



**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL REPORT 2019**

**Introduction**

The annual report of 2019 of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility is now in front of you. In this annual report you can read about our achievements over the past year. It also includes a financial overview.

In the reporting year the new governance structure of the Coordination Facility was operational. The first Annual General Meeting (AGM), that comprises all funding countries, was held in February. One of the main tasks of the AGM is to approve the plans and budget for the next year for the Coordination Facility. The Minor Uses Steering Group comprises representatives from Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland and supervises and supports the work of the Coordination Facility.

The Coordination Facility has made good progress in 2019. Based on the results of the 2019 survey more than 6 000 minor uses needs and their priorities are now listed in EUMUDA. All this information is easily accessible and publicly available. In total, more than 100 projects have been entered in EUMUDA since 2017. More than 800 Homologa database searches have been performed on the main European priorities to provide information to experts on authorised plant protection products. The Coordination Facility has also started to work on new activities in 2019 such as the development of an extrapolation database for minor uses in collaboration with EPPO.

In the reporting period we have made progress on all the issues mentioned above and the funding for the reporting period, based on voluntary assessed contributions and carry-over from previous years, has been secured.

I would like to thank all minor uses experts in the different countries for their hard work and support. We can only do our work with your efforts. Your contributions are highly appreciated.

Jeroen Meeussen  
Coordinator of the MUCF  
25 February 2020

## **Background**

1. Minor uses of plant protection products are uses on minor crops or against pest problems which are not routinely encountered but may on occasion be very damaging in major crops. These minor crops have a high economic value for farmers but may be of low economic interest for the crop protection industry. This leads to a lack of authorised products on the market for farmers to use on these crops which in turn can lead to loss of crop production with severe economic impact on the farmers. These minor crops include for example most vegetables, fruits, hops, mushrooms, nursery and ornamental crops, and some arable crops. It is estimated that overall, they represent more than EUR 70 billion per year, which equates to 22% of the total European Union plant production value. For that reason, the term ‘speciality crops’ should be used rather than ‘minor crops’ as this better reflects the status and the value of these crops. Applicants may face difficulties in gaining authorisation for ‘minor uses’ due to the extensive data packages required for authorisation to market plant protection products.
2. To address this problem in a more coherent way the European Commission has established the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility.
3. The mission of the Facility is ‘to support its Members in closing minor uses gaps through efficient collaboration to improve availability of chemical and non-chemical tools and solutions within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework in order to enable European farmers to produce high quality crops’.
4. The Coordination Facility is hosted by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in Paris.
5. The Minor Uses Coordination Facility comprises a technical secretariat, information systems and Expert Groups to coordinate the program of work carried out across the EU by Member States in support of Minor Uses.
6. As of 1 November 2016 the Coordination Facility is fully staffed. Mr Jeroen Meeussen started work as coordinator for the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility 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. On 1 April 2016 Ms Nathalie Boutron started work as IT-officer for the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility. On 1 November 2016 Ms Flora Limache joined the Coordination Facility as Technical Expert.
7. For the first three years the Coordination Facility was 50% funded by the EU and as a condition of that funding, acted for the benefit of all EU Member States. As the grant agreement with the EU expired mid-April 2018 the Coordination Facility now fully relies on voluntary assessed contributions from member countries.

## **Achievements 2019**

### **Solving Minor Uses Needs**

8. The Coordination Facility has continued to discuss with industry (conventional and biological) possible solutions for the minor uses needs, especially for the needs with the highest priorities. Priority should be given to find solutions within an IPM framework.

Output: Several meetings has been held with industry (conventional and biological) to discuss possible solutions for the minor uses needs and how these (IPM-) solutions could be displayed in EUMUDA in a clear way.

9. In April 2019, the Coordination Facility asked EU Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland to update their needs and priorities on minor uses.

Output: In total, data is now available from 28 Member countries (25 EU Member States, plus Norway, Switzerland and Macedonia). EUMUDA now contains a list of 6095 needs (3087 grouped needs).

