

# **How to Tackle Extraction Efficiency – A Proposal**

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# Presentation outline

1. Introduction
2. Objective
3. Cases where proof of extraction efficiency not necessary
4. A straightforward example
5. Cross validation
6. A not so straightforward example
7. The final decision tree
8. Summary and conclusion
9. The road ahead

# Objective of food monitoring



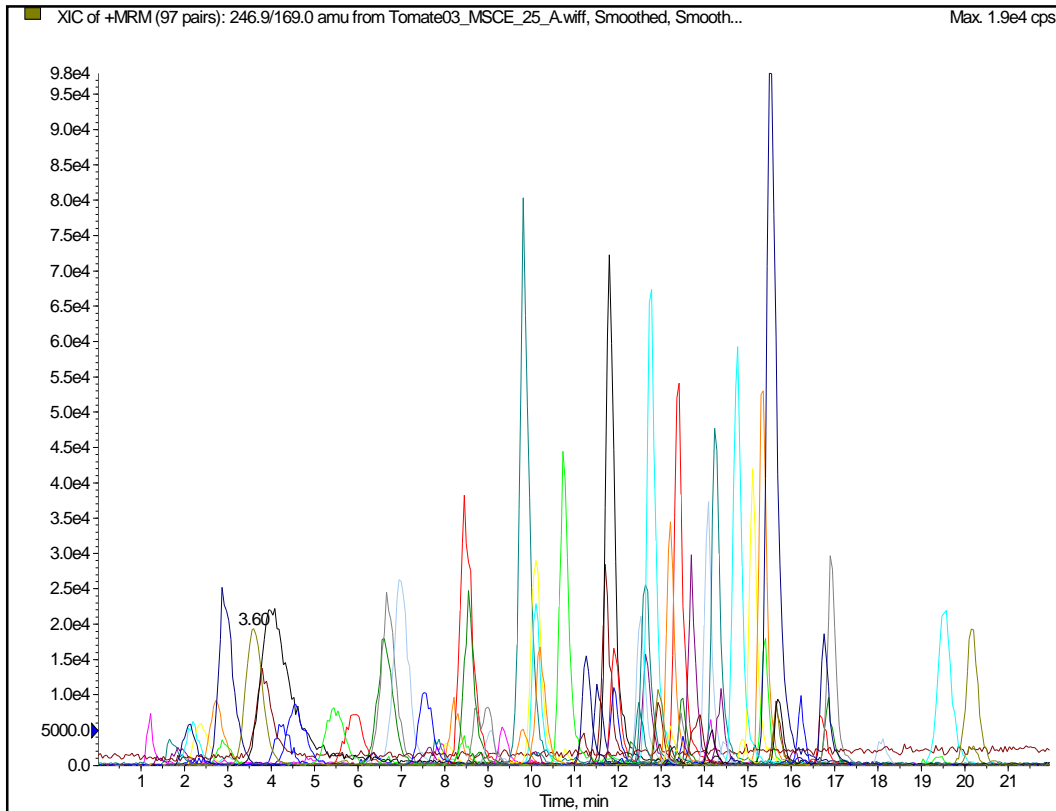
**MRL Compliance**

**Consumer exposure**

**For testing of MRL compliance high sample throughput is necessary!**

## Multiresidue methods

- ❑ Analysis of a high number of pesticides within one method
- ❑ Increasing number of published methods



**Behaviour of incurred residues often unknown!**

## Solvents used in high throughput multi-residue methods



- ❑ QuEChERS: extraction with **acetonitrile/water**
- ❑ ChemElut: extraction with **methanol/water**
- ❑ L 00.00-34 (DFG S19): extraction with **acetone/water, acetonitrile** (or hexane/acetone)
- ❑ Validation: determination of recovery and precision from fortified samples
- ❑ Normally no use of incurred residues
- ❑ However, examples exist where laboratory fortifications did behave differently from incurred residues

➤ **No information about extraction efficiency from method validation**

# Factors influencing extraction efficiency

Particle size



Matrix characteristics



Extraction time

Temperature



Plant physiology



Physicochemical properties



Lipophilicity of compounds



Solvent type

➤ Many parameters can influence extraction efficiency. While some can be optimized during method validation, information from studies conducted with radiolabelled pesticides is required for others!

## Legal basis



### Guidance document SANTE/11945/2015

“Where practicable, samples containing incurred residues can be analysed using varying extraction conditions to obtain further information on extraction efficiency”

### Guidance document SANCO/825/00 rev .8.1

“The extraction procedures used in residue analytical methods ... should be verified ... using samples with incurred residues from radio-labelled analytes.”

### Commission Regulation (EU) No 283/2013, Annex Section 6.2 (Data requirements for active substances)

“To quantify the major components of the residue and to show the efficiency of extraction procedures for these components”

## Several questions and a starting point



- When is extraction efficiency necessary?
  - Which data are available and helpful?
  - Which solvents should be used?
  - In which cases is it possible to “bridge” between solvents?
  - In which cases is it possible to “bridge” between commodities?
- 
- Development of a systematic, stepwise approach
  - Consideration of data from DAR/RAR, EFSA Scientific Report, EU MRL Data base



## **MRLs are not established**

### **Examples:**

- Compounds listed in Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No.396/2005
- Compounds without MRLs for animal matrices

**With no MRLs set, monitoring is not required and proof of extraction efficiency is not needed!**

## Significant residues (> 0.01 mg/kg) do not occur

### Examples:

- ❑ Most sulfonylurea herbicides, (e.g. Azimsulfuron, Ethametsulfuron, Ethoxysulfuron, Flupyrsulfuron, Foramsulfuron, Halosulfuron, Iodosulfuron, Imazosulfuron, Mesosulfuron, Metsulfuron, Oxasulfuron, Prosulfuron, Rimsulfuron, Tribenuron... and others)
- ❑ Some other pesticides, e.g. Carfentrazone-ethyl, Florasulam, Fluazinam, Flurtamone, Isoproturon, Mecoprop (P), Picolinafen, Tembotrione, ...(all regulated MRLs at LOQ!)

