

# 3rd European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November in Berlin, Germany





# Minimization of Copper in Organic Farming: A European Strategy

16 November 2018, Berlin

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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.



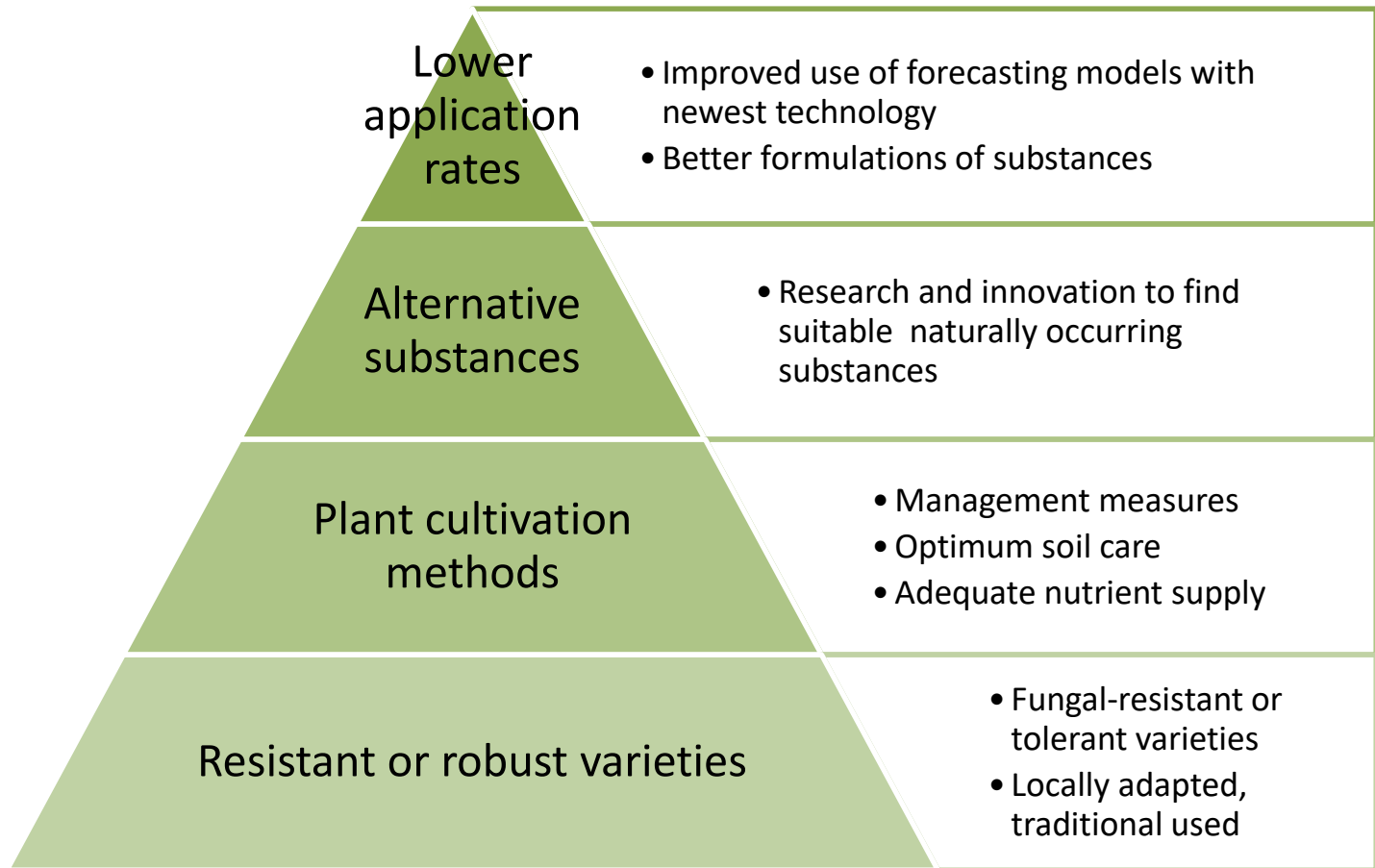
The Principle  
of Fairness.