10. As a first step in establishing workplans for the Expert Groups the Coordination Facility has started to identify which needs can be covered by existing projects and for which needs new projects need to be started. This work is done in close cooperation with the CEGs. To achieve this the extrapolation rules for residues and efficacy play a key role. Therefore, the development of a searchable database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities has been started.

Output: A start has been made to identify which needs can be covered by existing projects. The Coordination Facility has also made a start to develop a searchable database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities for efficacy and residues.

11. The Coordination Facility has followed-up on the results of the ‘IPM and Minor Uses’ research projects as carried out by the ERA-Net Coordinated Research in Integrated Pest Management (C-IPM).

Output: A plenary session to discuss the results of several ‘IPM and Minor Uses’ research projects with minor uses experts was held in March 2019.

### **Governance and funding of the Co-ordination Facility**

12. Now that the grant agreement with the European Commission has expired and more countries contribute to the funding of the Coordination Facility the governance structure with only a Steering Group will no longer suffice. A governing body has been created, comprising all funding countries, that will meet once a year for the ‘Annual General Meeting’ (AGM). The role of the AGM will be to approve the annual report and plans and budget for the next year for the Coordination Facility

Output: The governance structure of the Coordination Facility has changed, and a constitution document was prepared to establish a governing body called the Annual General Meeting

(AGM). The first AGM was held on 26 February 2019. In that meeting the Annual report and financial report of 2018 was approved as well as the Workplan and budget for 2019.

13. The Minor Uses Steering Group comprises representatives from Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland and will supervise and support the work of the Coordination Facility. The European Commission attends meetings of the Steering Group as permanent observer. The Director-General EPPO and the Coordination Facility also attend these meetings.

Output: Meetings of the Steering Group were held on 4 October (teleconference) and 20 November 2019.

14. For 2019 the Coordination Facility has to fully rely on voluntary assessed contributions from Member States. All Member States were approached with a request for funding. The Coordination Facility has contacted some Member States to follow-up on their contribution. It was indicated that EPPO member countries can contribute to the funding of the Coordination Facility alongside their EPPO-contribution.

Output: The Coordination Facility has received contributions/commitments from 15 Member States. Based on the responses received the Coordination Facility has prepared a Workplan and budget for 2019 that was approved by the AGM.

15. Ensuring longer term financial sustainability is key. A ‘statement of intent’ could form the basis for a ‘multilateral agreement’. Main goal of such a ‘multilateral agreement’ will be to ensure longer term financial sustainability by encouraging financial commitments from Member States for several years.

Output: No progress could be made yet with the preparation of a multi- year commitment as most Member States only commit on a year to year base. The Coordination Facility has started to update the action plan for long-term funding.

16. Although the funding for 2019 has been secured lack of funding may have serious consequences for the minor use work in all EU Member States.

Output: The policy on reimbursement has been amended and for 2019 for experts attending meetings organised by the Coordination Facility only travel costs have been reimbursed. The subscription to the Homologa database has not been renewed.

## **Communication and stakeholders**

17. The Coordination Facility has increased the efforts to update the website regularly. It is the intention of the Coordination Facility to continue to issue a newsletter every quarter and to increase the number of subscriptions.

Output: The Coordination Facility has issued a newsletter every quarter in 2019, increased the number of subscriptions to more than 550 and has updated the website regularly.

18. The Coordination Facility has continued to reach out to stakeholders and has participated in (international) events to provide updates on the work and activities of the Coordination Facility.

Output: The Coordination Facility has participated in 5 international events to provide updates on the work and activities of the Coordination Facility. The third Stakeholder Advisory Forum was held on 26 February 2019.

### **Improving the EU Minor Uses Database - EUMUDA**

19. The European Minor Use Database EUMUDA is an important tool to support the activities of the Commodity Expert Groups and to manage all projects. The Coordination Facility will keep on collecting updated data from all Member States.

Output: A survey to collect updated data on minor uses needs and priorities was carried out in April 2019. For several minor uses needs solutions has been displayed in EUMUDA.

20. The link of EUMUDA with the EU database PPPAMS (Plant Protection Product Application Management System) is important to make sure information is aligned and up-to-date with EU information and to avoid duplication of work.

