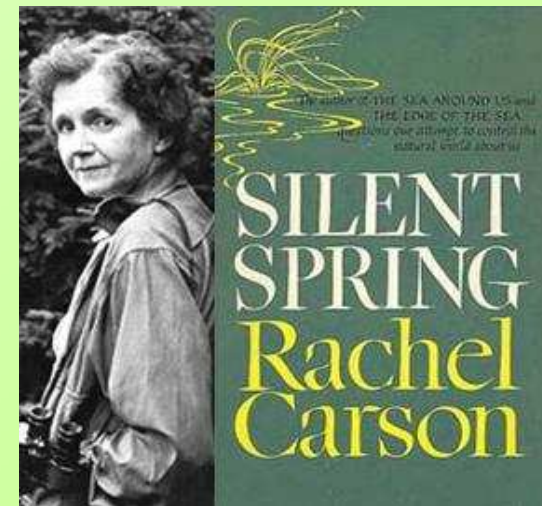


Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe

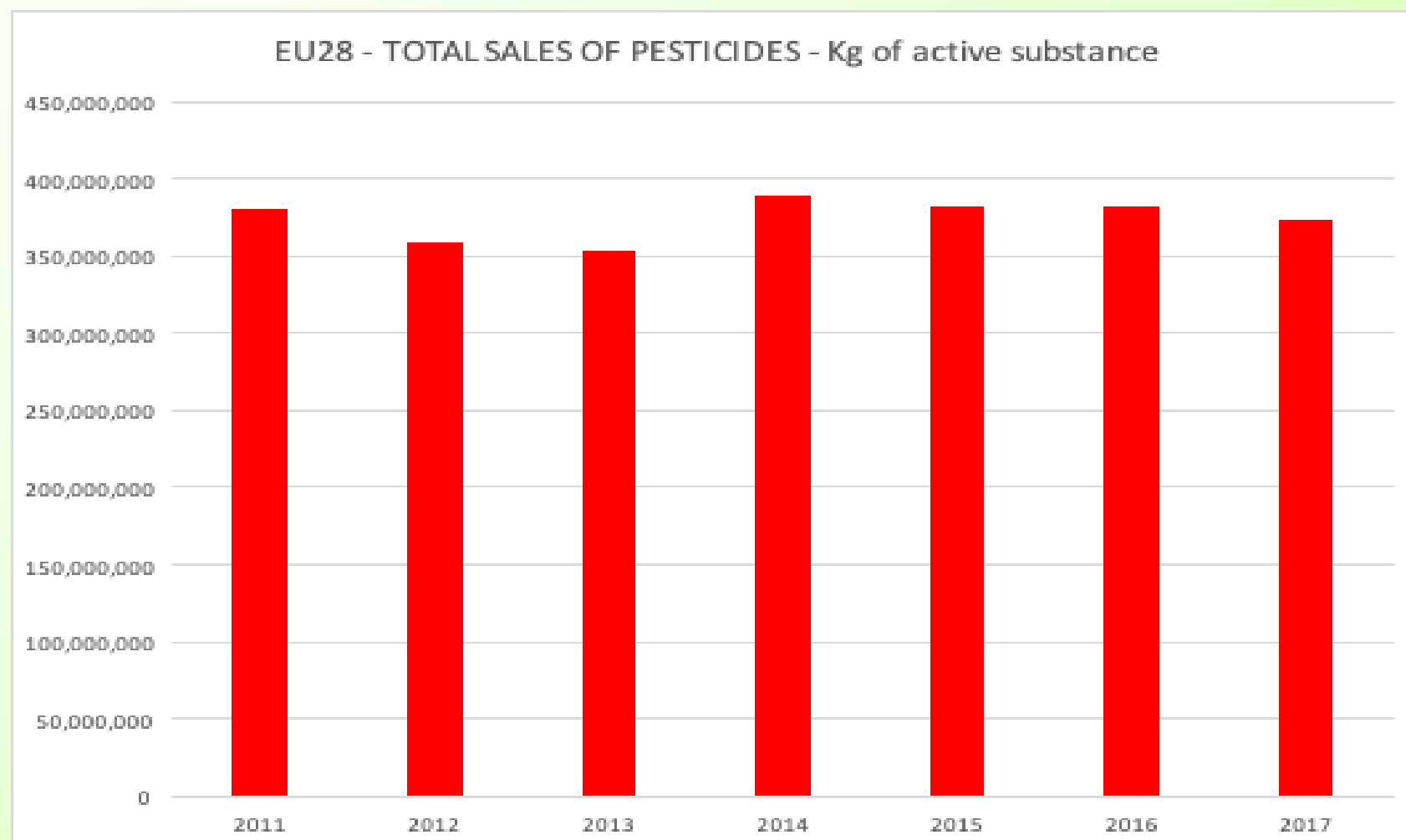
- **Pesticide Action Network:** a network of 600 NGOs united 5 centers of PAN International
- **PAN Europe:** 42 not-for-profit members in 26 European countries
- **Mission:** Working to replace use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives