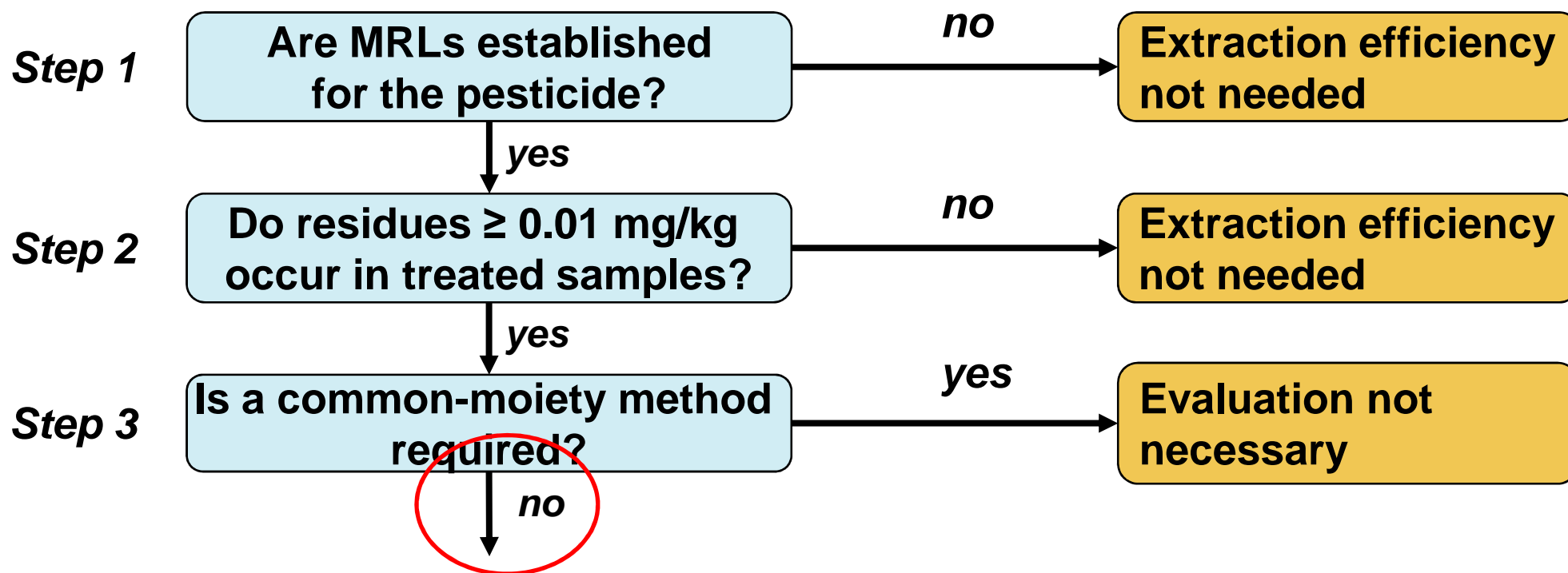
**Without crops containing incurred residues the determination of extraction efficiency is neither possible nor needed!**

## Use of a common moiety method

- ❑ Residue definition includes a common moiety and conversion is conducted in the presence of the homogenate, e.g.
  - Amitraz (2,4 -dimethylaniline moiety)
  - Clofentezine (2-chlorobenzoyl moiety)
  - Cycloxydim (determined as 3-(3-thianyl)glutaric acid S-dioxide and/or 3-hydroxy-3-(3-thianyl)glutaric acid S-dioxide or methyl esters thereof)
  - Flufenacet (N fluorophenyl-N-isopropyl moiety)

**Results are related to the extraction efficiency and conversion.**

## The decision tree so far...



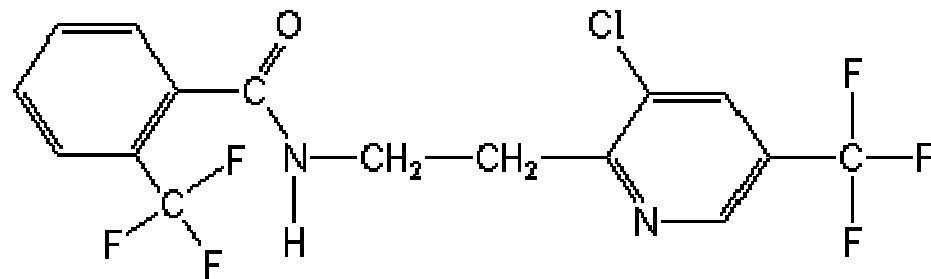
... but where to go from here?

## Fluopyram in grapes / experimental part of metabolism study

- ❑ Regulated analyte: fluopyram (parent)

### Study design

- ❑ Test substance: phenyl-UL-<sup>14</sup>C fluopyram
- ❑ Three spray applications, harvest 18 days after last application (DALA)



### Extractions solvent used

- ❑ Washing with acetonitrile
- ❑ Extraction of washed fruit homogenate with acetonitrile/water (8+2), three times

### Determination of residues

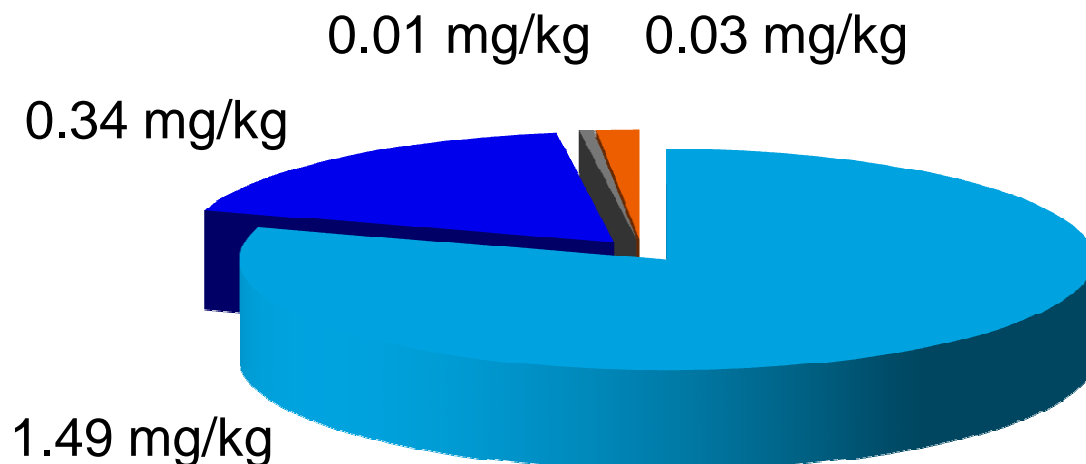
- ❑ Total radioactive residue (TRR) in grapes and extracts by liquid scintillation counting (LSC)
- ❑ Identification of fluopyram and metabolites by HPLC-UV, LC-MS and NMR

