

Mals / Malles Venosta Referendum

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Mals / Malles Venosta – The village

- Italian village in the Provinz Bozen-Südtirol
- 5113 inhabitants (97% german-speaking // 3% italian-speaking)
- 247,1 km² (second largest village in South-Tyrol – in terms of area // 3,5% of total area)
- 1051m above sea-level
- Located 23km from austrian border / 10km from swiss border
- Main industries: tourism, handcraft, agriculture (both industrial farming and organic farming)
- Located on the largest alluvial fan in the alps (13,5 km²)

Italy / Provinz Bozen-Südtirol











Mals – The windy village / Vinschger Wind

- Constant wind from the north over the «malser haide»
- Makes it impossible to use pesticides
- Without causing drift on the neighbors' field











Mals / Malles Venosta – The referendum

- WHY did we do a referendum against the use of pesticides in Mals / Malles Venosta
- WHO made the first steps towards the referendum
- CHRONOLOGY / ROUTE TO THE REFERENDUM
- WHAT was the polling question of the referendum
- WHEN did the referendum take place
- LEGAL FRAMEWORK
- CAMPAIGNING
- RESULT of the referendum

WHY

- Guidelines for co-existence of different production methods (orchard, cattle, organic)
- Increase of intensive fruit growing business around Mals / Malles Venosta
- Threat to established organic farmers
- Change of the cultural landscape
- Positive results of sample of hay on agriculture fields
- Ban of pesticides guarantees regional and sustainable development of organic farming, but also other industries in the village
- Health of citizens – mainly children











Foto Gianni Bodini

WHO

- Umweltschutzgruppe Vinschgau / Bioland
 - Research institute apollis carried out a survey in Mals
 - Majority was against intensive fruit-growing industry
 - In favor to ban pesticides in Mals
- Initiative to promote Direct Democracy
 - Adaptation of local rules / statuto del comune to allow referendi with binding results
 - To improve the rights of co-decision
- Promotion Committee

CHRONOLOGY / ROUTE

- 2008 – Installation of watering system Upper valley
- 2010 – Guidelines for co-existence
- 2011 – First samples of hay in Mals
- 2012 – Public opinion survey done by apollis
- 2013
 - Appeal coldiretti rejected by Council of State (Malosco)
 - First proposal (May) DECLINED / Second proposal (August)
 - Acceptance of second proposal (December)
 - Campaigning by various groups
- 2014 – Campaigning + Referendum



Mals – video testimony I



Mals – video testimony II



WHY 2

- Elementary school / Playground in Tartsch
- Sample of hay – 2013
- 9 active substances in relevant amount (e.g. Chlorpyrifos, Imidacloprid, Penconazol, Dithianon, ...)
- Prof. Irene Witte – University of Oldenbourg
- Prof. Hermann Kruse – University of Kiel
- Expressed concern about the kids and teachers affected by drifting pesticides through skin and respiratory tract

WHAT

The polling question is: “Are you in favor of the implementation of the following amendment to the articles of the Township of Mals? The **precautionary principle** with the objective to **protect public health** lays down that all precautions that help prevent hazard to the health of man and animal have to be taken. The township of Mals is specifically aiming to protect the health of its citizens and guests, to maintain the **sustainability** of nature and waters, as well as making it possible that different forms of **economy can coexist** in its territory in a fair and respectful way. In conformance with these goals, Mals promotes the use of **biodegradable plant protection products** within its municipal boundaries. A regulation will be issued that describes the details of this provision. Independently from this provision, the use of **toxic** and **highly toxic**, as well as **chemical-synthetic substances** and herbicide, that are **harmful to the health and the environment** is prohibited within its municipal boundaries. The municipal authority is responsible for monitoring the implementation and the compliance of the referendum outcome.

WHAT 2

- Precautionary principle
- Protect public health
- Sustainability
- Economy can coexist
- Biodegradable plant protection products
- Ban on Very Toxic (T+), Toxic (T), Harmful (Xn), Irritant (Xi), Very dangerous for Environment (N+), Dangerous for Environment (N)

WHEN

- 22 AUG 2014 – 05 SEP 2014
- Postal mail, personally, 24h/day village hall
- All inhabitant of Mals >16 years
- Before, during and immediately after the referendum various political parties and organisations tried to stop the referendum by stating that it is illegal



