Healthy workers a key in Europe’s growth model

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Why are we in Danish trade unions so active about the use of pesticides?
Historical overview

• Late 80’ Ban pesticides in public parks
• Early 90’ Human and environment
• Middel 90’ Map of municipalities' pesticides use
• Late 90’ For Nature sake
• Middel 90’ Green care
• Late 90’ Pesticide ban at cemeteries
• Late 90’ Agreement between the Government and municipalities’ to minimize pesticid use
Historical overview

- Late 90’ Spray operators training (DK-EU)
- Early 00’ focus on the costs of using pesticides
- Middel 00’ Problems for pregnant workers in greenhouses
- Middel 00’ Focus on Re-entry
- Late 00’ Action on endocrine disrupting pesticides
- Early 10’ Approval of spraying equipment
- Late 10’ nano pesticides?????
Trade Union’s interest

Why are we in Danish trade unions so active about the use of pesticides?
Approval of pesticides

- Why approves EU for example, pesticides that giving endocrine disruption, cancer, harm your onborn baby?
- Why do not many have focus on the possibility to substitute the highly hazardous pesticides with other methods or less hazardous pesticides?
- Why isn’t there a better interconnection between health and safety authorities and EPA before approval a pesticides?
Training and instruction

- Ensure that spray operators have the proper training
- Ensure that the spray operators get the update courses
- Ensure that you have prepared a proper workplace assessment
- Ongoing updates workplace assessment
Pregnant

• Organized work
  – Both women and men
  – Before, during and after pregnancy
  – Endocrine disrupters

For pregnant women working in greenhouse
  – www.gravidigartneri.dk
Conclusions

- The use of pesticides is that necessary
- More focus on H&S problems for spray operators
- More focus on the cost of pesticides use
- Is it possible to substitute?
- Will sustainable use of pesticides create jobs?
Risk of spraying

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