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

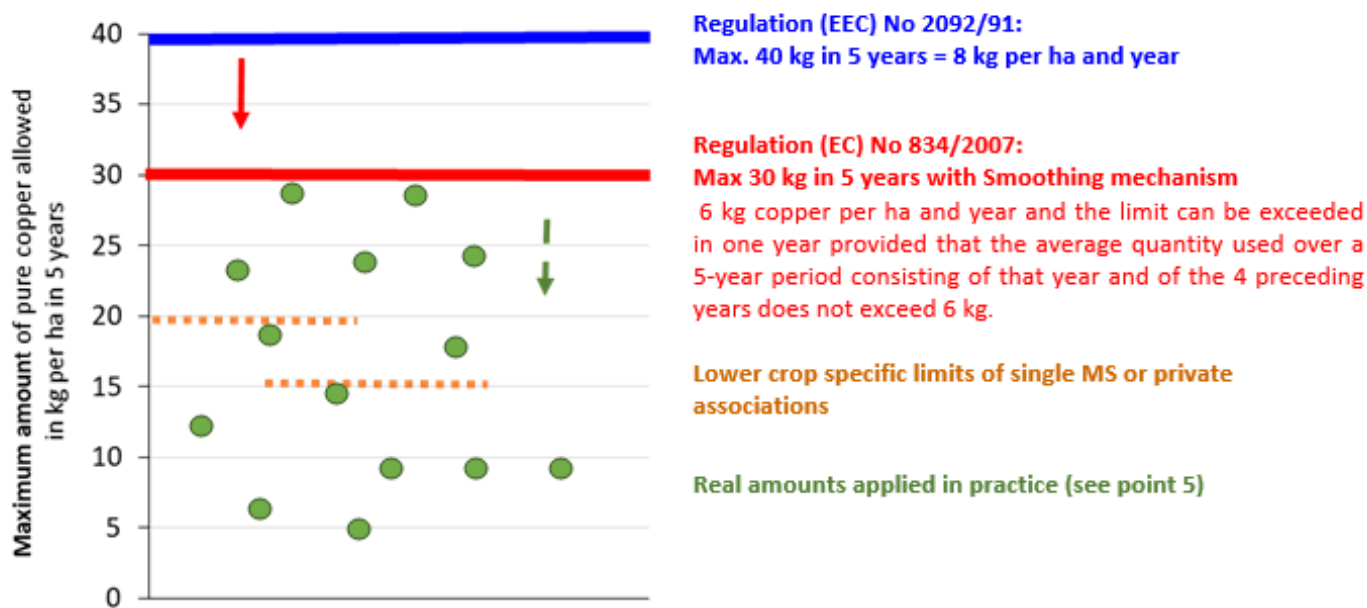


Figure 1 - Minimization of maximum amounts of copper allowed in organic farming until now (own figure)



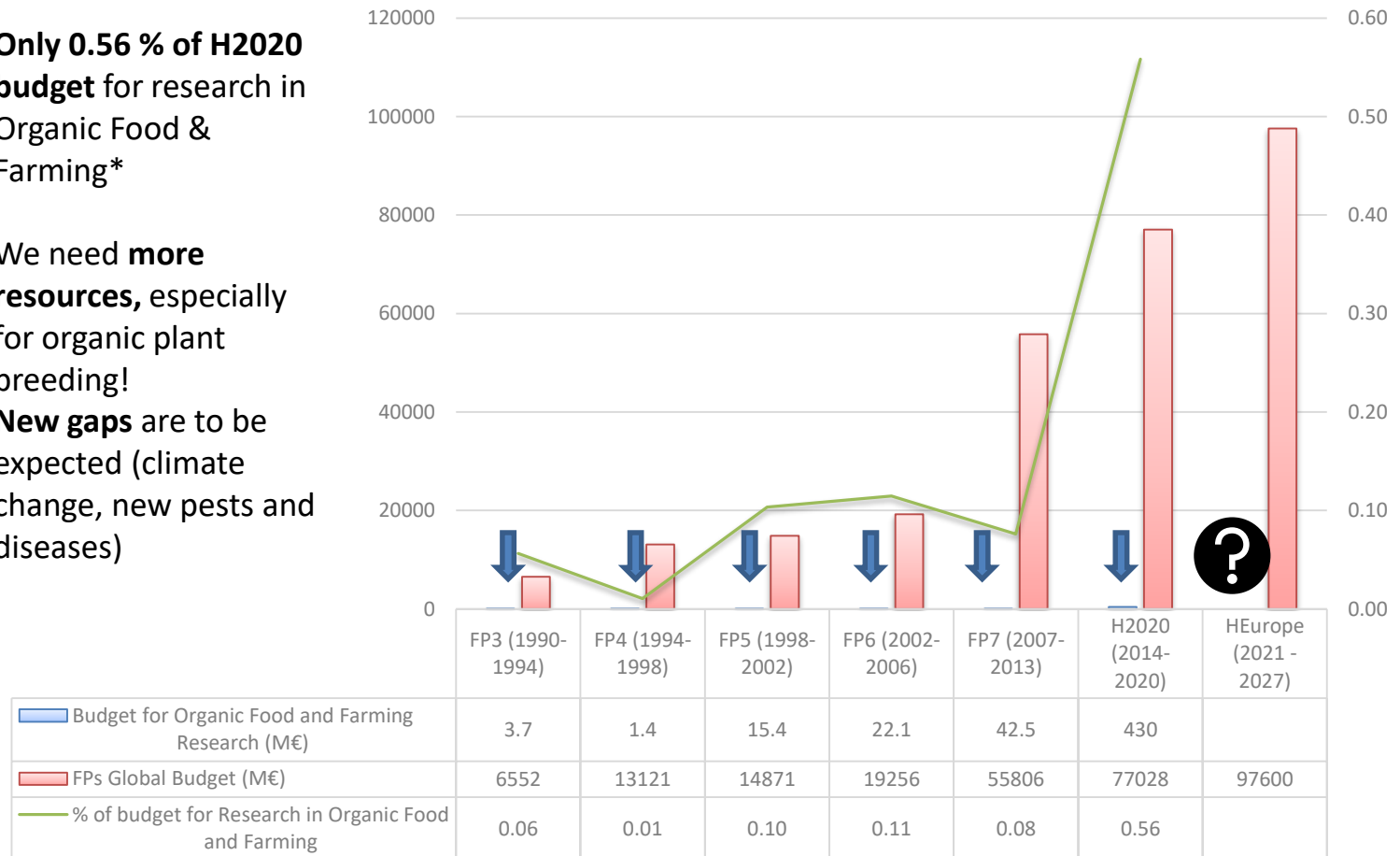
# Copper Re-Authorisation

- 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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