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**Minor use and specialty crops – Recent developments
within the EU-legislative framework on plant
protection products**

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Who are Copa and Cogeca?

**Copa – European farmers
Bringing together 60 EU farmers' organisations**

**Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives
Bringing together 35 EU agricultural cooperative organisations**

- **representing 11 million farmers and their families**
- **as well as around 38,000 cooperatives**
- **among the biggest and most active interest representations in Brussels**

Future challenges (I)

Food

Demand

Production
Under pressure

- Scarcity of natural resources
- Climate change
 - Development and further spread of new pests (e.g. Tuta absoluta)
 - Increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events
- Critical economic situation at farm level
- Free competition in the EU and in the global market
- New challenges from the EU policy framework



Future challenges in the area of Plant Protection Products (II)

The new Plant Health Law (2013)

New responsibilities for farmers on prevention, control and eradication of pests

The new proposal on seeds and propagating material (2013)

Regulation No 1107/2009 concerning the placing on the market of plant protection products:

1. New data requirements/tests for the authorisation of PPPs
 - Report to EP/Council on Minor Uses
 - Criteria on endocrine disruption
 - Emergency authorizations (Art. 53)
 - Basic substances
 -

Use of treated seeds (neonicotinoides)

Research and Innovation on plant (e.g. plant protection)

The new HORIZON 2020, the EU Innovation Partnership on Agriculture

Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products (Directive 128/2009)

Minor uses and Specialty crops in EU why so important?

1. Crops diversity/biodiversity is under threat in Europe
2. Economical impact is very high
 - Mostly vegetables, fruits, nurseries and flowers which account for a production value at EU level greater than €60 billion per year
 - More than 20% of EUs total agricultural production value
3. Consumers are looking for zero tolerance on the quality of products, even visual aspects
4. Consumers expect a wide range of products on the market

Minor uses and Specialty crops in EU why so important?

Growers' perspective

1. IPM principles implementation is under threat
2. Resistance management and limited availability of Plant Protection Products on the market
3. Crop rotation is becoming problematic;
4. Market access determined by MRL restrictions
5. Distortion of competition across EU Member States and with third countries



Minor uses and specialty crops within the Regulation 1107/2009

1. **Although several legal provisions in place:**

- Article 51 - extension of use -
- Extension of data protection of 3 months for any minor use application
- Article 40 - mutual recognition -

... there is still a lot of work to be done !

2. By 14 December 2011 COM shall present a report to the EP and the Council on the establishment of a European fund for minor uses, accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal (Art 51-9 reg. 1107/09)

Interpretation of minor uses and its application (1)

1. Reg. 1107/2009 - Art 3 (26) classification of a minor use:

“Minor use means use of a plant protection product in a particular Member State on plants or plant products which are:

- Not widely grown in that Member State; or
- Widely grown, to meet an exceptional plant protection need.”



Interpretation of minor uses and its application (2)

2. A major crop or a product in a zone of the EU is defined based on:

- Daily dietary intake contribution > 0.125 g/Kg bw/day (mean daily consumption over the population) in GEMS Food Cluster Diet applicable to the concerned zone and relevant cultivation area ($> 20\ 000$ ha) and/or production ($> 4\ 000\ 000$ tonnes per year) in the zone
- Or Cultivation area $> 20\ 000$ ha and production $> 400\ 000$ tonnes per year.

From the EU guidance document SANCO 7525/VI/9514



Interpretation of minor uses and its application (3)

3. A “very minor” crop/product in the EU is defined based on:

- Daily dietary intake contribution < 1.5 g (i.e. 1.5 g mean daily consumption over the population for a 60 kg person) and/or
- Cultivation area < 600 ha (less than 0.0035 % of the total cultivation area)

From the EU guidance document SANCO 7525/VI/9514



Interpretation of minor uses and its application

1. The agri-food chain representatives are proposing the following classifications:

- “All crops grown on less than 200 000 hectares (roughly equivalent to 0.2% of cropped area) should be considered as minor crops in the whole of the EU.