## 4. A straightforward example

### Fluopyram in grapes / results of the metabolism study



Total residue: 1.86 mg/kg

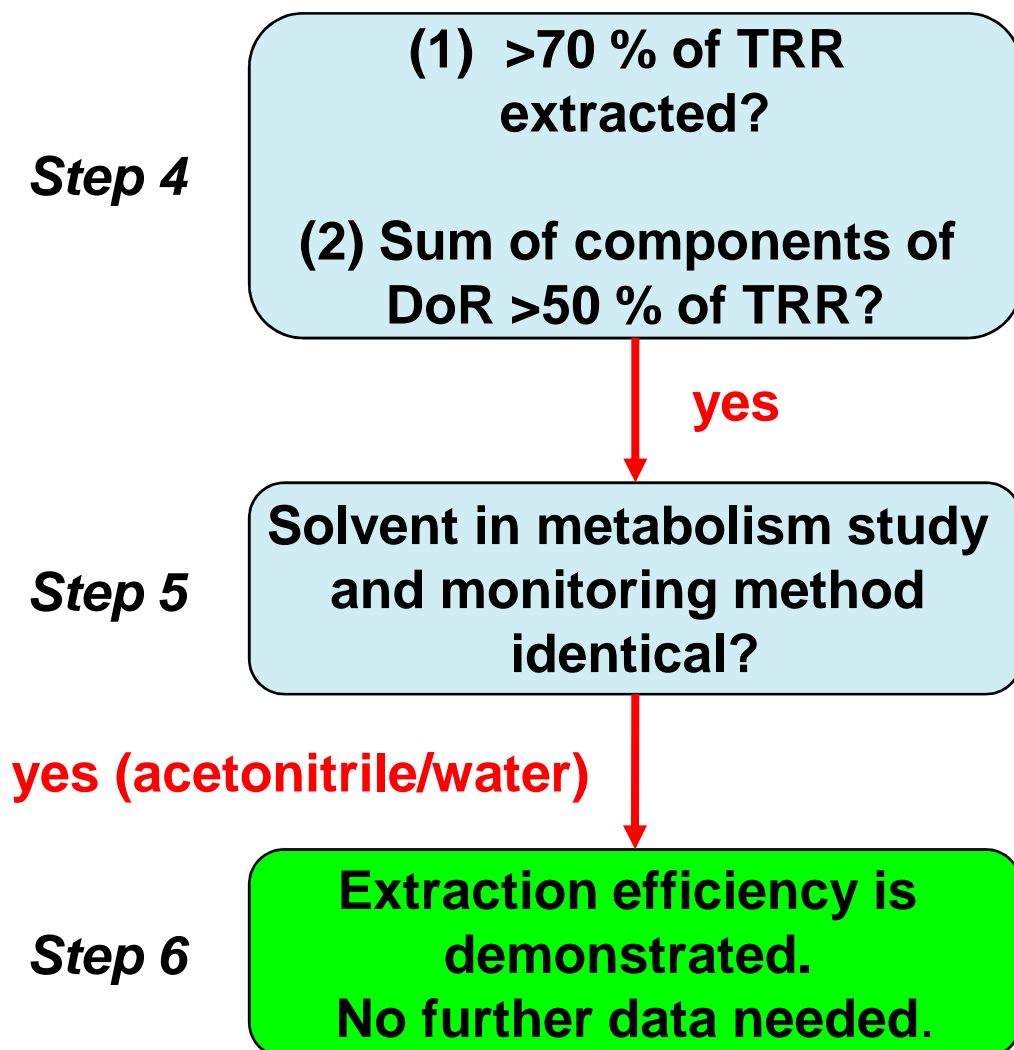


- fluopyram (surface wash with acetonitrile)
- fluopyram (acetonitrile/water extract)
- metabolites extracted
- unextracted residues

Radioactivity corresponding to 80 % TRR was washed off with pure acetonitrile. Additional 18 % TRR was extracted with acetonitrile/water (8/2, v/v).

**A monitoring method with acetonitrile/water as solvent (e.g. QuEChERS) will completely extract the regulated analyte!**

## Fluopyram in grapes / generalisation



i.e. less than 30 % of TRR not extracted.

In such case not extracted radioactivity corresponds to < 40 % of the extracted components of the regulated residue definition! No further information on identity of un-extracted radioactivity needed.

