



# EU MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

## Newsletter

No. 3, July-August-September 2017

### Minor uses, major issue!



When writing this editorial, it is early September. That reminds me it has been two years since I started work as coordinator for the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility. I ask myself the questions “What has happened so far?” and “am I satisfied with the progress made to date?”.

A lot has been achieved over the past two years. The EU has been put back on the map of the international minor uses framework. Staff have been hired to form a dedicated minor uses team. We have worked on many issues: communication with the launch of a minor uses website and a newsletter, a new EUMUDA that better serves its purpose, expert meetings that are well attended with good discussions, and internationally we have strengthened our relation with existing networks on Minor Uses.

I am pleased with the progress made to date. The new EUMUDA has officially been launched! We can reinforce the work on projects and find solutions for the most important minor uses needs.



At the end of June we had a meeting of the Minor Uses Steering Group. We had long and intensive discussions on issues like the sustainability of the Coordination Facility and the preparation of the Global Minor Use Summit.

Remarkably, there is one Commodity Expert Group which is already active at a global level. Find out which one in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoyed your summer and maybe you can even experience the Indian summer in Montreal if you are planning to attend the Global Minor Use Summit.

You can read more about the launch of the new EUMUDA, feedback from the Minor Uses Steering Group meeting, an OECD-seminar on niches uses of highly specific biocontrol products, and other minor uses activities in this third newsletter.

That is all for now and I hope to meet you this autumn!

Jeroen Meeussen, Coordinator of the MUCF

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## The new EUMUDA has been launched!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, over the past months the MUCF has been actively preparing a new European Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA).

The new EUMUDA is a central tool to solve minor uses issues in the EU. It supports the activities of the Commodity Expert Groups (CEG) and provides information on minor uses needs (crop/pest combinations), projects and crop acreages in the EU.

The MUCF is pleased to announce that the new EUMUDA has officially been launched! This event took place during the Minor Uses Steering Group meeting on 28 June 2017, at the EPPO headquarters in Paris.

You can access EUMUDA using this link: [www.eumuda.eu](http://www.eumuda.eu). This is the same website address as of the former EUMUDA.



EUMUDA

Most information in EUMUDA is publicly available: homepage, minor uses needs, list of projects and crop acreages.

The homepage displays a map of the EU where when clicking on a Member State you can access their reference list of what are considered “minor uses” (national lists of minor uses are requested under article 51 (8) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009) and other useful national minor uses information. The MUCF and Member States are in the process of populating the homepage.

The table of needs is filled mostly with data sourced from the C-IPM ERA-NET. Last May-June the MUCF organized a survey asking EU Member States, and Norway about their minor uses needs and priorities. This also in preparation of the Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop (see page 4). By the end of the year, the data received will be incorporated by the MUCF into the table of needs of EUMUDA.

Over the past couple of months more projects have been added by project leaders. Currently there are 25 projects dealt with by the CEGs on fruits and vegetables, hops, ornamentals and seeds.

The table of crop acreages mainly contains data from Eurostat. Member States will have the possibility to amend the data where needed.

Because some information contained in EUMUDA is considered confidential business information and because not all stakeholders can add and modify information, the MUCF has prepared rules on confidentiality and access rights. These rules were discussed with the (co-) Chairs of the CEGs in June and should be finalised and adopted by the end of this year.

How to use EUMUDA? A user’s guide is under preparation by the MUCF and will be published by the end of the year.

Any questions or comments? Do not hesitate to contact the MUCF at [contact@minoruses.eu](mailto:contact@minoruses.eu).

The MUCF would like to thank again Mario Wick for his efforts in constructing and building the first version of EUMUDA’ and for his support, to make EUMUDA an even more powerful tool in solving minor uses issues.

Please make sure you use the new EUMUDA as much as possible to solve minor uses issues and contribute to the sustainability of our agriculture!



Members of the Minor Uses Steering Group celebrating the launch of the new EUMUDA

## Feedback from the Minor Uses Steering Group meeting

The Minor Uses Steering Group met in the EPPO headquarters in Paris on 28 June 2017. The Steering Group (SG) is currently composed of representatives of the EU Commission, the three funding Member States: France, the Netherlands and Germany, as well as the Director-General of EPPO. During the meeting, extensive discussions took place on agenda points such as the financial transition and long-term funding of the MUCF, the launch of the new EUMUDA, and global minor uses meetings.