2. crops should also be classed as minor:

- per zone when they are grown on a small percentage of the zonal land area (i.e. 0.5% of cropped land in that zone),
- and per individual MS when they are grown on a small percentage of the national land (i.e. 1.0% of cropped land in that MS).”



Four options for minor uses and specialty crops discussed by the European Commission

- **Option 1** - Status quo_No EU financial support
- **Option 2** - Limited EU support_To facilitate meetings of the North and South WG (back to the 2001-2009 situation)
- **Option 3** - Moderate EU support_idem 2 but three zonal WG + EU support for the development and management of data sharing tools (e.g. centralized database) and the coordination of the actions at the level of the WGs + Steering Committee
- **Option 4** - Strong EU support_idem 3 + EU support for management of projects

Option preferred by Member States →

Option preferred by the Industry →

Minor uses and Specialty crops in EU progress is needed !!!

BRUSSELS DECLARATION – nov 2009

EU database on products and use authorisations in EU

Common approach to product authorisation extensions
for minor uses and specialty crops

Developing simplified minor use protocols at EU level

Facilitate mutual recognition



Minor uses and Specialty crops at EU working together with all EU agri-food chain partners

1. Two main conferences on specialty crops and minor uses in 2009 and 2011
2. Several joint letters sent to the relevant Institutions at EU and Member State level (e.g. minor uses definition, request of a ERA-NET Programme on minor uses, etc)
3. Joint Press releases (e.g. last one on 18th December 2012)
4. Joint position papers



A EU Programme on minor uses and specialty crops: what for ?

1. Coordinate approach/cooperation across ALL European Member States (30-60 M€ used in EU to find solutions)
2. All crops and minor uses on board
3. Sharing info (database with problems/solutions, statistics)
4. Support field trials
5. Find strategies where no PPP are available
6. Promote alternative solutions (e.g. Biological PPP)
7. Facilitate registration

Still a long way to go !

Commission's Report on minor uses and specialty crops to the European Parliament and Council

1. The delay of the Commission's report on minor uses and specialty crops is not encouraging for EU agriculture
2. Need for action also recognised by the EU Member States
3. Possibilities for data generation is still missing in the Commission's plan
4. Coordination of activities across EU Member States is not enough for many crops
5. Solutions not available before 2014 at the earliest !

Benefits from the Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009

14 June 2011 – entry into force of Reg. 1107/2009

1. **Effects on minor uses and specialty crops depend on:**
 - how the zonal system works in practice
 - how mutual recognition is applied
2. **Benefits still limited**
3. **National authorities may still require additional efficacy data on the registration system.**
4. **Acceptance of biological efficacy data from other countries is essential**

We need more trust and common understanding among EU Member States

What do we do in the mean time ?

1. Facilitate the setting up of EU expert working groups under the umbrella of the existing EU technical working groups on minor uses
 - **Fresh vegetables**
 - **Ornamentals**
 - **Hops**
 - **Frozen vegetables**
 - **Tobacco**
 - **Seeds ?**
2. Important to continue working together and do not loose trust among MS experts
3. Save time and money involved and optimise solutions

