



Fruit berries production needs solutions to prevent pest and disease dissemination: can rnaï technology be helpful?

Anna Aldrighetti
Technical Pest Manager
Sant'Orsola S.C.A



Farmers' cooperative: Union is strength

- Specialised in berries production, marketing and sale.
- Established in 1979 in Trentino and then spread all over Italy as leading company (550ha)



Pest and disease management: high quality and low chemical residues

Our challenges:

- Berries are a sensitive crop
- Pest-Resistance
- Increase in alien species
- Changing climatic conditions
- Few literature and research



Impact of the EU review program on active substances (Reg. No 1107/2009)

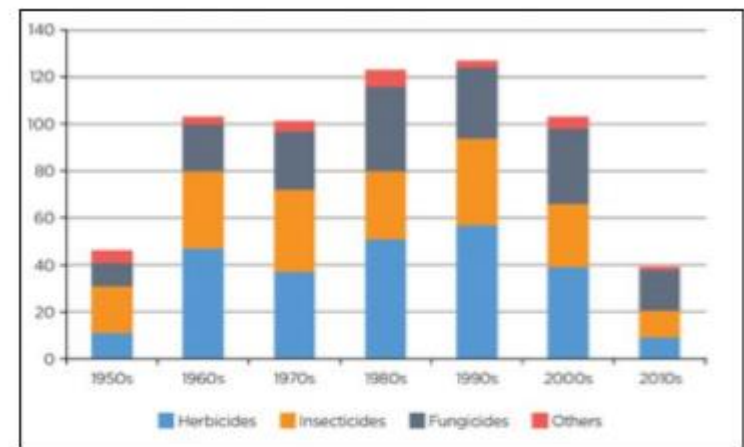
Many substances were removed.

Just in the last 2 years in berries production:

- Chlorpyrifos
- Quinoxifen
- Thiacloprid
- Ditiocarbammates

Development costs for plant protection products almost doubled

It now takes 11.3 years for registration



Number of new active substances introduced per decade. Datasource²: Phillips McDougall

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/185760/EPRS_IDA\(2019\)634416_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/185760/EPRS_IDA(2019)634416_EN.pdf)



The alternative strategies:

- Too many products on the market, and many of them are not regulated.
- Not so effective
- Most of the times they are not selective
- Sustainable alternatives are not always compatible



Agriculture is a very slow machine:

- Old farmers
- Discrete education
- Good agricultural practices are not always respected. Treatments are the easiest way
- Money and product's efficacy have the priority
- Alternative products are more difficult to use
- Once they are not satisfied, it is difficult to gain their trust again.



Can RNAi technology be helpful?

Yes, **BUT**

- Would they be under the spotlight of public concern?
 - Would they be compatible with other practices?
- Would they be accepted by the supply chain?





Thank you for yor attention

anna.aldrighetti@santorsola.com



SantOrsola
Piccoli produttori, grandi sapori.