



EUROPEAN UNION MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

Newsletter

No. 1, January-February-March 2017

Minor uses, major issue!

When writing this editorial from the EPPO headquarters, we can clearly notice that spring is arriving in Paris. Also for many crops this is the start of a new growing season and the products of all these 'minor crops' will find their way to tables across the region.



The first Newsletter of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility is now in front of you. From the start of this EU project in 2015 a lot has been initiated and already accomplished. Since November last year we are fully staffed. But we are not yet there, a lot still needs to be done.

Last January an important event took place. We organised our first 'Stakeholder Advisory Forum'. It was well attended and an intensive exchange of views took place on many issues. One of the main topics that was discussed, was the long-term funding strategy for the Coordination Facility. Funds are guaranteed for three years, but not all minor use needs will be solved in this period!

We are also busy preparing the meetings of the Expert Groups that will take place at the end of March in Brussels. We have made considerable progress with the new minor uses database EUMUDA. It has been transformed into a powerful tool to keep track of all minor uses projects. Its launch is planned for the end of March 2017.

Did I say 'minor crops' above? As these crops are of major value we should maybe start to speak about 'speciality crops'. Too often people associate 'minor uses' with an issue of 'minor' importance.

You can read more about our activities in the newsletter and don't forget to visit our website (<https://www.minoruses.eu/>)! It is regularly updated with the latest news and information about meetings and upcoming events.

Do you like our newsletter? Don't hesitate to give us your feedback.
Enjoy reading!

Jeroen Meeussen, Coordinator of the MUCF

MUCF staff

Let us first introduce ourselves. As of 1 November 2016, the Coordination Facility is fully staffed. Mr **Jeroen Meeussen** started work as coordinator for the MUCF on 1 September 2015. Within the administrative team in EPPO Ms **Cintia Mauchien** has been assigned as Administrator to the Coordination Facility from 1 January 2016. To cover a period of Cintia's maternity leave, our new colleague **Diana Ryzhkova** has taken over Cintia's responsibilities. On 1 April 2016 Ms **Nathalie Boutron** started work as IT-officer for the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility and Ms **Flora Limache** joined the Coordination Facility as Technical Expert on 1 November 2016.

More background on the staff can be found on our website:

<https://www.minoruses.eu/mucf/team>

Third Global Minor Uses Summit



The Third Global Minor Uses Summit (GMUS-3) will be organised in Montreal, Canada, 1-4 October 2017).

The GMUS-3 will put greater emphasis on Policy Considerations that can help speciality crop growers around the world obtain access to safe and modern tools to produce their crops, and to promote trade among nations that is critical to providing food to the growing world population. As member of the Organizing Committee the MUCF is actively involved in the preparation of the GMUS-3.

<http://www.gmup.org/GMUS3.html>

More about the GMUS-3 in our next newsletter.

First Stakeholder Advisory Forum

The first Annual Stakeholder Forum of the European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) took place on 25 January 2017, in Brussels. A total of 48 participants, representing governments of Member States, the EU Commission, growers, agri-food chain and industry associations, attended the event.

The MUCF, hosted by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), was established in April 2015. The first year was used to lay the foundations of MUCF. Already excellent progress was achieved by the MUCF, in areas such as communication with stakeholders, and organization of the work with the Expert Groups. The improved minor uses database (EUMUDA) was presented. The new EUMUDA will be a central tool for minor uses in the EU. The stakeholders welcomed the establishment of the MUCF and were satisfied with the progress made to date.

The MUCF has significant ambition to solve minor uses issues, such as aiming to support a 'level playing field' for growers, focusing on non-chemical solutions, deconstructing regulatory hurdles, and guaranteeing continuity of the MUCF through a long-term funding.



Mr Wolfgang Reinert from the European Commission

For more information on the meeting, go to our website: <https://www.minoruses.eu/>

Long-term funding

When discussing a project, the funding issue needs to be put on the table. Currently, the Coordination Facility is jointly funded by the EU and the governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands. The funding is secured until April 2018. A priority for the Coordination Facility is to ensure longer term finance as it is clear that minor uses problems will not all be resolved in three years.