“The more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became... What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do would be more important.”

Rachel Carson, 1962



2. Change is not happening



Source: Eurostat

3a. Citizens want change

2010: Sweden adopts a long term strategy towards non toxic environment

Bans across Europe

2014: Vallarsa+Malosco(IT) establish 50 meter pesticide free strips

2017: Brussels region ban glyphosate and neonics for use in agriculture

2017: Aarhus, Aalborg, Egedal... (DK) make farmers above drinking water areas move to organic

2018: Sonderborg, Skanderborg (DK) make farmers above drinking water areas move to organic

Referendum

2014: Malles (IT) the world's first referendum on pesticides (73% yes)



European Citizens Initiative (ECI)

2017: EU wide, 1,3 million EU citizens to stop use of glyphosate

3b. Citizens want change

From petition to law:

2018/2019 : Bavarian petition
save the bees: **1,75 millions**
signatures

Some of the ongoing petitions:

2019: French petition
To date: +/- **937 600** signatures

2019: Italian petition 50m
buffer strips

To date: +/- **37 000** signatures

2019: European Citizen
Initiative save bees and
farmers: **signatures**
collection starting soon



From petition to referendum

2019/20: Conegliano, Italy

2020: Swiss expected date for
referendum (without support
from MPs)

*Stop subsidies allocated for
Pesticides use*

*Complete ban on all synthetic
pesticides*

Social media groups 'no- pesticides':

Italy: **58.600** members

France: **72.200** members

4. Time for actions at policy levels as tensions are increasing



5. A new beginning?



Copyright: Sandrine Boulet

EU objective 2019-24: reduce pesticide dependency



President-elect Ursula von der Leyen has given clear indications to the Commissioners for environment, health and agriculture to deliver a new EU zero pollution ambition:

EU mission on health: *“I want you to work on protecting plant health, **reducing dependency on pesticides and stimulating the take-up of low-risk and non-chemical alternatives.**”*

EU mission on environment: *“You will lead on delivering....a wide-ranging approach looking at **air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors.**”*

EU mission on agriculture and rural development: *“you should ensure that agriculture and food production contribute to our climate, **environmental and biodiversity goals, notably by reducing the use of pesticides, fertilisers and chemicals in Europe and beyond.**”*

EU objectives 2019-24: Written replies to European Parliament



Next health Commissioner S. Kyriakides...*I believe we could collectively reflect on the possibility of **setting an EU-wide mandatory target on reduction of risk from pesticides**. This reflection would be based on the new Commission Report to the Council and Parliament on progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive, and **the assessment of the functioning of the recently assessed Harmonised Risk Indicators**.*

Next agricultural Commissioner J. Wojciechowski...*I believe we should work **together on how to speed up the reduction of dependency**, and how we can do more to encourage swift to lower risk and **non chemical alternatives**.*

*..In line with the mission of that president-elect von der Leyen tasked me to with, I am fully committed to engage the **necessary transition of EU farming** towards more sustainability and a lesser dependence on pesticides.*

