

Outcome of the OECD-EGBP seminar

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EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility

Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting

23-25 October 2017, Basel



Co-funded by the
European Union

My Background



- ▶ Until October 2010: Ctgb
- ▶ October 2010 - July 2015: DG Sante
- ▶ Since September 2015: EUMUCF
- ▶ Since 2005: Chair of the EGBP

ctgb



Coordination Facility - Mission

The mission of the Facility 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**'.



Definition of "non-chemical methods"

Sustainable Use Directive (2009/128/EC):

- ▶ ‘Non-chemical methods’ means alternative methods to chemical pesticides for plant protection and pest management, based on agronomic techniques, or physical, mechanical or **biological pest control methods.**



A few words about OECD



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



OECD's global reach

35 member countries - North America, *most* EU, JP, KR, AUS, NZ, Chile, Israel

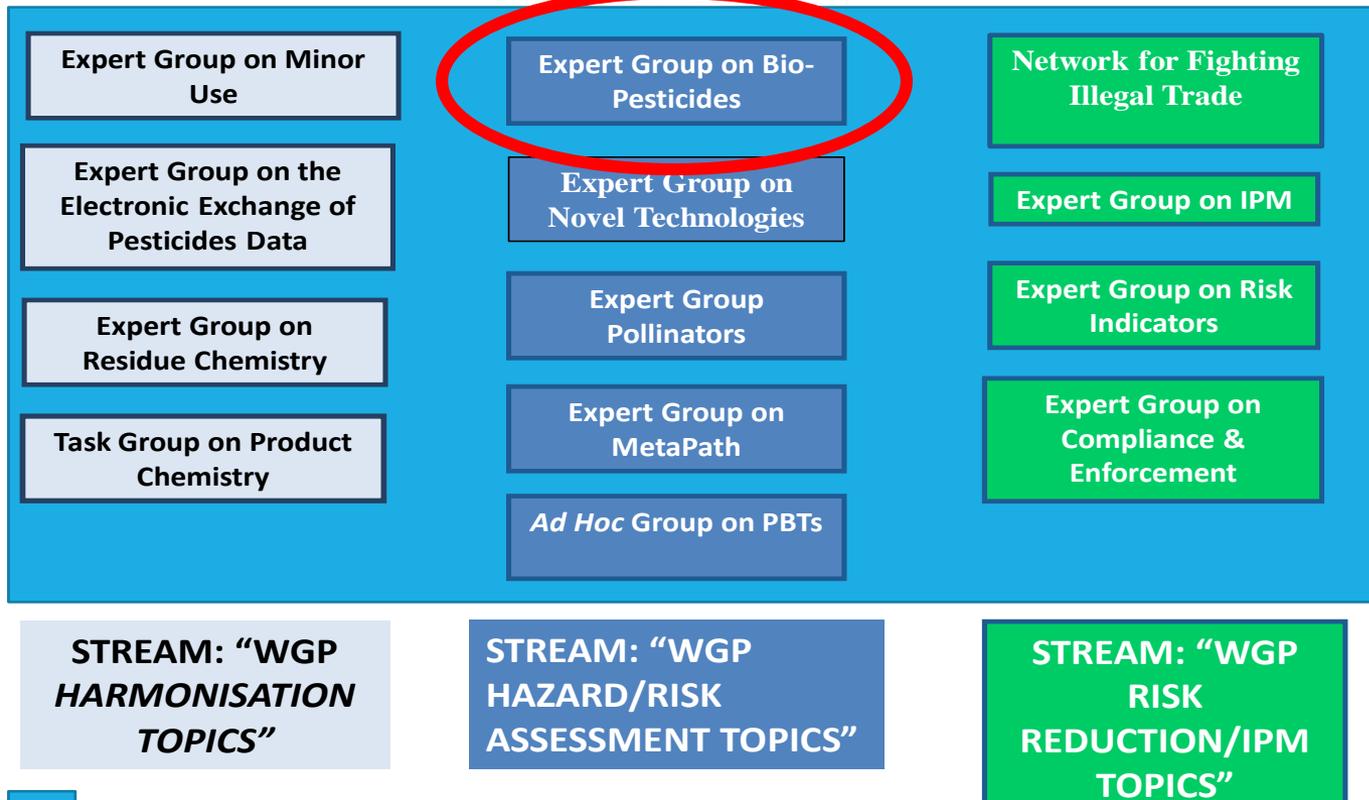
Ongoing membership talks with Colombia, Costa Rica and Lithuania

Newest member:
Latvia

Key Partners:
Brazil
China
India
Indonesia
Russia
South Africa

WGP: Current Structure

WORKING GROUP ON PESTICIDES



Communication activities (e.g., public websites, announcements, etc.)

Expert Group on Biopesticides

The **Expert Group on Biopesticides** (EGBP) was established by the Working Group on Pesticides in 1999 to help member countries to **harmonise** the methods and approaches used to **assess biological pesticides**.

Focus on the development of **harmonised guidance** for data submissions and reviews.

Promote **communication** and **exchange of information** by organising **seminars** and **workshops** on topics of common interest.



