Malosco, in Val di Non, Trentino, is 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. The law implies 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