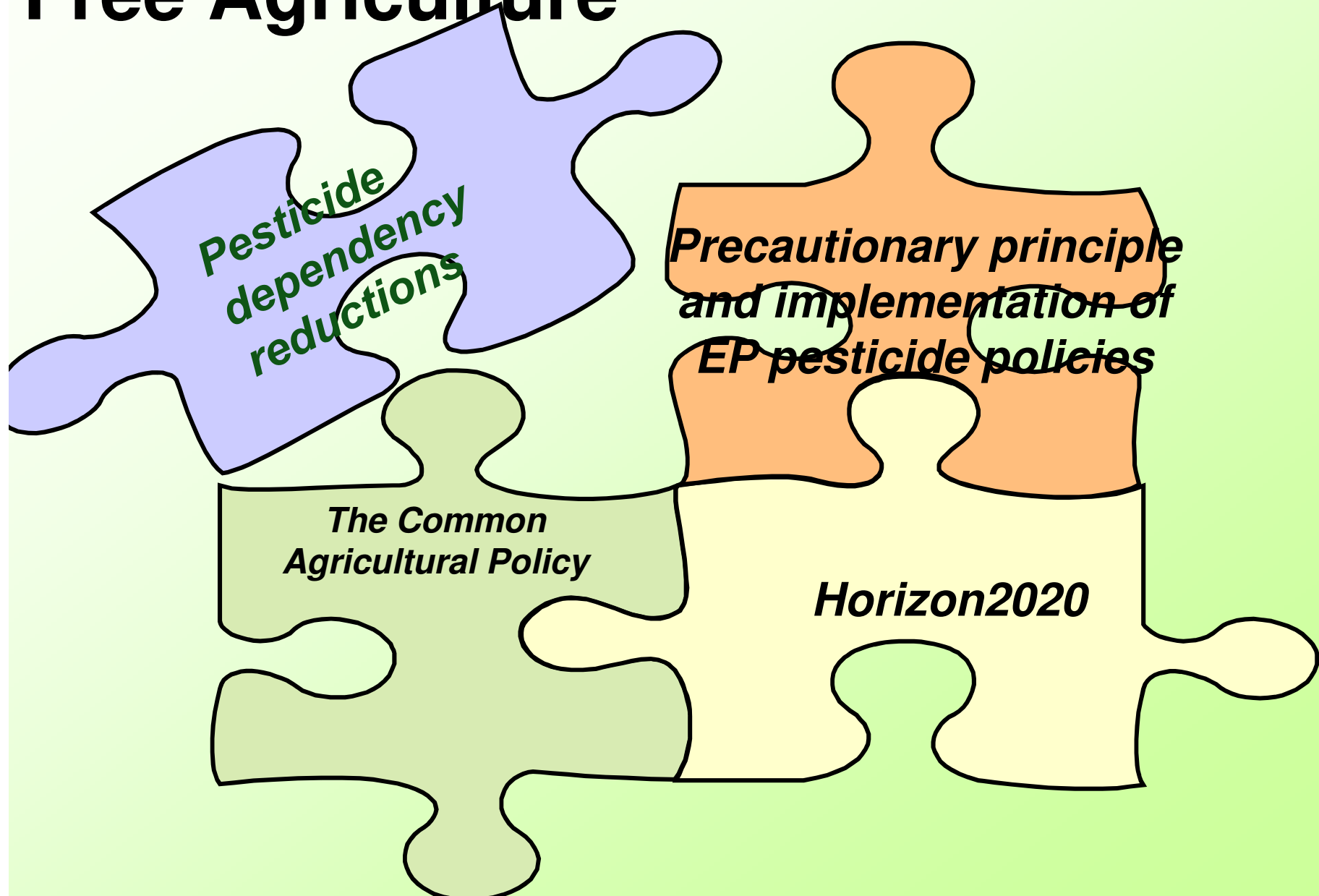


ECI on save bees and farmers is a long term vision

Phase out synthetic pesticides in EU agriculture by 80% by 2030, starting with the most hazardous, to become 100% pesticide free by 2035.



5. EU road-map: Towards Pesticide Free Agriculture



1) Protect public administrations taking actions

La battaglia di Malles Venosta contro i pesticidi, un referendum e 5 anni nelle aule dei tribunali

Di **Riccardo Quintili** - 26 Aprile 2019



Glyphosate: les industriels attaquent l'interdiction de vente de Roundup aux particuliers

Belga

Publié le mardi 15 janvier 2019 à 07h18 - Mis à jour le mardi 15 janvier 2019 à 16h53

Phytofar, l'association réunissant les producteurs d'herbicides, a déposé un recours au Conseil d'Etat en vue d'obtenir l'annulation de l'arrêté royal du 16 septembre 2018 interdisant la vente d'herbicides de synthèse aux particuliers, rapporte L'Echo, mardi.

