

Newsletter No. 2 April-May-June 2017

Minor uses, major issue!



You have probably already enjoyed some sunny and warm weather this spring. The high temperatures are also creating an excellent environment for pests and diseases to develop rapidly. Therefore, growers need to take measures to protect their speciality crops.

Traditionally, many growers are using conventional pesticides to combat pests and diseases. However, that is only one out of many pest management strategies. The biocontrol industry is growing fast and provides additional solutions to close minor use gaps. Nowadays, biocontrol companies are also actively participating in expert meetings to present possible solutions. Read more about biocontrol and minor uses on the next pages. Also in other regions of the world the emphasis is on finding sustainable solutions.



Ladybird feeding on aphids

The new EUMUDA is almost ready for its public launch. Currently, the ongoing projects are entered and the database has also been populated with a substantial initial list of minor use needs.

The expert meetings held at the end of March were very successful. They were well attended with more than 120 participants.

Good and in-depth discussions were held on how the minor use work is organised in the different Member States, and on issues that can be taken forward in the Refit process.

Montreal, c'est si bon! This French-speaking city is considered the cultural capital of Canada, and is hosting the Global Minor Uses Summit in October. The preparation is well on its way. But non-Francophones are also most welcome. The main language of the conference will be English.

You can read more about the Global Minor Uses Summit, and other minor uses activities in this second newsletter. You can subscribe to the newsletter on our website www.minoruses.eu so that you will not miss one!

That is all for now. Enjoy your summer break!



Jeroen Meeussen, Coordinator of the MUCF

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March Expert meetings

From 28-30 March 2017, a series of meetings of the Minor Uses Expert Groups were organised in Brussels. The meetings were attended by more than 120 people from more than 20 Member States. Two plenary sessions were organised: *feedback questionnaire “overview Minor Uses work in MSs”* on how the minor uses work is organised in the different Member States and a plenary session on the Refit of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.



The MUCF team at Grand Place, Brussels

The Refit programme (Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme) is organized by the European Commission to see if existing legislation is (still) fit for purpose, and to improve existing EU legislation.

There was a very good response rate to the questionnaire: 75% of the EU Member States, and Switzerland and Norway responded. Some of the main conclusions of the questionnaire are:

- that there is a need for a harmonized EU definition for minor uses
- Member States should preferably use the risk envelope approach and lower fees for minor uses
- all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to apply for minor uses and support data sharing and access.

In the meeting, it was suggested to prepare a report on the outcome of this questionnaire to have a clear written document on the differences and similarities between Member States in the way they are dealing with the minor uses work. The MUCF will take this action forward.

The discussions on the Refit were continued in Breakout Groups to gather even more ideas. Some overall conclusions were:

- use the term speciality crops rather than minor crops
- remove national specific requirements (at least for minor uses)
- accept residue data from outside the EU with comparable GAP and GLP
- extrapolate MRL applications as far as possible
- it is essential that trust is established between Member States: in the way the other Member State is working; in the quality of the evaluation and assessment and in the decision(s) taken. Why redo work that is already done?

The results of these discussions will be captured in a report prepared by the MUCF.



The Chair Johan Roman facilitating the discussion in the Horizontal Expert Group



The MUCF is co-founded by the European Union

The new EUMUDA is almost ready

The new European Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA) is in the final stages of preparation before the launch, which is scheduled early summer.

Since March the MUCF has worked further to improve the database template thanks to additional comments received from experts during the trial phase of February-March and the last CEG meetings of March.



Two of the three main parts of EUMUDA have already been filled with data.

The table of minor uses needs has been populated with data mainly sourced from the C-IPM Eranet. Overall around 1300 needs i.e. combinations of crop, pest and requesting Member State, will be available online. This table will be updated thanks to the contribution of Member States, as part of the preparation of the 2nd Global Minor Uses Priorities Setting Workshop. For more information on Global activities, see section on GMUS, pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

The table of national acreages of crops contains the latest data available from Eurostat (2015).

On May 18, the MUCF has initiated the pre-launch of EUMUDA, asking CEG Chairs and project leaders to formally fill-in their work programmes.

The MUCF is working on rules for access rights and confidentiality, particularly for work programmes. This will be discussed during the CEG Chairs meeting in June.