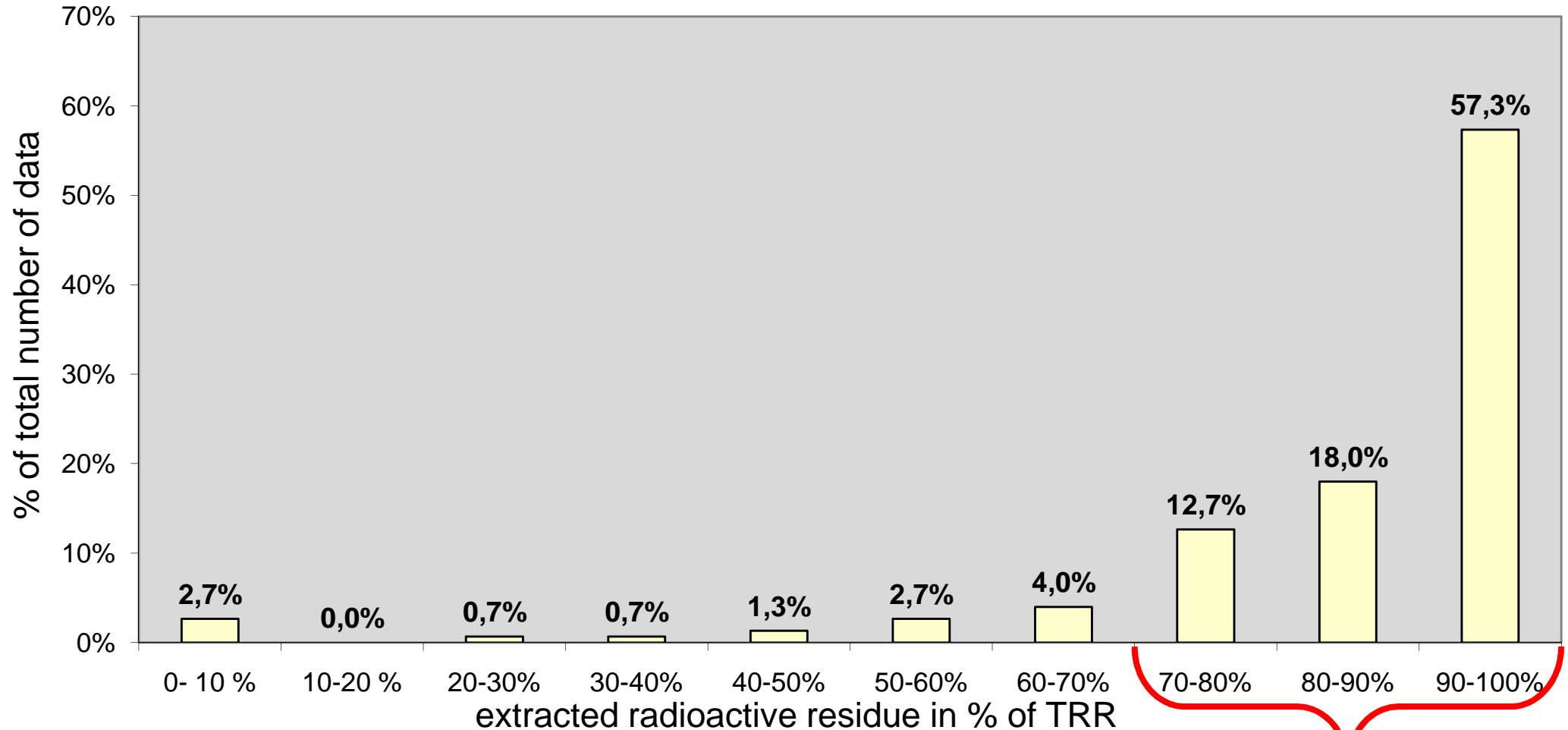
Calculation:

$$50 \% / (50 \% + 30 \%)$$

#### 4. A straightforward example

## How often is criterion (1) fulfilled?

Extracted radioactive residue in % of TRR



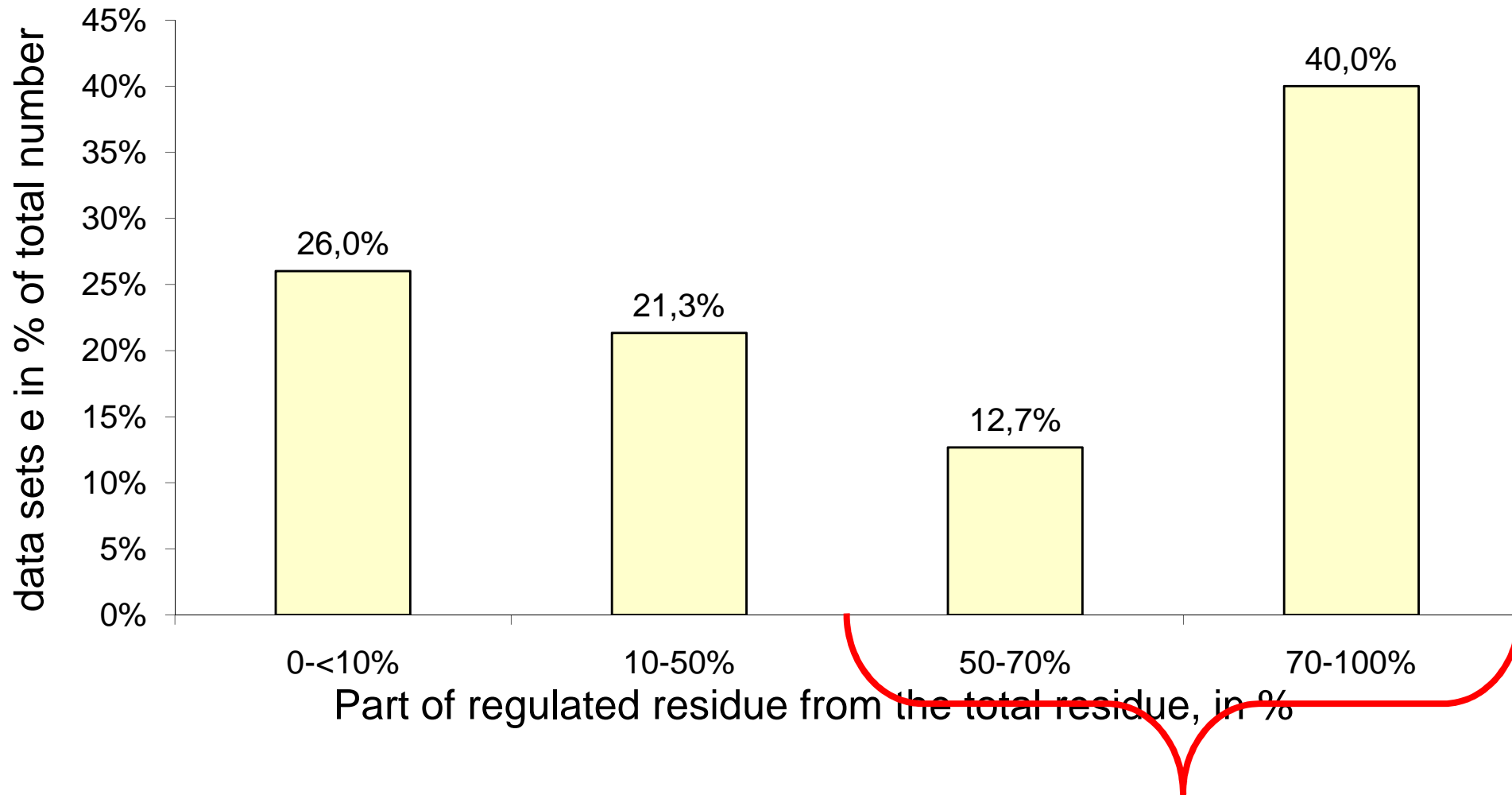
**88 % fulfill the first criterion of step 4!**

