

PRESS RELEASE

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ORGANIC RESPONSE COMMONSENSICAL BUT SO IS A NATIONAL BAN

“Australian regulators are to be deplored for their failure to move towards a ban of the organochloride, endosulfan”, said Rod May chair of NASAA.

“I would like to get a glimpse of what some of our regulators are thinking of when they buck the trend and desire to eliminate biocides from our food chain”, he said. “In a similar way to how they have handled the GM issue, government regulators are setting themselves up impossible positions to defend.”

Referring to the recent announcement to maintain “endo” in the chemical toolbox, despite its obvious and well documented dangers, he said, was incredulous”.

“We witnessed our GM regulators invent the concept of substantial equivalence when it came to differentiating between GM and non GM. Now they reckon they’ve got it right with endosulfan. It’s like Fawltly Towers gone wrong, if it were not so deadly serious”.

As the largest organic certification group in the world, NASAA can certainly vouch for the safety of organic food and demonstrate the value of systems that illustrate how to manage insect pests without pesticides and synthetic chemical products.

“However”, he said, “For us to enjoy safe clean water and soil, and an environment that is not polluted by the use of endosulfan and other harmful chemical compounds and residues, we need to do more than buy organic”.

These chemical products are used like sledge hammers according to NASAA who has studied and tested 1000s of farms in Australia over the past 25 years. They kill practically all that they hit despite claims of some selectivity and most importantly, they are uncontrollable and indiscriminate.

Even if the applicator puts them down with precision, whether it is by land or air, the phenomenon of volatilization comes in.

Volatilization permits the products to vaporize from the leaves of the tissue they are applied to and in certain weather conditions they float into the atmosphere, spreading quickly through the environment leaving their signature wherever they go.

“It’s time we took sustainability to mean free from chemicals”, said May, who, like many has observed the wave of sustainability claims in the products and services we buy. How can we have sustainability when people and nature become victims of a food production system based on biocides?

NASAA Media Release 24 March 2010 – Response to Poisoned
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