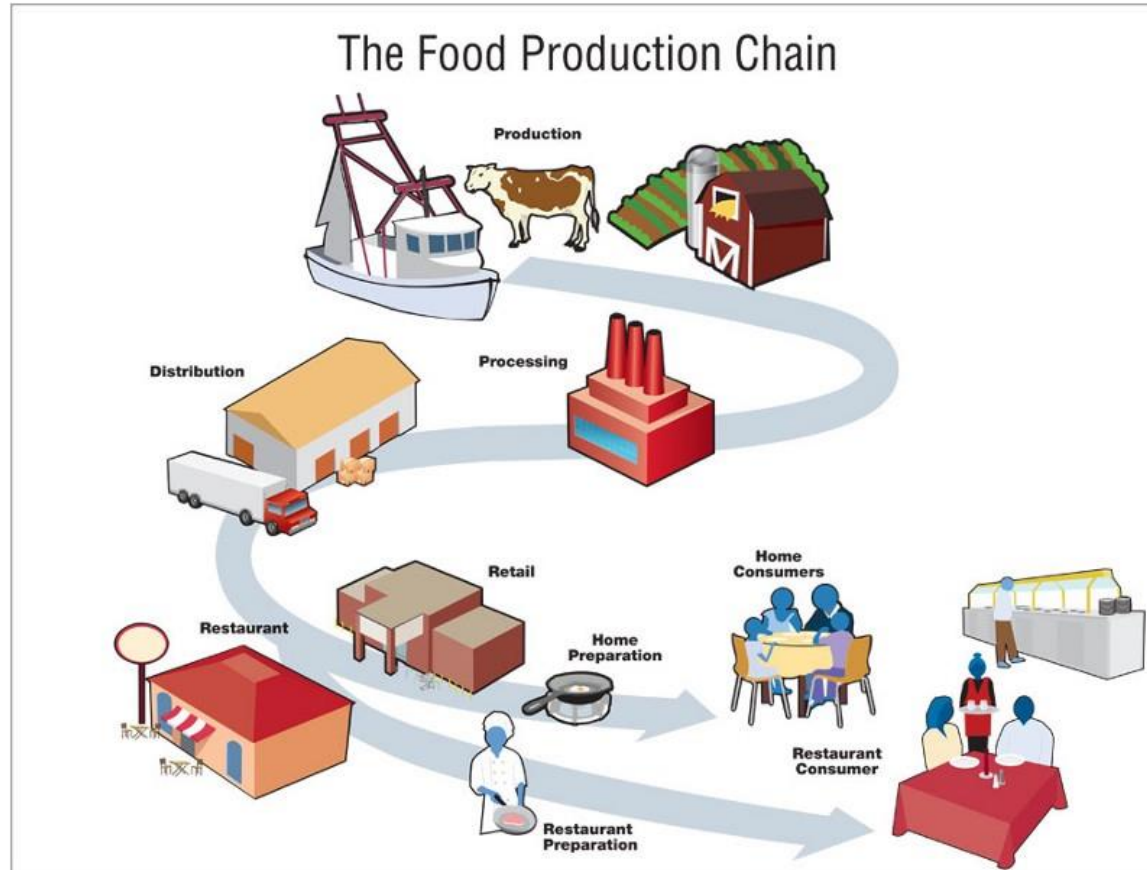


# ECPA position paper on private standards



European  
Crop Protection

The regulatory environment for food production in EU is on of the **most stringent in the world**



A producer is complying with all legal requirements, it means the food produced is **quality and safe** for consumers

# Several retailers have developed (private) **secondary standards**:



- **Ban or restrict** the use of certain legally authorised ppps
- **Restrict the number** of active substances
- **Operate below** the legally authorised limits for ppp`s residues (MRLs)

# Legal & policy background



- Lack of the EU legislation on retail private retailers standards
- EU Law does not prevent private standards to go beyond the requirements prescribed by the EU law
- EC voluntary tool: EU best practice guidelines for voluntary certification schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- WTO law does not prevent private
- standards to go beyond the requirements



# Such standards can:



- **Undermine** public and food chain industry confidence in the existing science-based European approval process
- **Endanger the production** of a large variety of high quality fruits and vegetables.
- **Confuse consumers** and create unjustified fears concerning the quality and safety of foods.
- **Undermine** existing and generally accepted **good practices**, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which aim to optimise and safeguard crop production.

# Such standards can:



- **Create uncertainty** as to which pesticides can be used by producers and consequently endanger the good functioning of the EU internal market.
- **Increase the risk of resistance** arising in key pests, diseases and weeds by restricting the choice of plant protection products, preventing growers from following best-practice guidelines to minimise the risk of resistance.
- **Expose the farmer to harvest losses**, higher production costs and loss of profit, which in consequence can lead to increase of prices for consumers

## WAY FORWARD



The **withdrawal** of many of the non-scientific private standards would remove confusion and potential for market distortion. This would allow the food chain to focus on continued improvements to ensure the supply of sustainable, safe and affordable food.

Private standards should not prejudice or aim to replace existing official standards, not discredit the safety of other products on the market or the reliability of official controls

**Support** for the principles of sustainable agricultural production and the safe, responsible use of ppp as vital tools in achieving the global food demands of the future.