



EU MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

Newsletter

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Minor uses, major issue!



The Minor Uses Coordination Facility is very grateful to those countries who have paid in advance for 2020 and to those who have paid contributions for 2018 and 2019. We are very much looking forward to other countries boarding the MUCF to ensure a smooth take off in 2020.

We decided to keep this Editorial short but inside our 11th newsletter you will find information on topics that will be of interest for you. Currently the MUCF is compiling the results of the 2019 survey on minor uses needs and priorities.

Later this year minor uses experts will convene in Dublin.

In February 2020 the MUCF will organize a Workshop on Minor Uses and Speciality Crops in Paris.

We wish you a pleasant journey with the MUCF.

Jeroen Meeussen,
Coordinator of the MUCF

CEG and HEG autumn 2019 meetings

Our Irish colleagues have offered to host the autumn minor uses expert meetings in Dublin. The meetings will be held between 30 October and 01 November 2019 in Dublin Castle. On Wednesday the Horizontal Expert Group will meet, followed on Thursday by the CEG Fruit & Vegetables, CEG Hops, CEG Mushrooms and CEG Seeds. On Friday morning the experts from the CEG Ornamentals, CEG Tobacco and CEG Herbs will have their meetings. We are looking forward to fruitful discussions.



Dublin Castle

Survey 2019 on minor uses needs and priorities

At the time of preparing this newsletter the MUCF has received data from 20 countries for the 2019 survey on minor uses needs and priorities. This is already a very good response rate. If your Member State has not yet responded you can still submit your needs and priorities until end of September when we will finalise the compilation of the data received. It is the intention of the MUCF to display the updated list of EU minor uses needs and priorities in October in EUMUDA. The results will also be discussed in the autumn meetings of the CEGs.

Minor Uses Steering Group

The Minor Uses Steering Group will meet at the end of November to discuss the workplan and budget for the MUCF for 2020. The work that can be done next year will be highly dependent on the financial situation of the MUCF. In July 2019 the MUCF sent out a request to all Member countries for financial contributions for 2020 to support minor uses work and ensure continuity of the MUCF. The Steering Group will also discuss a document highlighting the benefits brought by the MUCF and the mid-term perspective.

Workshop on Minor Uses in February 2020 – Save the date

The MUCF is organising a Workshop on Minor Uses and Speciality Crops on 18-20 February 2020 in Paris. We are grateful to the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food for offering to host this workshop.



Eiffel Tower – Paris

The Workshop will be organised around the following themes: further harmonization (definition of minor/major crop, crop grouping and extrapolation systems, zoning in the EU, implementation of the use of the risk envelope approach), expectations from and engagement of growers' of speciality crops in the work on minor uses, the future of minor uses and speciality crops in the EU in 5 years' time.

We expect around 100 participants at the workshop.

We have started to prepare the programme. Further information regarding the workshop will be made available on the MUCF website soon including details on logistics and registration.

OECD meetings 2019

The meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Biopesticides (EGBP) was held on 25 June 2019 at the OECD Headquarters in Paris. The EGBP meeting followed a one-day seminar on “Bioinformatics and regulation of microbial pesticides”.



OECD Headquarters in Paris

Seminar on “Bioinformatics and regulation of microbial pesticides”

The seminar on “Bioinformatics and regulation of microbial pesticides” was held on 24 June 2019 and was attended by 56 people. This topic was selected because genome sequencing, and bioinformatic tools are nowadays routinely used in different research and development sectors. These technologies are now starting to be used in the area of microbial biopesticides and could potentially enrich the toolbox of evaluators for microbials. However, the potential use of this technology in a regulatory decision process for microbials as pesticides needs to be further investigated.

Bioinformatics combines biology, computer science, information engineering, mathematics and statistics to analyse and interpret biological data.

Some commonly used sequencing platforms were presented. For the handling and analysis of data different Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) tools are available. Due to the diversity of bioinformatics tools there is a need to establish a quality system for the WGS process as it is considered crucial that results of the WGS are reproducible.

What is the added value of bioinformatic analysis within the current regulatory approach of microbial biopesticides? WGS data need careful interpretation. In the scope of regulatory affairs, WGS information can be used to address certain data requirements for the registration of microbials, especially in the area of identification, characterization and antimicrobial resistance.

The seminar concluded that it is considered important to harmonize at an international level, the type of genomic data required and the way these data should be evaluated. Training on new methods may be needed as the expertise within regulatory authorities to analyse all the available data may be limited. Those working on microbial biopesticides should learn from what is happening in other sectors, e.g. food and feed additives. Possible case-studies how bioinformatics can be used to facilitate the registration of microbial biopesticides should be identified

A report of the seminar will be prepared and published in the OECD-series on Pesticides <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pesticides-biocides/seriesonpesticides.htm>

Meeting of the Expert Group on BioPesticides

In the meeting of the EGBP a variety of topics was discussed. A working document on the risk assessment of secondary metabolites of microorganisms has been published in the OECD Series on Pesticides. As a follow-up from last year’s seminar on test methods (e.g. for toxicology, ecotoxicology) for micro-organisms a draft scoping document was discussed that aims to include the test methods for microorganisms and identify the limitations of the test methods and how they can be addressed.

A discussion paper on the impact of microbial pesticides on earthworms was also considered. Initial discussions took place on draft papers prepared for two groups of highly specific micro-organisms (bacteriophages and baculoviruses).

Expert Group on Minor Uses

In the OECD Working Group on Pesticides, that followed the biopesticides events, a Guidance Document on the Exchange and Use of International Efficacy and Crop Safety Data for Minor Uses was endorsed. This document is for use by applicants and regulators and will soon be published on the OECD website in the Series on Pesticides.

This Guidance Document explains the examination and presentation of justification for efficacy and crop safety from a combination of the following four key areas: (i) Basic principles, (ii) Principles & processes based on authorisation in another country, (iii) Relevance of foreign data, and (iv) Use of data from other sources.