50 active substances, 150 data sets



## How often is criterion (2) fulfilled?

Portion of regulated residue expressed in % of TRR



**>50 % fulfill the second criterion of step 4!**

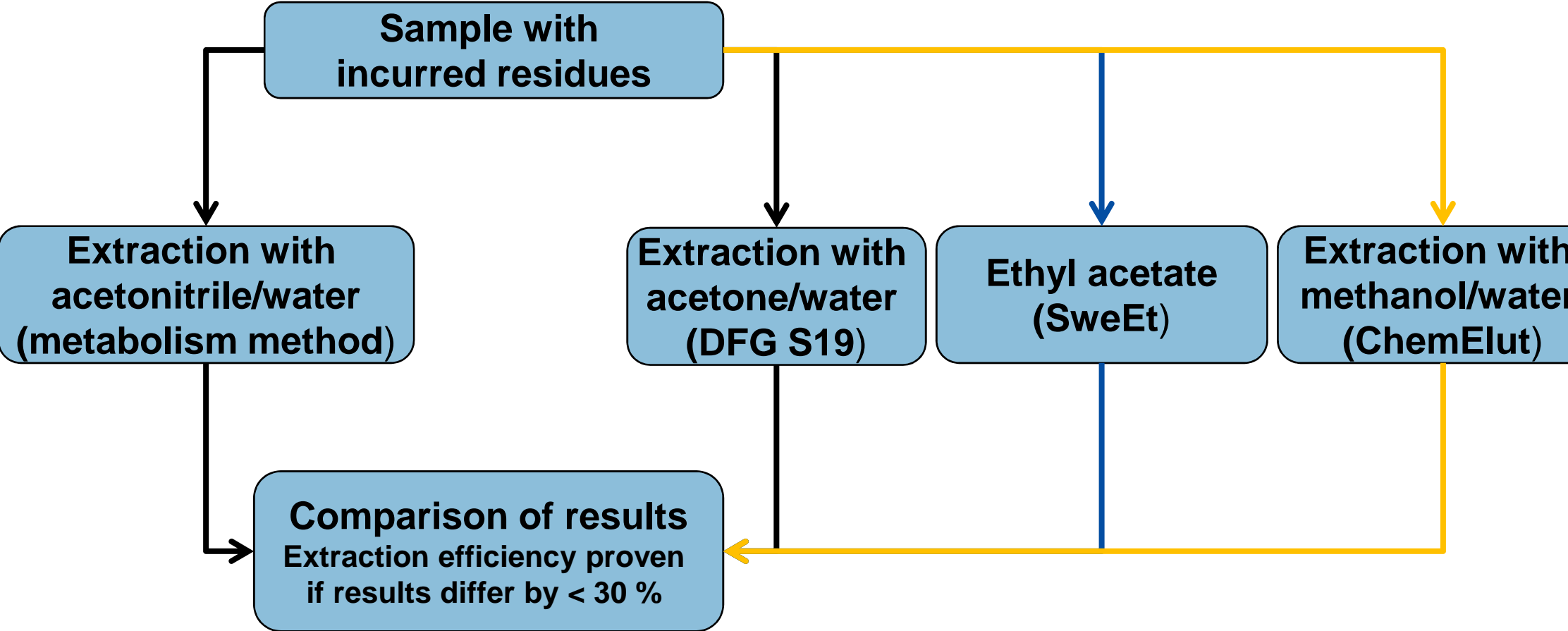
50 active substances, 150 data sets

# What to do if solvents are not identical?

Additional fluopyram monitoring method using acetone/water (S19 method)



