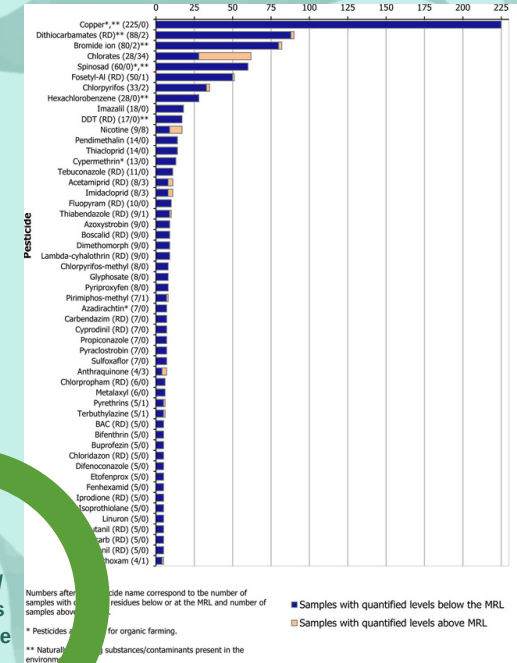
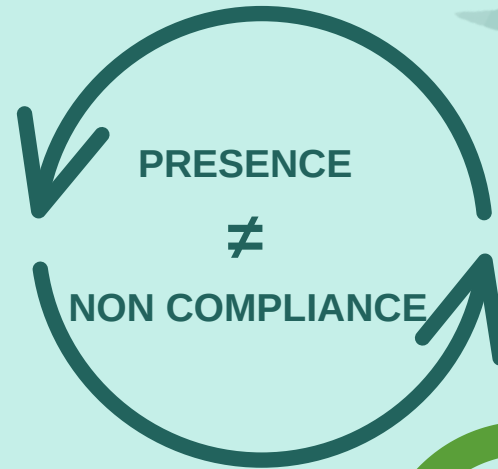
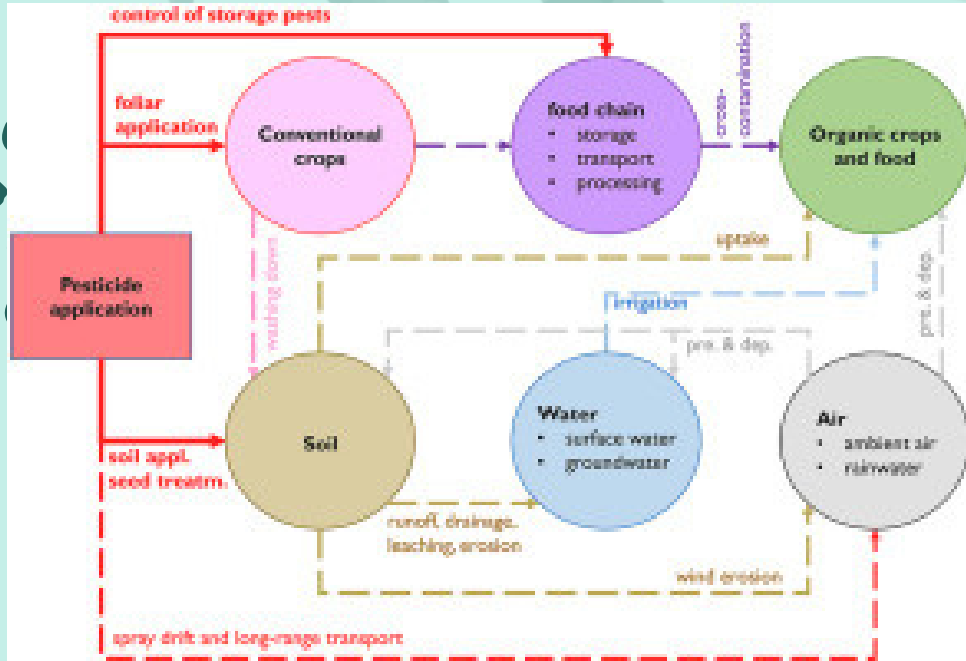


PRESENCE OF NON-AUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES IN ORGANIC PRODUCTS

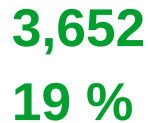
Organic products are at risk of technically unavoidable contamination of phytosanitary products present in environmental compartments such as soil, water and air.

The most commonly found pesticides in organics are also naturally occurring substances / contaminants present in the environment, as established by EFSA.

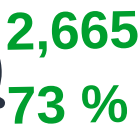


**** Naturally occurring substances / contaminants present in the environment**

Results of industry's analysis of **19,256** samples of organic products in 2022



contained
quantifiable
presence of
non-authorized
substances



correspond to substances with different possible sources, other its use as pesticide. Many of those sources are technically unavoidable or perfectly legitimate : naturally occurring substances / contaminants present in the environment but also degradation of approved substances, authorised additives, residues from fertilisers, plant streightens, manure, soil amendements...etc.

THE CHALLENGES



The rise in the number of contaminations in organics, linked to an increasingly polluted environment.



The burden of proof falling on the organic operator leads to a pointless multiplication of analysis at every step of the organic supply chain.



The complexity to determine the most likely origin of the non-authorized substance when it may have different sources, as it happens in the majority of cases.



The burden, delay and cost borne by the organic operator for each investigation to determine the source of the non-authorized substance, also when it is technically unavoidable and beyond his responsibility.

WHAT IS NEEDED



Greater reliance on the regular and well-established risk and control system along the supply chain.



An harmonised, science-based and proportionate procedure for organic operators confronted to the presence of non-authorized substances:

- A decision grid for operators to quickly assess the risk.
- A platform with all relevant and updated information on individual substances and contaminations that can occur in organic food (i.e Qm-votum).



Source 1 Schleiffer, M.; Speiser, B. Presence of pesticides in the environment, transition into organic food, and implications for quality assurance along the European organic food chain—A review. Environ. Pollut. 2022, ScienceDirect

Source 2 European Food Safety Authority, The 2018 European Union report on pesticide residues in food

Source 3 Internal enquiry