“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

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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.)
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

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- 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 interenational conventions. E.g. phasing out alachlor, adicarb, endusolfan.

✓ 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.
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**
The case of Coop Denmark

Ms Malene Teller Blume
Thank you for your attention!

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