La vente d'herbicides totaux composés de glyphosate est interdite aux particuliers depuis le 6 octobre. Mais Phytofar ne l'a jamais caché: elle conteste le bien-fondé de l'interdiction. Elle l'avait signalé lors de l'adoption de l'arrêté royal il y a quatre mois.

Examples of locks in:

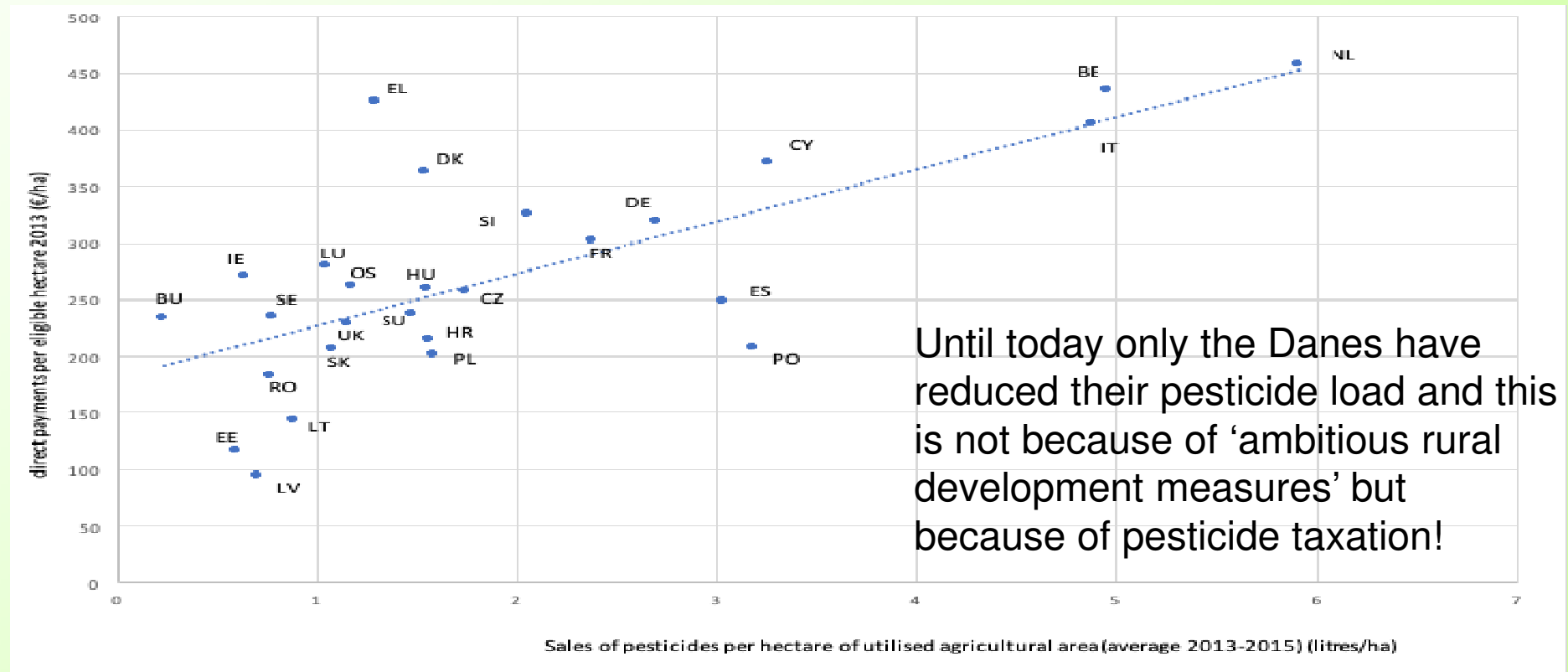
- 24 years to ban neonicotinoids partly due to the fact the European Commission fears being sued to court (which happened anyway)
- Malles Venosta mayor personally taken to Court

Solution:

Precautionary principle stated in the Treaty of Lisbon should be more clearly protected by law

2) Common Agricultural Policy to include SUDP principles

Current CAP: 40 billion €/year distributed in a logic of: Member States receiving the highest direct payments/hectare = MS selling most pesticides/hectare!



