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Geremia Gios, mayor of Vallarsa 2000-2015

Il comune di Vallarsa nel marzo 2014, applicando i principi di “precauzione” e “chi inquina paga” ha deciso di autorizzare solo l’agricoltura sostenibile nel territorio del comune, per proteggere l’ambiente locale e la salute pubblica dei cittadini del comune. L’agricoltura biologica è libera, quella integrata/ convenzionale è autorizzata solo nel caso in cui l’impatto sia inferiore a soglie di danno tollerabile. L’agricoltura convenzionale è possibile solo dopo aver stipulato un’assicurazione che assicura contro eventuali danni ambientali per un periodo da 10 a 20 anni.

(Translated from Italian)

In March 2014, the Comune of Vallarsa in Italy decided to apply the precautionary principle and the “polluter pays” principle to allow only sustainable farming in the territory of the comune. This change was introduced to protect the local environment and the public health of the commune’s citizens.

Today, organic farming can be applied everywhere whereas integrated/ conventional farming is allowed only when its impact is below certain thresholds of tolerated harm. Conventional farming is only possible once it is covered by an insurance policy against potential environmental damage for a period of between 10 to 20 years.



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Johannes Fragner-Unterpertinger for a Pesticide-Free Malles Venosta

Dank von Johannes Fragner-Unterpertinger aus Mals, Sprecher des Promotorenkomitees für eine pestizidfreie Gemeinde Mals, auch im Namen aller meiner Mitstreiter/innen, für die Möglichkeit der Stellungnahme.

Unser Weg war und ist lang und steinig, aber im Bewusstsein, dass der pestizidfreie Weg nicht nur der einzige sinnvolle sondern sogar der einzige mögliche für die Landwirtschaft.

JEDER Mensch hat Einfluss auf die Schöpfung. Er muss sich dessen bewusst sein und verantwortungsvoll handeln und leben, auf dass die nächste Generation noch Lebensgrundlagen hat.

Deshalb muss jeder wirtschaften unter dem Aspekt der Frage: Kann ich ungehindert und ungestraft Pestizide in Luft, Wasser, Erde sprühen?



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(Translated from German)

Thank you very much for allowing me, Johannes Fragner-Unterpertinger, spokesperson of the PromotorenTeam for a Pesticide-Free Malles Venosta to give a brief statement:

Our project to become a pesticide-free village was long and hard, and it still goes on. But we all know that this is the only future for agriculture.

Every person has an influence and impact on the Creation. Everybody must be aware of that, and act in a responsible way, to make sure that the next generation will have a future as well.

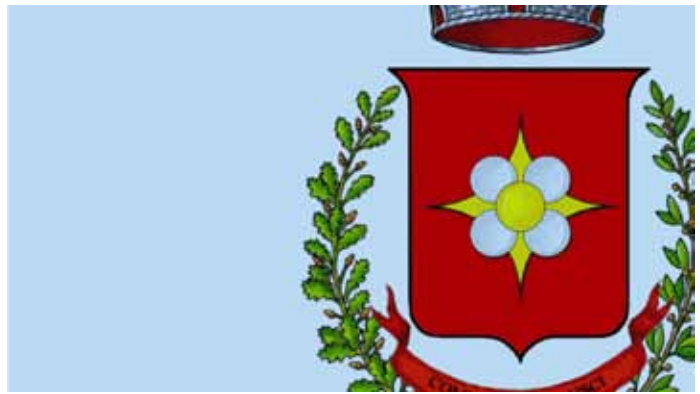
All farmers should ask themselves how much longer they can contaminate the air, the water, and the earth by spraying harmful pesticides.

This testimony is part of the referendum in Malles Venosta.

**Johannes Fragner-Unterpertinger
for a Pesticide-Free Malles Venosta**



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Adriano Marini, mayor of Malosco 2000-2015

Mi chiamo Adriano Marini, Sindaco di Malosco, in Val di Non, Trentino, conosciuta come la valle delle mele. I meli ormai occupano gran parte della vallata e si estendono ormai anche sopra i 1000 metri sul livello del mare.

