

3rd European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection

15th-16th November in Berlin, Germany





Minimization of Copper in Organic Farming: A European Strategy

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Who does IFOAM EU represent?

Representing the organic movement and sector with 190 members in all 28 EU member states, EFTA and EU candidate countries

- Organic farming associations
- Organic food processors, retailers, traders
- Organic food and farming advisors and researchers
- Organic certifiers

Based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture :

- Health, Ecology, Fairness & Care
- Resilient farm systems- **dependency** of „off farm inputs“ should be reduced as much as possible

Plant health care in organic farming

-Not just an input replacement

- Synthetic pesticides are replaced in organic farming by **strategies**, not exclusively by other input.
- Plant health in organic is managed mainly through **preventive** and **indirect** measures:
 - choosing **appropriate species and varieties** less susceptible to pests and diseases and adapted to local conditions,
 - appropriate **crop rotation**,
 - the enhancement of functional **biodiversity**,
 - the release of **macrobiols**,
 - **mechanical** and **physical** methods.





COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 834/2007

Organic production and labelling

- Article 5: **Specific principles applicable to farming**

(b): “**the minimisation** of the use of **non-renewable resources** and **off-farm inputs**;”

(f) “the maintenance of plant health by **preventative measures**, such as the choice of appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests;”

Copper Minimisation Strategy

A system approach aiming at:

- Precautionary risk minimisation
- Reduction of external inputs – Lowest possible level of ANY external inputs
 - Plant health care in organic farming aligned with the four basic principles of organic



The Principle
of Health.



The Principle
of Ecology.



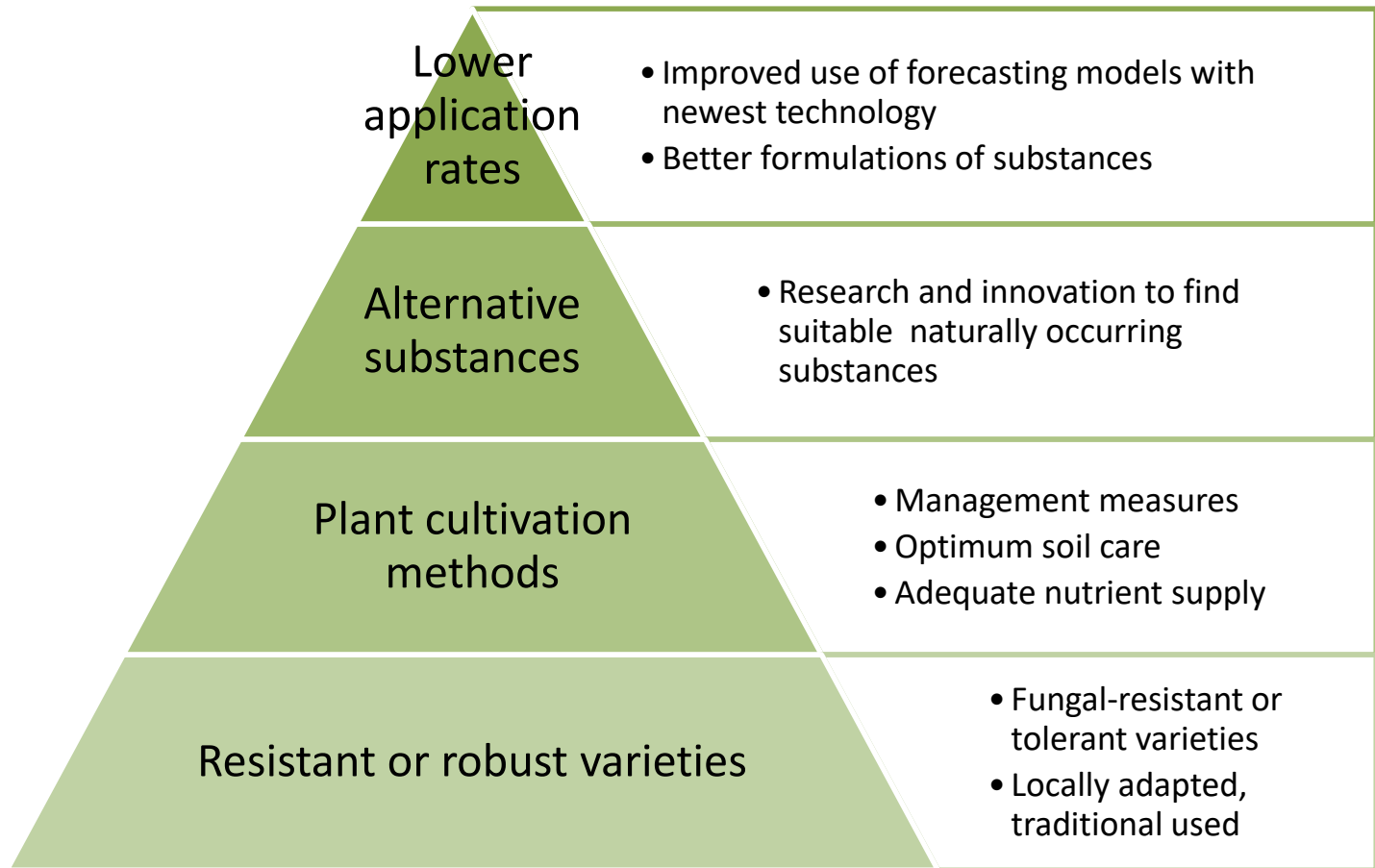
The Principle
of Fairness.