Output: The Coordination Facility has maintained the link with PPPAMS. The Coordination Facility has retrieved an overview on emergency authorisations from PPPAMS and has started to compare this overview with the list of minor uses needs and priorities in EUMUDA as solving minor uses needs may lead to a decrease of emergency authorizations.

21. It has to be explored as to whether the EUMUDA database will also eventually host the Global Minor Uses Database.

Output:

No progress has been made whether the EUMUDA database will also eventually host the Global Minor Uses Database as no Global Minor Uses meetings were held in 2019.

### **Co-ordinating expert groups**

22. Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs) work to close minor use gaps at EU level by finding chemical or non-chemical solutions within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework. The Commodity Expert Group consists of national minor use experts and representatives of the respective growers' associations or grower groups. There are several Commodity Expert Groups. Currently there are seven CEGs covering the following commodities: Fruit and Vegetables, Hops, Mushrooms, Ornamentals, Rice, Seeds and Tobacco. There is also a candidate CEG Herbs. No decision on the establishment of a new CEG will be taken as long as the long-term funding of the Coordination Facility has not been guaranteed

Output: The Coordination Facility has continued to provide administrative and technical support to the CEGs in organizing meetings and managing ongoing projects. Meetings of the Commodity Expert Groups were held on 26-27 March 2019 in Brussels and on 31 October and 1 November 2019 in Dublin. Both meetings were well attended. The meetings in Brussels was attended by more than 100 participants from 20 different countries. In Dublin 90 minor uses experts from 22 different countries gathered.

23. The Horizontal Expert Group (HEG) discusses general issues related to minor uses, as identified by the Commodity Expert Groups, the Steering Group or its members, aiming for the

establishment of harmonized procedures and at creating a level playing field among Member States.

Output: The Coordination Facility has continued to provide administrative and technical support to the HEG in organizing meetings. The Horizontal Expert Group has met on 28 March 2019 in Brussels and on 30 October 2019 in Dublin. Both meetings were well attended. The meeting in Brussels was attended by 38 minor uses experts from 17 different countries. In Dublin 36 minor uses experts from 18 countries gathered.

24. The membership and chairing of the Expert Groups have been kept under review in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Output: Chairs and Co-chairs of all CEGs have been (re)elected in 2019 for a period of three years. Their names are placed on the minor uses website in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

25. The Guidance Document on Minor Uses provides more clarity regarding the rules for authorization of minor uses and contributes to further harmonization between Member States.

Output: The Guidance Document on Minor Uses was forwarded to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) for further discussion and adoption in May 2019. Member States were invited to comment on the draft. Based on the comments received from the SCoPAFF the Coordination Facility will prepare an updated revision of the Guidance Document.

### **Linking with minor uses activities internationally**

26. The Coordination Facility has cooperated with existing networks on Minor Uses, such as IR-4 (USA), the Canadian Minor Use Pesticides Program, as well as with the OECD Expert Group on Minor Uses (EGMU).

Output. The Coordination Facility was involved in the follow-up of the actions and priority projects resulting from the Global Minor Use Summit and Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshops, respectively. The OECD '*Guidance Document on the exchange and use of international efficacy & crop safety data for minor uses*' has been finalized and is in the process to be published in the OECD series on Pesticides<sup>1</sup>.

27. The Coordination Facility has continued to work on further harmonization. For efficacy a searchable database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities will be developed in close cooperation with EPPO.

Output: The Coordination Facility has started to work on a searchable database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities for efficacy and residues. For efficacy the database will be developed

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[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2020\)1&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2020)1&doclanguage=en)

in close cooperation with the EPPO Working Party on Plant Protection Products and its Expert Panels.

### **Financial overview for 2019 of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility**

28. For the reporting period the Coordination Facility fully relied on voluntary assessed contributions from Member States. The following Member States contributed for 2019: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland (up to an amount of EUR 325 000). Slovenia did commit for 2019 but has not yet paid (total EUR 10 000).
29. For 2019 the total costs of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility are EUR 422 805.