**Cross validation**



# An example

## Pendimethalin

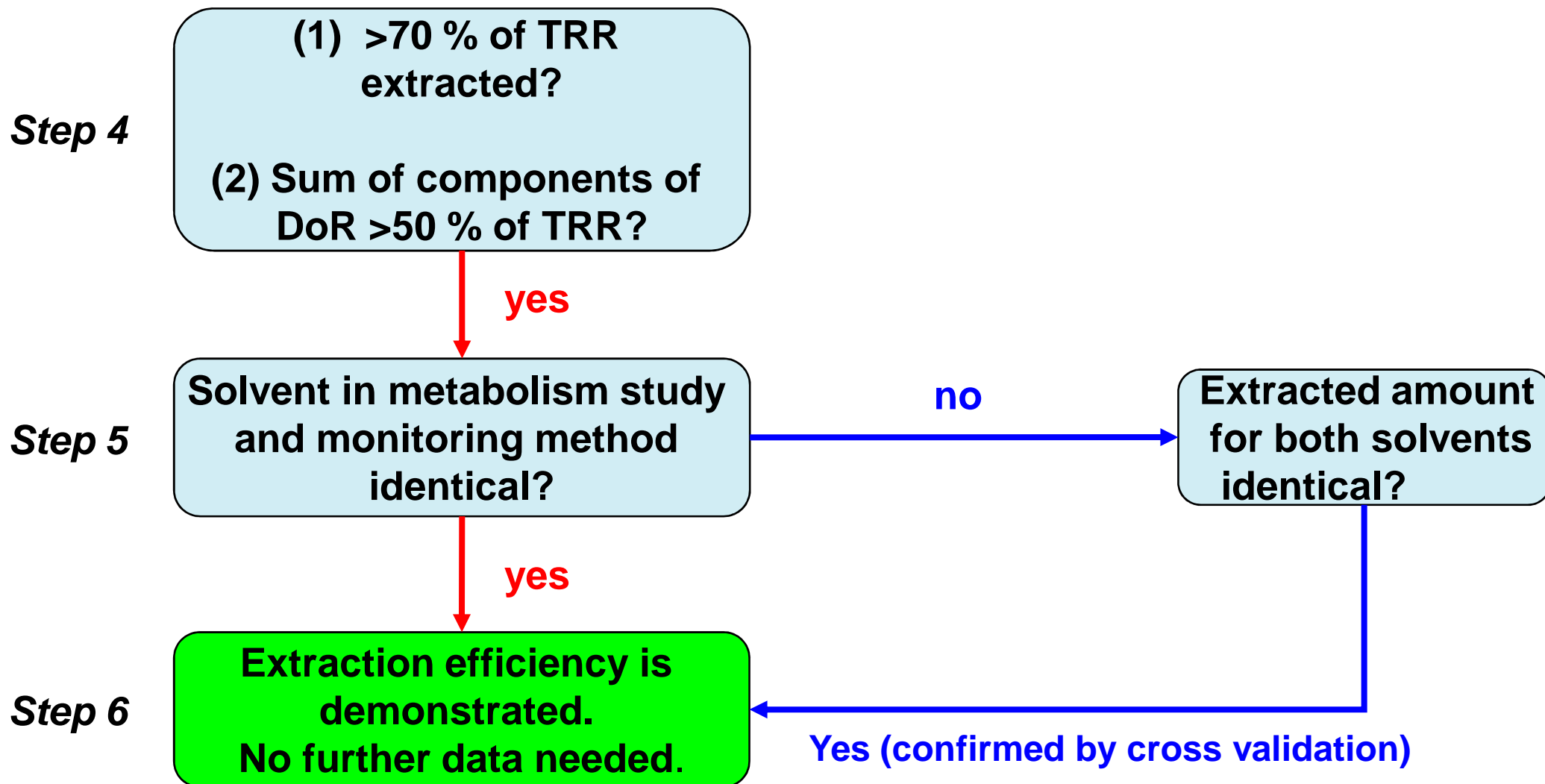
### Residue definition monitoring: Parent

		Metabolism study <sup>1</sup>		QuEChERS (solvent: acetonitrile)			DFG S19 (solvent: acetone/water, 2/1, v/v)		
	TRR [mg/kg]	ERR <sup>2</sup> [mg/kg] (% of TRR)	Parent [mg/kg]	ERR [mg/kg] (% of TRR)	Parent [mg/kg]	Extraction efficiency (%)	ERR [mg/kg] (% of TRR)	Parent [mg/kg]	Extraction efficiency (%)
Wheat straw	60	17.2 (29)	0.335	5.56 (9)	0.181	54	8.74 (15)	0.076	23
Carrot root	0.232	0.173 (75)	0.038	0.037 (16)	0.022	53	0.121 (52)	0.036	77
Lettuce	0.297	0.243 (82)	0.119	0.202 (68)	0.136	114	0.181 (61)	0.108	91

<sup>1</sup> extraction solvent: 3 x methanol followed by 2 x water

<sup>2</sup> ERR: extractable radioactive residue

# What to do if solvents are not identical?

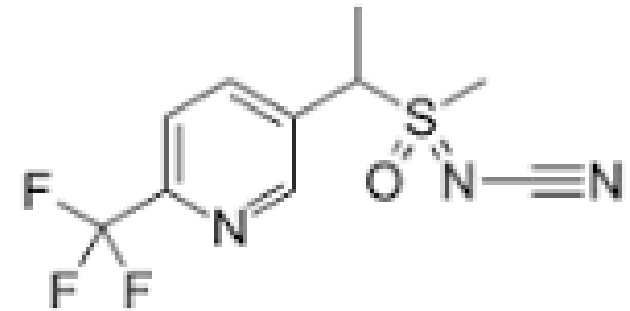


## What to do if both criteria of step 4 are not fulfilled?

- Regulated analyte: sulfoxaflor (parent)
- Crop: lettuce

### Study design

- Test substance:  $^{14}\text{C}$ -sulfoxaflor
- Three foliar spray applications, harvest 7 days after last application (DALA)



### Extraction solvent used

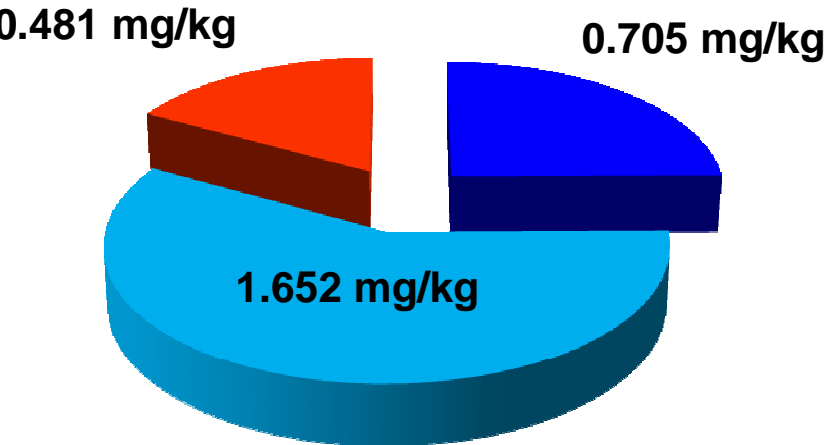
- Acetonitrile/water (1/1, v/v)
- Further extraction with alkaline methanol and acidic hydrolysis