Most information in EUMUDA (table of needs, table of crop acreages, list of working programmes) will be publicly available.

There will be a great number of crops and pests in EUMUDA. This illustrates the critical importance of speciality crops and minor uses for the European agriculture!

More to follow for the official launch of EUMUDA on the MUCF website.

Biologicals and minor uses

Biologicals are within the scope of the MUCF activities. What is the link between biologicals, speciality crops and minor uses?

To start with, biologicals are usually described as comprising four categories: micro-organisms, botanicals (plant extracts), semiochemicals and macro-organisms (invertebrates). Except for the latter, biologicals fall under the same legislation as chemical plant protection products, Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009. Biological plant protection products are also named as 'biopesticides' or 'biocontrol products'.



Pheromone (semio-chemical) trap

Until now minor uses work was mainly focusing on conventional products. Biologicals will play an increasing role in solving minor uses issues.

The use of biologicals is included in the mission of the MUCF which is 'to enable farmers in the EU to produce high quality crops by filling minor uses gaps through efficient collaboration to improve availability of chemical and non-chemical tools within an integrated pest management (IPM) framework'.

The link between biopesticides and minor uses will be fostered by multiple factors.

Biologicals and minor uses (continued)

The implementation of IPM through national action plans is mandatory since 2014 according to the Sustainable Use Directive. Furthermore, it is expected that a majority of biocontrol products will be of low-risk, for which Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 sets out specific provisions.

More specifically to minor uses, in general efficacy data as well as residue data are not required for (article 51) minor uses authorisations. Among biologicals some are highly specific and therefore have a full role to play for speciality crops and niche markets.

These positive factors are combined with factors that are even more severe for minor uses than for major uses: the decreased availability of products of synthetic chemical origin, due to non-renewals or withdrawals and the increase of pest resistance.

The close collaboration of the MUCF and other minor uses stakeholders with the biocontrol industry is key. The International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association (IBMA) representing this industry is already actively participating in minor uses meetings. The MUCF has also started to engage with individual companies and will support the CEGs to set up work with them.



Do you want to know more about biologicals? Go to the IBMA website: <http://www.ibma-global.org/>

Global minor uses - GMUS

The MUCF is a member of the organising committee of the Third Global Minor Uses Summit (GMUS-3). This global event will be held in Montreal, from 1 to 4 October 2017.



More details about the draft programme:

October 1 – Day 1

The GMUS-3 will start at lunchtime with words of welcome from governmental representatives. This will be followed by updates on activities since the 2012 GMUS-2. Changes to the regulatory landscape across global regions will also be discussed.

October 2 – Day 2

Two themes will be the focus of activities and discussion by participants.

The morning theme, Policies that Support Minor Uses, will look at topics such as, international Harmonization, one submission approach, the different use of data – crop groups, and extrapolation and field data exchangeability.

In the afternoon, the theme of Capacity Building will be discussed. This theme delves into the development of dedicated minor use programs and technical and cooperative areas.

October 3 – Day 3

Morning discussions will look at a third theme, Minor Use Challenges for Growers and Industry. Presentations will include perspectives from the point of view of growers, CropLife International, and the biocontrol industry.

Global minor uses - GMUS (continued)

Each session on a theme will include formal presentations followed by breakout session discussions.

The second half of the day will be comprised of presentations and refinement of breakout group recommendations, with the goal to identify key actions and develop a new Work Plan that will guide future cooperation and coordination of Minor Use activities following GMUS-3.

October 4 – Day 4

This day will start with a recap of Summit conclusions and recommendations, and a presentation and final agreement of the new Work Plan. The remainder of the day will be devoted to the Second Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop with the goal of discussing current priorities and establishing new Minor Use priorities for future work. In this framework the EU will submit a list of priorities.

This is the outline of the draft programme that can still be subject to changes. Find more information on the Global Minor Use portal: <http://www.gmup.org/>

The IPM challenge and the Western US minor uses- IR-4

The MUCF attended the ‘Biopesticides Workshop for the Western region of the IR-4 Program’ in Fort Collins, Colorado on 25-27 April 2017. The IR-4 Project (Interregional Research Project No.4) is the MUCF counterpart in the US and was established in 1963. The Western region of the IR-4 comprises 13 US Western States and the Pacific Island Territories.