The Principle
of Care.

Copper Minimisation Strategy:

A system approach



Copper in Organic Farming

- Organic movement was the first to put limits to application of copper

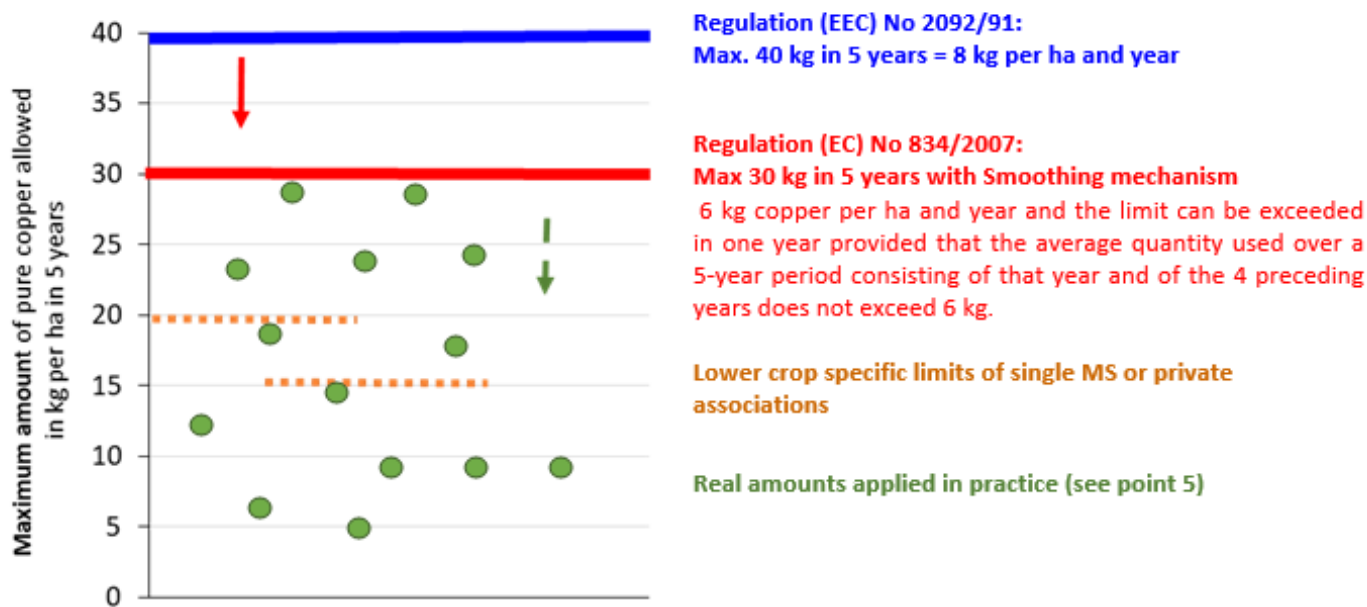


Figure 1 - Minimization of maximum amounts of copper allowed in organic farming until now (own figure)