Seminar on "Niche Uses of Highly Specific Biocontrol Products"

The topic **"Niche Uses of Highly Specific Biocontrol Products"** was selected based on the discussions that the usage of some invertebrates and pheromones can be **highly specific** and that it should be clarified what the **requirements should be for their registration.**

(26 June 2017, OECD HQ, Paris)



Seminar on "Niche Uses of Highly Specific Biocontrol Products"

Focus of the seminar was to **present highly specific biological solutions** and to **illustrate the hurdles** and issues which must currently be faced, as well as to work towards the delivery of **workable solutions** to bring highly specific biological plant protection **solutions to farmers.**



Scope - Warning Bell

- ▶ The more specific a product is the less impact it has on the environment
- ▶ The more specific a product is the greater the expected efficacy on a target
- ▶ The more specific a product with complex modes of action, the less chance of resistance development
- ▶ The more specific a product is the smaller the size of the market
- ▶ The more specific a product is the higher the impact of regulatory costs



Type of Biocontrol Products

- ▶ **Semiochemicals:** Sex pheromones produced by insects are almost unique for each species.
- ▶ **Baculoviruses:** Highly specific to the insect orders Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera and Diptera; they infect the larval stages of their insect hosts. Most baculoviruses are highly selective for single or few, closely related insect species.
- ▶ **Bacteriophage:** A virus that infects and replicates within a bacterium. They are highly specific.
- ▶ **Fungal biopesticides:** Two examples of fungal biopesticides that disappeared from the EU market were presented.
 - a change in the taxonomy led to a different classification of the strains, and hence an additional regulatory burden
 - the market size was too small to apply for an approval.
- ▶ **Invertebrate BioControl Agents:** IBCAs are beneficial insects, predatory mites and entomopathogenic nematodes and have usually high host specificity

Seminar - Recommendations (1)

- ▶ **Lower** registration fees, **shorter** time frames and **prioritise** applications for highly specific biocontrol products.
- ▶ Organise a **pre-registration consultation** to get specific advice on data requirements.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Crop **label extensions should be flexible and easier**, to adjust to the fast changes of pest presence.

Seminar - Recommendations (2)

- ▶ Micro-organisms are approved at strain level, however, **accept read-across** for closely related and similar (entomopathogenic) strains.
- ▶ **Allow a minor use** without needing a major use already on the label.
- ▶ **Instructions** for use of these highly specific biocontrol products **can be very targeted and detailed** as most farmers nowadays can download these instructions on their smartphone.
- ▶ **Prepare overview documents for certain groups of biopesticides** (e.g., baculoviruses, bacteriophages) that are known to have specific properties.
 - **baculoviruses** are known to be not harmful for humans and due to their specificity have no impact on non-target organisms.
 - **bacteriophages** have characteristics quite different from other microorganism based products.

Seminar - Recommendations (3)

- ▶ Envisage **reduced requirements** for these highly specific biocontrol products for **renewal**. For example, is it considered useful to do a scientific peer-reviewed open literature on the active substance dealing with side-effects on health, the environment and non-target species for an already approved baculovirus?
- ▶ Accept for some very specific biocontrol products **approval from other countries outside the EU through mutual recognition** (when the product has been authorised under similar agricultural, climatic and environmental conditions).
- ▶ Use **EPPO list** as a positive list with **safe IBCAs**.





EUMUDA the European Minor Uses Database

What are minor uses in the EU?

Use of a plant protection product in a particular Member State on plants or plant products which are:

- (a) Not widely grown in that Member State, or
- (b) Widely grown to meet an exceptional plant protection need

Article 3 (2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009

Why are minor uses important?

Speciality crops include most vegetables, fruit, nursery crops, flowers, forest trees and some arable crops. It is estimated that overall in the EU, they represent more than 70 billion EUR per year, which equates to 23% of the total value of EU plant production. The production of speciality crops supports the biodiversity and diversity of food in the EU.

What are the issues with minor uses?

Lack of plant protection solutions available to farmers in the EU that limits the production of speciality crops. These crops are grown on relatively small acreages.

What is EUMUDA?

A key tool in finding chemical and non-chemical solutions to minor uses issues within an Integrated Pest Management framework.

EUMUDA allows the:

- Collection and follow-up on minor uses needs (crop x pest x country)
- Management of minor uses projects under Commodity Expert Groups (fruits & vegetables, ornamentals, hops, tobacco, mushrooms, seeds, rice)
- Collection of national crop acreages data

Crops and pests must be identified at species level with EPO Codes.

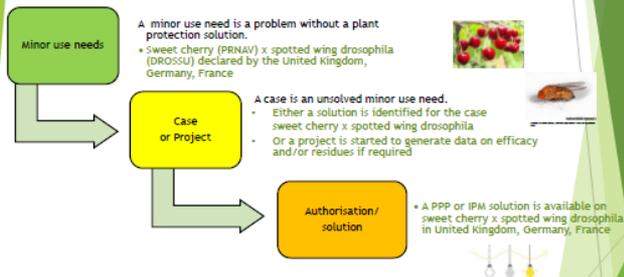
1 European entity • 1 unique EPO code

For example:

Sweet cherry= PRNAV
Spotted wing drosophila= DROSSU



Steps under EUMUDA



What are the benefits of EUMUDA to the biocontrol industry?

Expand the market of your biocontrol solutions!

- Identify the needs for which your product can provide a solution
- Obtain a wider range of crops on your labels
- Identify market opportunities through analysis of surfaces of cultivated crops

What can the biocontrol industry do for minor uses?

Bring your biocontrol solutions to the market to solve minor uses issues!

- Actively consult the table of minor uses needs
- Collaborate in projects under Commodity Expert Groups
- Include minor uses in your testing programmes and in your registration dossiers
- Support data sharing and access





THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

ANY QUESTIONS

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