The workshop was attended by 50 people from the Western Region and the biocontrol industry. The purpose of the workshop was to get a discussion going between different stakeholders (researchers, regulatory authorities, growers and industry) to discuss ways to better incorporate biopesticides into speciality crop IPM strategies. The present situation is that most IR-4 speciality crop researchers typically only work with

conventional pesticides.

The objectives of the workshop were similar to the discussions in Europe in the C-IPM Eranet. Also the mission of the Coordination Facility states that the MUCF should solve minor use gaps by finding chemical or non-chemical solutions within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework. This is in line with the conclusions of the final C-IPM meeting last December, which considered that post C-IPM activities on IPM research on minor uses in the future should be coordinated by the MUCF.

In the specific workshops (insects, nematodes, plant diseases, weeds) the following topics were covered, as appropriate: authorised products, major targeted pests and crops, mode-of-action, best use practices (how to maximize efficacy and what to avoid), integrated programmes versus stand-alone trials, resistance management, residue and labour management, effects on pollinators and other beneficial organisms, and determining efficacy.

An example discussed in the insect workshop was the Mountain Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*). This species is considered the most damaging insect pest to US forest. Attack starts when a pioneer female bores into the bark of a suitable tree to create a gallery in which to lay her eggs. Now trees are protected by use of pheromones.



*Mountain Pine Beetle Life Cycle – Fort Collins
Museum of Discovery*

The workshop was followed by a field trip, where there was a demonstration on organic weed control with acid compounds, along with heat and steam treatments.

EPPO Working Party on Plant Protection Products

The MUCF attended the EPPO Working Party on Plant Protection Products (JKI, Berlin, 10-12 May).



Participants of the EPPO Working Party on PPP, Berlin

This annual meeting gathers representatives of National Plant Protection Organisations (and observers), essentially for decision making on EPPO Standards arising from the work of Panels and the EPPO work programme for Plant Protection Products. The MUCF attends as an observer due to the link between minor uses and EPPO, and provides an update to the Working Party on minor uses activities.

The Standard on efficacy evaluation of low-risk plant protection products was discussed and approved by the Working Party. The next steps are the approval by the EPPO Council and the publication of the Standard, which is expected this autumn. The MUCF was part of the ad hoc Expert Working Group and actively involved in the preparation of the document. The 'low-risk' Standard is important for minor uses as low-risk plant protection products will play an increasing role in filling minor uses gaps, and for this they first need to be evaluated and authorised.

Another topic of interest for speciality crops and minor uses which was on the agenda are the EPPO non-taxonomic Codes.

But what are EPPO Codes? EPPO Codes are computer codes which are assigned to plants and pests which are important in agriculture.

EPPO Codes are constructed with combinations of five to six letters, and whenever possible, they are mnemonic abbreviations of the scientific names. For example, the code of apple *Malus domestica* is MABSD and of the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* is BEMITA.

A new set of non-taxonomic Codes is currently being developed to describe uses of plant protection products. New EPPO Codes are being created for crop groups which make sense from a plant protection (efficacy) point of view. For example, the non-taxonomic coding of crop non-taxonomic groups. The groups and codes for the fruits, vegetables (including mushrooms), arable crops (including hops, tobacco and rice), herbs, spices and medicinal crops are available on EPPO Global Database (<https://gd.eppo.int/>). New codes to describe crop destination e.g. 'grown for seed for propagation', have also been agreed. For ornamentals and forestry crops, the groups are not yet finalised and work is ongoing.

There is also a need to develop non-taxonomic Codes for pest groups. This has been noted by EPPO and the MUCF -together with EPPO- will follow-up on this.

EPPO extrapolation tables for minor uses were also discussed. Four new tables related to insecticide use in chenopodiaceous and legume vegetables, Heteroptera, and fungicide use on legume vegetables will soon be published on the EPPO website. The alignment between the non-taxonomic groups mentioned above and the groups used in the extrapolation tables was raised as topic of future discussion. The MUCF will be involved in the update or preparation of these EPPO extrapolation tables.

The close collaboration between EPPO and the MUCF will be of help to solve minor uses issues.

For more information on EPPO and minor uses: https://www.eppo.int/PPPRODUCTS/minor_uses/minor_uses.htm