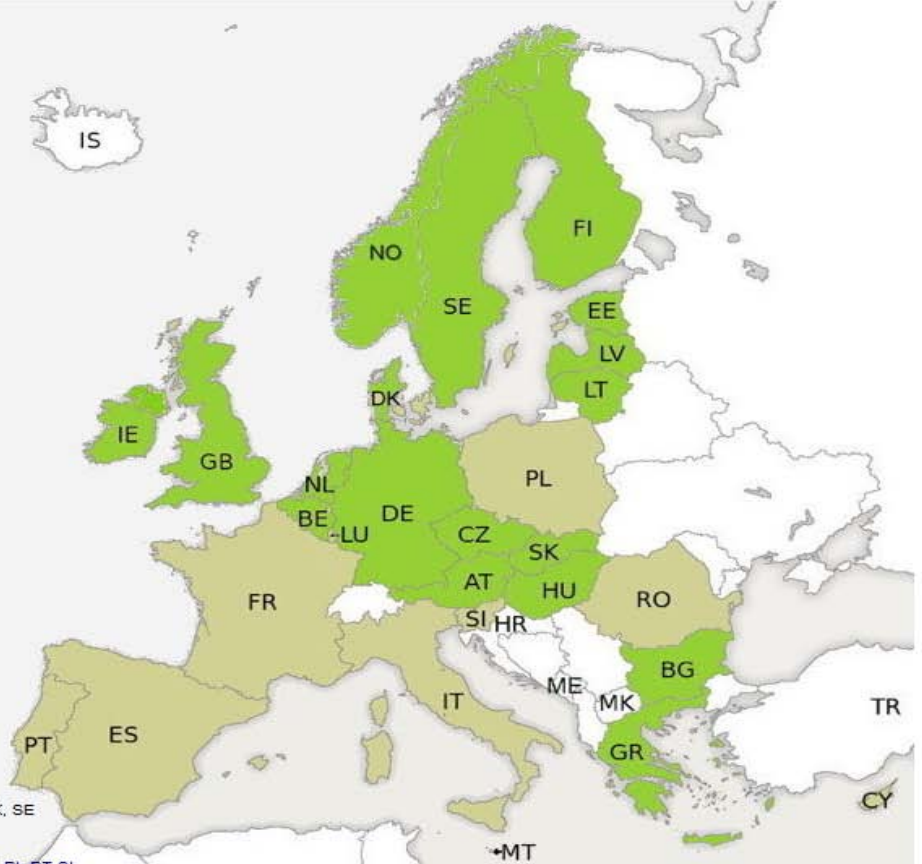
EUMUDA database in support of minor uses (I)

Plant Protection x
www.plant-protection.eu

Welcome to the EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA)

Minor Use Tools:

- [List of Minor Uses](#)
- [List of Acreages](#)
- [List of Expert Working Groups](#)
- [List of trials](#)



Data available from:
Authorisations: DE
List of Minor Uses: DE
List of acreages: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, FI, DE, GB, GR, HU, IE, LT, LV, NL, NO, SK, SE
List of trials: under construction
Lists of Expert Working Groups: Small and Stone Fruits, Fresh Vegetables
Authorisation Databases (int.): [AT](#) [BE](#) [CH](#) [DE](#) [DK](#) [EE](#) [ES](#) [FR](#) [GB](#) [GR](#) [HU](#) [IE](#) [IT](#) [LT](#) [LV](#) [NL](#) [PL](#) [PT](#) [SI](#)

EUMUDA database in support of minor uses (II)

1. **The EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA) is a positive tool of the ongoing activities**
2. **Developed by the Julius Kühn-Institute and the Dienstleistungszentrum Ländlicher Raum Rheinpfalz (Germany)**
3. **Improve the cooperation between the EU Member States in the field of Minor Uses**
4. **The user can query the following information:**
 - **Registrations of the member states**
 - **National lists of minor uses**
 - **National lists of crop acreages**
 - **Lists of available efficacy and residue trials**
 - **National projects for closing minor use gaps**

Second Global Minor Use Summit (FAO, 2012)



1. **Sponsored by: FAO, USDA-FAS, US-EPA, IR-4**
2. **230 delegates representing over 50 countries**
3. **Key themes and activities**
 - **Coordination & Collaboration (data sharing, data needs, databases)**
 - **Regulatory incentives and policy considerations to promote the registration of minor use registration**
 - **Capacity Development and data generation**
 - **Registration of Minor Uses and MRL setting**
 - **Communication**

Which role for Research and Innovation at EU level ?

1. More growers' driven research is needed
2. European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability can play a role
4. An operational group also on Plant Protection Products ?
5. Facilitate knowledge transfer from science to farming practice
6. Recent calls (FP7, 2013): IPM ERA-NET and Biological Control Agents
7. HORIZON 2020

Conclusions

1. Crops diversity is very much under threat in Europe
2. Important to continue working together to find solutions
3. Bring all kind of expertise together. Do not loose trust among MS experts
4. Working toward a full tool box at farmers' disposal available for all crops at all time to meet future challenges (e.g. IPM)

Towards a more sustainable and productive
European agriculture

Enjoy the benefits of EU agriculture

Thanks for your attention





Thank you!

www.copa-cogeca.eu