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- EU Directive 2009 / 128 (sustainable use of pesticides)
- Decreto legislativo 2012 / 150 (Italian ratification of EU 2009 / 128)
- Leitlinien Abstandsregelung South-Tyrol (2011)
- South-Tyrol State law 1992 – Mayor is responsible for the health of the citizens
- Italian Constitution – Art. 32 – Health is fundamental right
- Precautionary Principle – «public health vs. Economic health»

CAMPAIGNING

- Various action groups (Hollawint, Adam & Epfl, USGV, PAN-Italia, ...)
- Social media (Facebook, ...)
- Press releases (PAN Italia, USGV, political parties, ...)
- Information events (with guest speakers, experts, ...)
- Public presence
- Banners in the village (approx. 100)
- Information brochure
- Manifest
- Support Letters (PAN Europe / Italia, Biovision, Livelihood)
- Cultural event (Adam & Epfl, ...)
- Support political parties (Verde, M5S)



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Heimat !
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zur Volksabstimmung

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Lebensraum
FREI !
von Pestiziden**

HOLLAWINT.COM















Für Zivilcourage und soziale Verantwortung

Fondazione Ilse Waldthaler Stiftung

Per il coraggio civile e la responsabilità sociale



Foto Battisti

The community of Malles in Val Venosta has voted for a future free of pesticides.

I do support the outcome of this referendum.

It is a strong signal for other communities to gather up the courage – and to liberate themselves from the dangerous use of pesticides.

The future of our planet depends on its biodiversity, its health and the wellbeing of all of its inhabitants.

Malles has made the first step, and a very important one.

Padua, Oktober 12th 2014, Vandana Shiva



Vandana Shiva

10. Dezember 2013

Nachhaltige ökologische Landwirtschaft im Südtirol

Ihr Bericht zu der Entwicklung im Südtirol, hin zu einer intensiven Landwirtschaft die auf dem Einsatz von Pestiziden und Insektiziden beruht hat mein Bild von einem beschaulichen Alpen-tal ziemlich erschüttert. Einmal mehr scheint das schnelle Geld wichtiger als die Gesundheit der Menschen, Tiere und Pflanzen und damit einer gesunden Umwelt.

Schon die Tatsache, dass diese Methoden den benachbarten Bäuerinnen und Bauern die Mög-lichkeit entziehen, biologische Anbaumethoden anzuwenden, ist eine inakzeptable Einschränkung. Der Weltagrarbericht besagt ganz klar, dass mit dem Einsatz von Chemie die planetaren Grenzen massiv überschritten werden. Das ist die Meinung von über 400 Wissenschaftlern aus aller Welt, die sich über Jahre intensiv mit dieser Thematik befasst haben. Wenn wir die-sen Weg weiter beschreiten, entziehen wir künftigen Generationen ihre Lebensgrundlage.

Ich hoffe sehr, dass sich die Bauernschaft im Südtirol auf einen Kurswechsel einigen kann. Die mittel- und langfristigen Risiken von Monokulturen und dem Einsatz von Chemie sind klar be-legt. Wenn sich erst einmal Resistenzen unter den Schädlingen entwickelt haben, dann be-ginnt sich die Abwärtsspirale immer schneller zu drehen.

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Foundation for ecological development

Aber die Chancen die eine nachhaltige ökologische Landwirtschaft bietet, sind enorm. Und sie werden weiter wachsen mit der Erkenntnis weltweit, dass wir die Menschen auf unserem Pla-neten nur mit solchen Methoden mit genügend und gesunder Nahrung versorgen können.

In diesem Sinne wünsch ich Ihnen und Ihren Mitkämpferinnen und Mitkämpfern viel Erfolg bei der kommenden Abstimmung!

Freundliche Grüsse



Dr. Hans R. Herren
Präsident der Stiftung Biovision

Stiftung für ökologische Entwicklung
Fondation pour un développement écologique
Foundation for ecological development

RESULT

- 3.348 voting people (i.e. 69% of all people > 16 years)
- 2.377 in favor of a ban (i.e. 75%)
- 764 against a ban (i.e. 25%)
- 207 invalid votes

Future for Mals / Malles Venosta

- Village council – implementation of referendum (adaptation of «statuto del comune»)
- Official Working group / Steering committee to support the implementation, installed by mayor
- Action groups re-positioning / initiatives
- Further political support – local, regional, national, EU
- Legal support

Our Goals and Expectations

- Create awareness in South-Tyrol, Italy, Europe
- Motivate and support other action groups
- Support farmers to start organic farming in Mals
- Reduce the dependancy of pesticides in agriculture
- Political actions and Lobbying (locally → europe)

Questions and Answers

Thanks for your kind attention