As all Member States will benefit from the work of the Coordination Facility, the MUCF will encourage financial commitments from all Member States. Within the next weeks, all Member States will be approached by the Coordination Facility for a voluntary assessed contribution. As it is considered appropriate that larger Member States contribute more than the smaller ones, contributions will be requested according to their population. Such a system would take into account the size of the population which in its turn is linked to the need for food and/or plant production.

We will keep you informed on this important issue!



*The MUCF is co-funded
by the European Union*

A variety of Minor Uses issues already notified to the MUCF

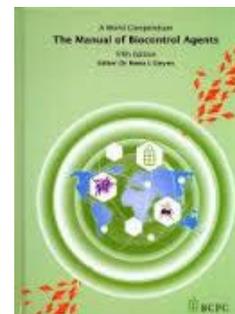
Over the past four months, some representatives of growers' associations and governments (most of them Commodity Expert Group members) contacted the MUCF to obtain support in solving some minor uses needs.

These needs concerned a variety of crops and pests, such as soft fruit and the 'infamous' spotted-wing drosophila, vegetables and bacterial rots, hops and downy mildew or sweet potato and weeds.



The MUCF searched for solutions in databases (Homologa, BCPC, EU Pesticide databases). Based on this information the MUCF provided recommendations to the requesters, for authorisation of chemical and non-chemical Plant Protection Products. Overall, a few chemical active substances were found to be available across the relevant EU regulatory zones. For the minor use involving the spotted-wing drosophila, the MUCF could also recommend some IPM methods, based on the outputs of the C-IPM Eranet.

The MUCF is planning to follow-up on these requests with the stakeholders and provide support as required along the process to solve these minor uses needs.



The new EUMUDA is on track!

The new EUMUDA will be a central tool for Minor Uses in the EU. It will support the activities of the Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs) and provide information publicly available on minor uses needs and projects, and minor crop acreages in the EU.



During the Commodity Expert Group/Horizontal Expert Group meetings of September 2016 (Freising, Germany), the latest developments on EUMUDA were presented by the MUCF IT Officer, Nathalie Boutron.

The new EUMUDA uses the same structure and same information as in the original EUMUDA, but will provide more detailed information to allow a better follow-up and management of CEGs-projects.

EUMUDA consists of three main parts: the table of minor use needs, the work programme (projects) and the table on national crop acreages. The (GAP) information in the projects will be similar to that used in PPPAMS, for better exchange of information.

Comments received, were discussed in a meeting of the chairs of the CEGs in January 2017 and a way forward was agreed. From January, up to now the MUCF has continued working on EUMUDA to finalise its structure. A trial phase is organised in March and the launch is scheduled shortly after the Expert Group meetings at the end of March.

The MUCF team wish to thank Mario Wick not only for his efforts in constructing/building the 'old EUMUDA', but also for all his support in making EUMUDA an even more powerful tool in closing minor uses gaps.

CEG/HEG meetings 28-30 March 2017

The MUCF is organising for the third time the Commodity Expert Group/Horizontal Expert Group meetings, which will take place on 28-30 March 2017 in Brussels. The meetings will include two plenary sessions.

In the first plenary session, an overview on how Member States organise minor uses work will be presented by the MUCF Technical Expert, Flora Limache. This overview is based on the results of a questionnaire circulated to all Member States, and will also provide information on the capacity in Member States to finance trials and to contribute to sharing of and access to data generated in trials.

The second plenary session will aim to gather input for the REFIT programme (Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) 396/2005. The REFIT programme is organised by the European Commission to see if existing legislation is (still) fit for purpose, and to improve existing EU legislation.

This will be followed by discussion in Breakout Groups to stimulate active participation of all attendees. More than 120 participants have already registered to the event!

For more information on the meetings, visit the MUCF website:

<https://www.minoruses.eu/mucf/meetings>

Activities for the near future

- To launch EUMUDA
- To populate EUMUDA with minor use needs and ongoing projects
- To continue work on harmonization
- To work on the long-term funding of the Coordination Facility
- To reach out to stakeholders
- To contact Member States and growers' groups to participate in the minor use work,
- To

Read more on our activities in our second newsletter!