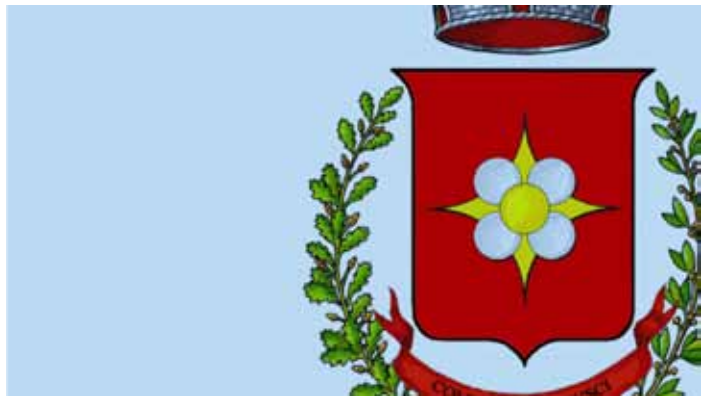
Per limitare l'impatto di queste colture è stato approvato un regolamento comunale, in particolare per l'utilizzo di prodotti fitosanitari. Ad esempio si prescrive di non irrorare con pesticidi nei primi cinque metri dai confini, e in seguito, fino a 50 metri dai confini, utilizzare solo la lancia a mano, il tutto per limitare la deriva durante l'irrorazione. Quando il fondo agricolo confina con zone abitate è necessario piantare delle siepi che limitino questa deriva. Inoltre non si possono utilizzare fitofarmaci della categoria "tossici" e "molto tossici".

Ovviamente, vista la dimensione ridotta delle aziende agricole di montagna, queste limitazioni impattano la maggior parte degli agricoltori.

Questo regolamento comunale che riguarda solo un piccolo paese di montagna sarebbe rimasto sconosciuto ai più se un cittadino del mio comune (e presidente di Coldiretti Trentino) non avesse fatto ricorso al TAR e poi Consiglio di Stato. In entrambi i casi è stata accertata la legittimità del regolamento, e le sentenze fanno ormai giurisprudenza.



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(Translated from Italian)

My name is Adriano Marini, Mayor of Malosco, in Val di Non, Trentino, known as the Valley of the apples. Apple trees now occupy most of the valley and now extend well above 1000 meters above sea level.

To limit the impact of these crops, a municipal law has been adopted mainly aiming at regulating pesticide use. In the law it is foreseen that pesticides cannot be applied within the first five meters from the bordering areas of the farms while for the next 45 meters of the farm area pesticides can only be applied manually, in order to limit drift from spraying. No pesticides classified as “toxic” and “very toxic” can be applied. In cases where the agricultural property borders residential areas, farmers have to plant hedges to limit this drift.

Given the small size of farms in the mountains, these limitations impact the majority of farmers.

This municipal regulation that affects only a small mountain town would have remained unknown to most if a citizen of my town (and president of farmers’ association Coldiretti Trentino) had not resorted to court, first the administrative regional court (the TAR) and then the Council of State. In both cases the legality of the regulation was confirmed, and the judgments are now part of case law.

Adriano Marini, mayor of Malosco 2000-2015



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Aarhus

Ground water protection in the Municipality of Aarhus is based on a combination of information, voluntary agreements and mandatory restrictions.

In the Municipality of Aarhus 12.100 hectares is designated as ground water protection zones. That's about 25% of the municipal area. The designation is based on hydrogeological and chemical mapping. The ground water resource is stressed because of nearly fully exploitation of the resource and pesticide pollution in 1/3 of the abstraction wells. In Denmark, ground water is the only drinking water source.

In the Municipality of Aarhus there has been no use of pesticides on public owned land in drinking water areas since the late nineties and in this period, the water companies has been carrying out several protection schemes aimed at farmers and owners of private gardens.

The water companies have offered fully compensated voluntary agreements to farmers. Since year 2000, approximately 100 farmers have agreed to non-pesticide farming covering around 1400 hectares. There are still many areas, where groundwater protection is needed. The council has in 2013 decided to use regulatory instruments. In 2016 the council have decided to start up the process with prohibiting the use of pesticides in specific ground water protection zones. Notification has been given for the first 13 injunctions. The farmers are fully compensated by the water companies.



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Aalborg

The water companies in Aalborg Municipality have so far protected 1,400 hectares from nitrate and pesticides pollution. The water companies have paid full compensation to landowners. Of the 1,400 hectares, 200 hectares are owned by the municipal land, but have been rented. On the land owned by the City of Aalborg, pesticides are not used regardless of whether the land is rented or not. Aalborg has estimated that the area meant to ensure groundwater protection is about half.

In addition, Aalborg Municipality carried out the campaign “Non-toxic Zone” which was targeted to garden-owners in Aalborg. The aim of the campaign is to draw attention to weed control on private land without the use of pesticides as well as changing attitudes in regard to the use of poisons.

