



Key issues for the citrus sector



Banning of active substances

Some **retailer blacklists** prohibit products legally **registered** for pest and disease control



This **jeopardizes** phytosanitary compliance and **stable supply**



Stricter-than-legal MRLs

Retailers impose **stricter limits below** official Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)



Resistance build-up of pests and diseases
+
Increased **post-harvest decay** and **food waste**
+
Financial losses for growers



Limiting the # of residues

Restrictions make Integrated Pest Management (IPM) **difficult to apply**



Compromises on pre- and post-harvest **treatments**
+
Reduced resilience to **climate change** and extreme weather
+
More food waste due to **fruit spoilage**

The reality of Private Food Safety Criteria



Private standards are **not legally binding**, but **growers must comply** to **access retail markets**



These rules **undermine best farming practices** and may **force producers out** of certain supply chains



The position of the WCO

1



Food safety should be **based on science and official regulations**, not private rules

Retailers should avoid undermining public authorities and established MRL systems



2

3



Long-term repercussions may include reduced **citrus availability** on shelves