### Determination of residues

- Total radioactive residue (TRR) in lettuce and extracts by liquid scintillation counting (LSC)
- Identification of sulfoxaflor and metabolites by HPLC and LC-MS/MS

# Sulfoxaflor in lettuce / results of the metabolism study

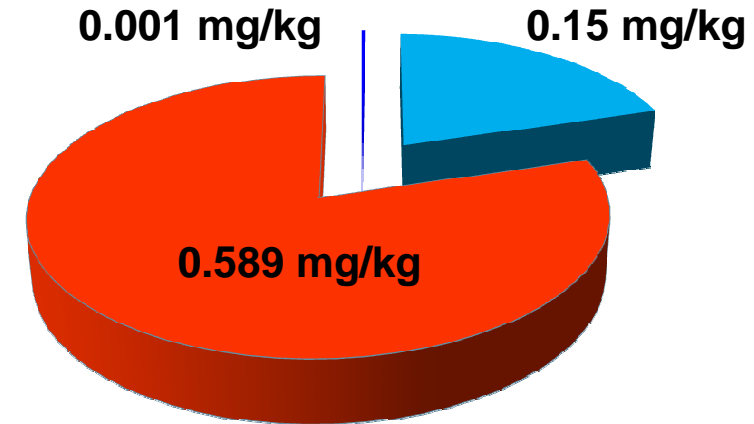
Acetonitrile/water extract



Total residue: 4.39 mg/kg



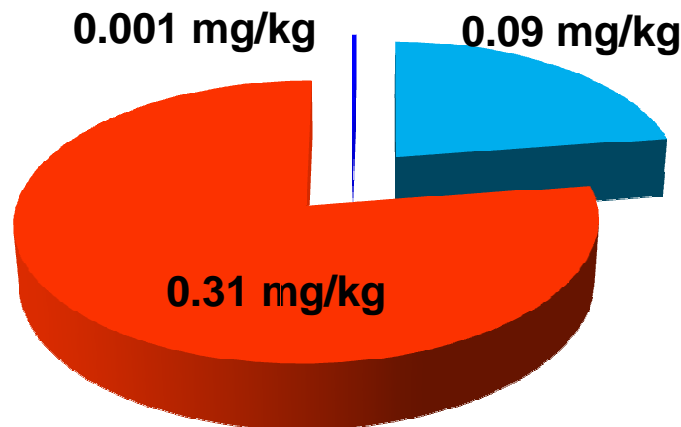
Acid hydrolysate



Only 65% of the TRR was extracted with ACN/water, parent accounted for 16% TRR.