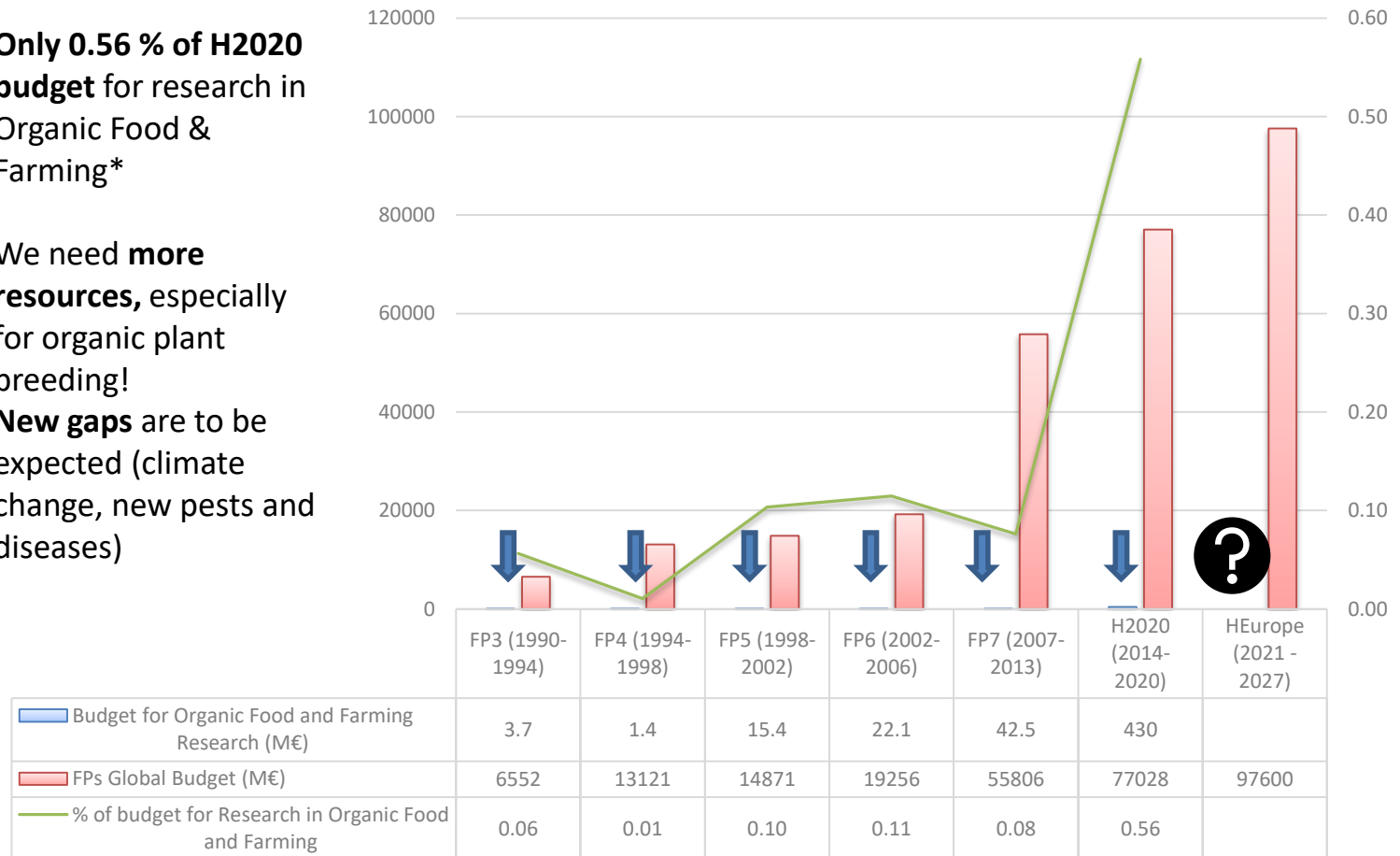
Copper Re-Authorisation

- Correct and science based assessment key to ensure appropriate measures: Develop appropriate Guidance for the risk assessment
- Re-authorisation for 7 years
- Importance of copper **minimisation strategies**:
 - Continous development of [European strategy paper](#) for copper minimisation in organic agriculture
 - **Smoothing mechanisms** to facilitate the minimisation strategy
- **Research and innovation** to reduce copper and to create more resilient systems under way – European & national research projects currently under way
 - Two Horizon2020 projects ([RELACS](#) & [Organic-Plus](#)) just started and are aimed at identifying alternatives to the use of copper compounds.



Funding for organic farming research under EUs framework programmes

- **Only 0.56 % of H2020 budget** for research in Organic Food & Farming*
- We need **more resources**, especially for organic plant breeding!
- **New gaps** are to be expected (climate change, new pests and diseases)



*Source: Elaboration TP Organics on Cuoco, E. et al. (2018) – H2020 total sum doesn't include calls 2020 as the information are not available



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Thank you for your attention

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