



**Welcome Address
by the Head of the Provincial
Department
of Fruit- and Winegrowing,**

Helmuth Scartezzini



Dear participants in this 4th SPISE-Workshop,

The South Tyrolean Secretary of Agriculture, Hans Berger, sends his warmest regards and hopes you will have a pleasant stay and a successful workshop.

If you look around you here in one of the largest contiguous apple growing areas in Europe, at the vineyards on the hillsides and the densely populated areas on the valley floor, you will easily understand why we attach such great importance to a professional use of pesticide sprayers in the interest of the public welfare.

Even before the three sprayer testing centres were implemented by the Tyrolean fruit industry the provincial authorities had been in favour of sprayer tests and subsequently subsidized the equipment of these testing facilities. The compulsory sprayer tests required by the South Tyrolean IP-programme for pip fruit in 5-year intervals from 1997 onwards were another milestone because they promoted the conversion of all sprayers to drift-reducing spray application.



In 2011 the local government issued guidelines for periodical sprayer tests according to Directive 2009/128/EC.

Since in our region residential areas and intensively cultivated areas are clustered closely together pesticide drift is a highly contentious issue here.

In 2012, after lengthy negotiations, the provincial administration issued a directive regarding the distances to be observed when applying pesticides near residential areas, which takes into account the type of spraying equipment that is used.

The recently issued guidelines for the integrated production of pip fruit, which make the use of cross-flow fan sprayers obligatory in orchards and vineyards bordering on cultivated areas where no pesticides are applied, constitute a further step in the right direction.



The provisions in Article 8 of Directive 2009/128/EC are therefore already operative here without any exceptions for newly acquired sprayers. It is to be feared, however,

that the implementation of Directive 2009/127/EC on a national level regarding this matter will be a lengthy process.

We are of course prepared to adopt the results of this conference for a harmonization of the regulations and expect that they will also find their way into the National Action Plan. As you can see, we are placing high expectations on your work here today, therefore.

I wish you all to make good progress at this workshop.