**Both criteria of step 4 are not fulfilled!**

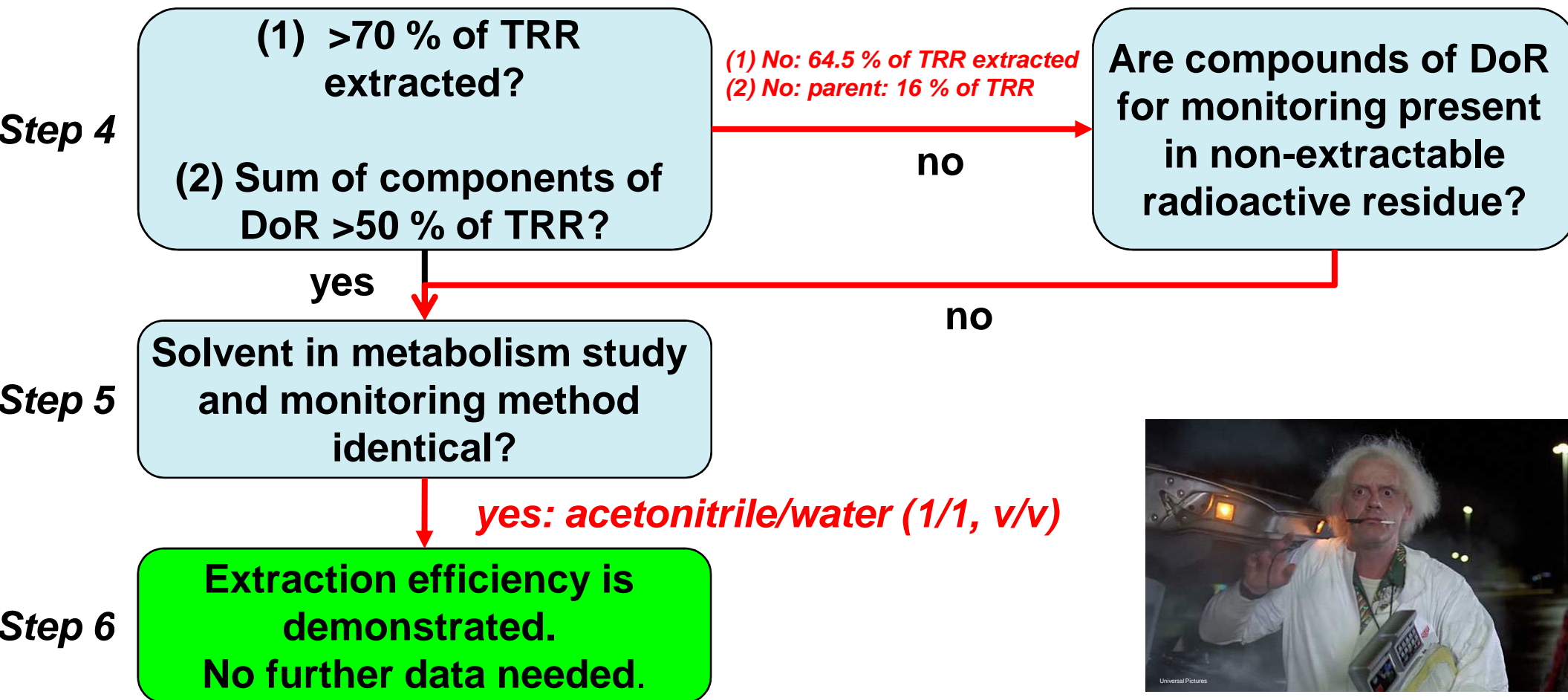
Alkaline methanol extract



No parent detected in non-extractable residues

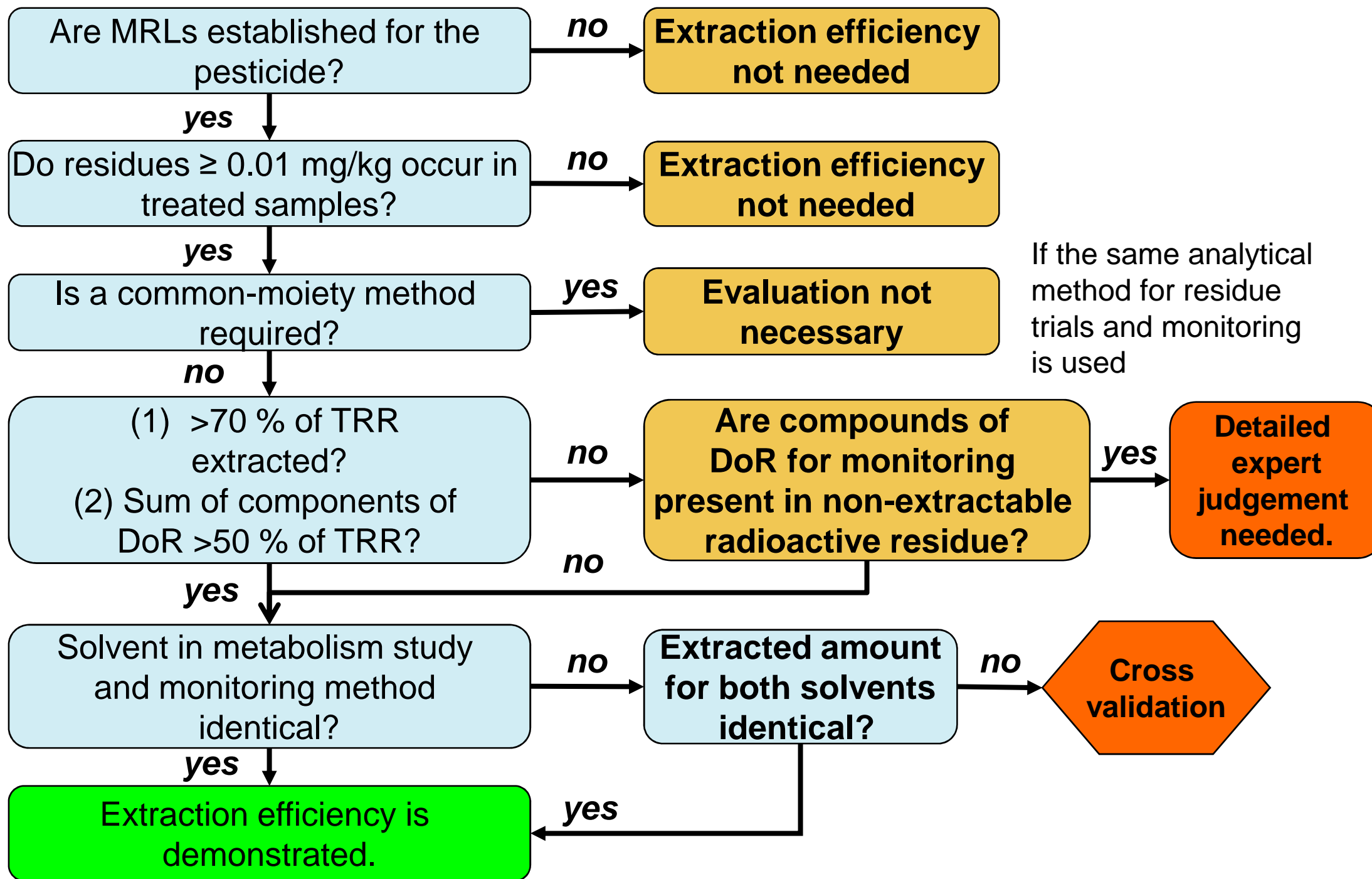
■ Sulfoxaflor (RD-Mo)    ■ Metabolites    ■ Other compounds

# Sulfoxaflor in lettuce



If yes, detailed expert judgement is needed

# 7. The final decision tree





## Common problems when evaluating extraction efficiency

- ❑ Unresolved problem: conjugates that are regulated, e.g. Bentazone, Dichlorprop, Fluazifop-P-butyl, MCPA, MCPB Pyridate, Spirotetramat
  
- ❑ Analytes included in the residue definition are not observed in primary metabolism:
  - ◆ inclusion of further studies is necessary (processing studies, metabolism in rotational crops ...)
  
- ❑ Switching from single residue methods to multi-residue methods:
  - ◆ Consideration of extraction efficiency may be required.
  
- ❑ Samples with incurred residues are not available.

## 8. Summary and conclusion

- ❑ Extraction efficiency data are not required in all cases.
- ❑ In many situations a large amount of radioactivity is extractable with solvents and refers to the regulated residue. If extraction solvents in metabolism study and monitoring method are identical, no further studies are needed.
- ❑ Less ideal situations (e.g. many metabolites, different solvents used, unidentified radioactivity, etc.) require case-by-case decisions.
- ❑ If the extraction solvents in metabolism study and residue method are not identical, cross validation with samples containing incurred residues might be possible.
- ❑ Due to the limited access to the required studies and/or incurred residues, surveillance laboratories will often have to rely on assistance by industry or regulatory agencies.

## 8. The road ahead

- ❑ Draft of the guidance document „Guidance Document on the Evaluation of the Extraction Efficiency of Residue Analytical Methods” was reviewed on EU level.
- ❑ Discussion in upcoming SCoPAFF meeting (16./17. June 2016)
- ❑ We propose to start a database in containing the relevant information from radiolabeled studies (e.g. matrices, extraction solvents, %TRR extracted etc.) for easier application of the decision tree.

# **Thank you for your attention**

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