Source: PAN Europe using Eurostat/DG AGRI data

3) Horizon Europe giving priority to 'towards pesticide free agriculture' zooming in on crops where alternatives/organic are less advanced

TOWARDS CHEMICAL PESTICIDE-FREE AGRICULTURE

STATE OF PLAY



Chemical pesticides, here used synonymously for 'synthetic pesticides', intensively used in Europe and throughout the world against pests and diseases on cultivated plants and weeds in agriculture, are strongly suspected to severely affect the environment, biodiversity and non-target organisms including human health. Recent studies suggest that bird populations have decreased by up to 33% in the last 15 years and potential negative effects have been identified in various European agroecosystems. Agriculture has been criticised for its negative impacts on the environment, biodiversity and human health before, but the dimension and the focus on chemical pesticides are unique. Moving towards environment-friendly and healthy production systems is thus a strong demand by European citizens and a strong political commitment. However, quantity, quality, and price of agricultural goods produced by European plant production systems are currently heavily dependent on chemical control of pests and weeds (including all types of organisms as per EU directive 2009/128/EC).

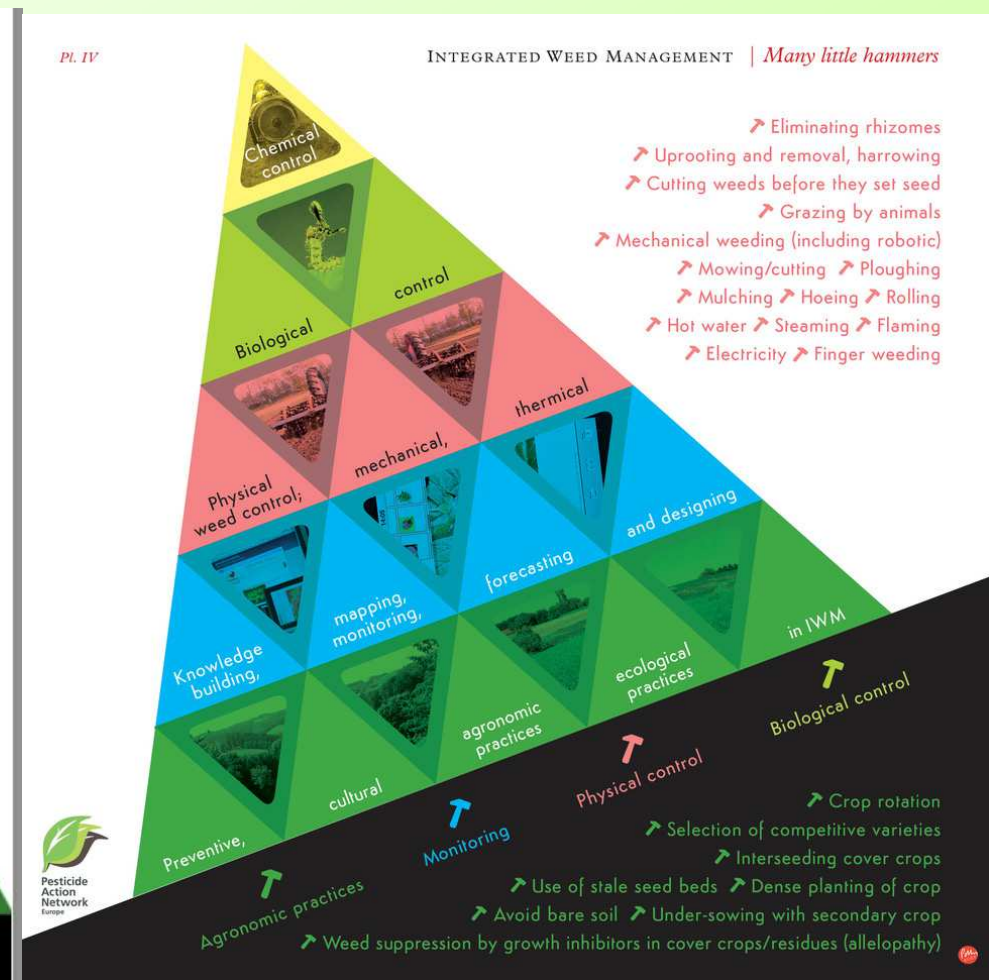
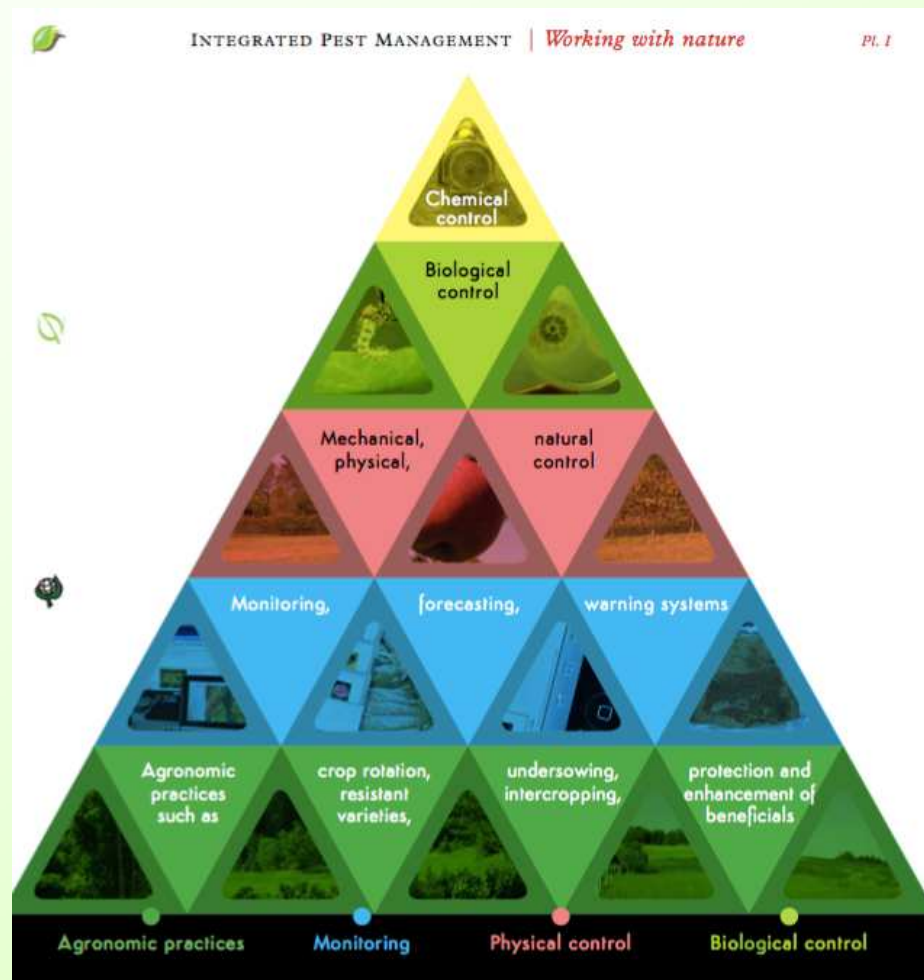
Transition to an agriculture free from chemical pesticides is key for entering the agriculture of the second half of this century. It is also a huge challenge that prompts to a complete re-assessment of production practices, with the least possible pesticide use and no critical residues in plants and foodstuff. The EU directive 2009/128/EC has defined the first reduction goals by calling for the reduction of risks and dependency on pesticides. Chemical pesticides are being progressively withdrawn from the stock of solutions and national policies are encouraging an acceleration of the process while ensuring a sustainable transition for farmers.

6. What should we do here today and in the time to come?

1) Make a visionary position paper

- Giving clear long term objectives with clear time tables, allowing the ecological transition as a positive alliance between decision makers, farmers, NGOs and citizens, with a positive narrative.
- Don't use this opportunity to simply reinvent the wheel and quickly implement what exists but turn this into a political success story that we can work together.

2) Jointly communicate on the non-chemical alternatives already known today!



3) Jointly illustrate how serious dependency reductions can be done



100% reduction of insecticides and herbicides in vine:



90% reduction is possible in apples:



100% reduction is possible in rice:



Thank you for your attention