Currently the MUCF is jointly funded by the EU and the governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands. The funding of the MUCF is guaranteed for the first three years, from 15 April 2015. The funding rules will change from 15 April 2018 onwards as the funding from EU Commission will stop.

As for the 1<sup>st</sup> year (2015-2016) and 2<sup>nd</sup> year (2016-2017) not all the budget was spent, the SG agreed that left over money could be used for the financial bridging from 15 April 2018 to 31 December 2018.

For convenience, the financial year of the MUCF (currently from 15 April to 14 April) will be aligned with the calendar year, starting from 1 January 2019 onwards. Transitional arrangements will be further discussed during the next SG meeting.

The long-term funding model put forward is the voluntary assessed contribution of Member States, depending on their population size. The letter requesting the contribution of Member States was finalised in the meeting and sent to the EU Commission for signature and circulation to the permanent representatives of all Member States. It was also discussed if additional political steps should be taken. By the end of 2017, there will be a clearer picture on the future of the MUCF and of the coordination work already implemented.

The SG meeting was the perfect opportunity to officially launch the new EUMUDA. The MUCF performed an online demonstration of the main components of the new EUMUDA (table of needs, projects, and table of crop acreages). The MUCF described how a project under a CEG is organized and the procedure undertaken in EUMUDA to solve minor uses needs. It was highlighted that each CEG has to define a general action plan according to their minor uses needs. The MUCF will follow up on this. Overall the new database was welcomed by the SG members, and found to be well-designed.

For the Third Global Minor Use Summit and the Second Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop the MUCF should be in a position to bring back strong messages and arguments to the EU stakeholders for follow up discussions. Especially regards possible ways to solve minor uses problems more efficiently in the EU. More information on these global meetings is given on page 4.



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

As agreed by the SG, the MUCF will organize the Second Stakeholder Advisory Forum at the end of January/early February 2018 in Brussels. Please note this in your agenda.

The next meeting of the Minor Uses Steering Group is planned for late November 2017, in Brussels.

## **OECD- EGBP Seminar on niches uses**

On Monday 26 June 2017, the OECD- Expert Group on Biopesticides (EGBP) hosted a seminar on "Niche Uses of Highly Specific Biocontrol Products". The Seminar was held at the OECD-headquarters in Paris. Forty-one experts from OECD member countries, the European Commission, industry associations, and research institutes/universities participated in the Seminar.



The Seminar focused on the current predicament that the tools with arguably the safest risk profile for both human health and the environment may not be made available by the biocontrol industry because they are indeed too specific to justify the high costs related to their placing on the market. Examples of such tools can come from very different groups of biocontrol products, such as semiochemicals, baculoviruses, bacteriophages or invertebrate biocontrol agents. A means for permitting and facilitating these tools to become available must be found for the benefit of farmers and consumers alike.

The Seminar presented highly specific biological solutions and illustrated the hurdles and issues which must currently be faced. The seminar worked towards the delivery of workable solutions to bring these highly specific biological plant protection solutions to farmers. Recommendations were made to improve the registration of highly specific biocontrol products. Among these recommendations, we can cite:

- Lower registration fees, shorten time frames and prioritize applications for highly specific biocontrol products
- Apply reduced, more targeted data requirements for certain groups of biocontrol products, e.g. Straight Chain Lepidopteran Pheromones (SCLPs) and baculoviruses

- Consider a notification procedure for these specific groups instead of an approval process for every new SCLP, strain and/or isolate
- Micro-organisms are approved at strain level, however, accept read-across for data for closely related and similar strains
- Crop label extensions should be flexible and easier, to adjust to the rapid changes in pest presence
- Allow a minor use without requiring a major use to be already on the label
- Prepare overview documents for certain groups of biopesticides (e.g. baculoviruses, bacteriophages) that are known to have specific properties
- Accept, for some very specific biocontrol products, approval from the USA and Canada through mutual recognition (when the product has been authorized under similar agricultural, climatic and environmental conditions)
- Use the EPPO positive list 'List of biological control agents widely used in the EPPO region' as a positive list with safe IBCAs.

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

## Global minor uses needs and Member States priorities



The Third Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS), organised this time in Montreal, is approaching (1 to 4 October). The European region is getting ready for discussions at global level. The Summit will focus on three major themes:

- A Regional Look at the Regulatory Landscape: Enabling Current and Future Opportunities
- Plant Protection Industry Perspective: Successes, Challenges and Enabling Opportunities
- A Regional Look at Grower Challenges and Engagement: Enabling Current and Future Opportunities.

Another important item on the agenda is the Second Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop, that will take place on 4 October. The goal is to discuss current priorities and establish new Minor Uses priorities for future work. In preparation of this event, last May-June the MUCF organised a survey to EU Member States and Norway on their minor uses needs and 35 top priorities. Half of the 28 Member States responded to the survey, plus Norway. The MUCF compiled the data and sent it to the organizers. It already can be mentioned that many needs are shared by the Member States and a significant number of needs were included. The MUCF will further analyse the data to be well prepared for the global discussions.

The EU will be represented by the MUCF, and a number of Member States (such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Finland).

Copa-Cogeca, IBMA and ECPA will also participate.

The agenda of the Third GMUS can be found online on the Global Minor Use portal: <http://www.gmup.org/>

The MUCF will make sure to keep you informed on the outcome of the global discussions of Montreal!

## CEG- HEG 2017 autumn meetings

The next round of Expert Meetings is approaching. Unlike previous rounds of meetings this time not all meetings will be held back-to-back. As a result, the Commodity Expert Group on Hops organizes its meeting on 18-19 October 2017 in Obernai, France. This town is located in Alsace, close to Strasbourg. The meeting will be followed by a guided tour of the Lycée agricole in Obernai, which also comprises an organic hop farm of almost 20 hectares.



*A hop field*

Our Irish minor uses colleagues will host some Expert Group meetings in Dublin, Ireland. All meetings will be held at Dublin Castle, located in the historic heart of the city. From 1 to 3 of November, Dublin Castle will host the meetings of the Commodity Expert Groups on Fruits & Vegetables, Ornamentals, Seeds and Tobacco, as well as the Horizontal Expert Group.



*Dublin Castle*

This time no plenary sessions will be organised. However, in the different expert groups you will be updated by the MUCF on the following issues:

- Access rights and confidentiality in EUMUDA
- Project Plan for minor uses projects
- Rules for participation in expert group meetings
- Rules for the establishment of a new Commodity Expert Group.

### **CEG- HEG 2018 spring meetings**

In March 2018 the meetings of the Chairs of the CEGs, the individual CEGs and the HEG will again all be held back-to-back at Square Meeting Centre in Brussels. The meetings will be held from Tuesday 13 March until Thursday 15 March. Please mark your calendars!

### **International Hop Conference**

In early August the MUCF attended the International Conference on Plant Protection in Hop Growing in Yakima, WA, USA.

The conference was hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The US and Germany are the largest producers of hops. Together they account for around 70% of the world's total production.

There were talks from hop growers, hop merchants, brewer's associations and international organization such as FAO, OECD and the MUCF. This conference showed that the main producing countries are facing many similar problems. These issues relate to plant protection in hop

growing and to international trade in hops. Solutions are necessary at an international level.

The MUCF introduced the Coordination Facility and summarized the hop-entries in EUMUDA. Currently EUMUDA contains 54 needs covering 20 different pests and diseases. There are four hops projects ongoing: European hop flea beetle, Damson-hop aphid, annual meadow grass, and a project on defoliation.

Adapted crop protection practices and plant protection products with different modes of action are preconditions for successful Integrated Pest management in hop growing. In this respect, the third edition of the "Field Guide for Integrated Pest management in Hops" was presented. The field guide can be downloaded from: <https://www.usahops.org/resources/field-guide.html>



The take home message was that throughout the conference the importance of the EU Commodity Expert Group was stipulated, as the hop growers are already working together at global level in the CEG with participation from EU Member States and the US.