



MUCF

WORK PROGRAMME 2021

Final (rev. 2)

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This 2021 Work Programme presents 6 focus Projects with their corresponding Objectives and Key Action Steps that the Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) intends to undertake in 2021 to meet the needs, recommendations, and requirements of our Member Countries (MCs). Part of the Key Action Steps is a continuation of Work Programmes that were initiated from 2015-2020. Objectives and Key Action Steps previously agreed in the Long-Term Work Strategy 2020-2025 are also included but are highlighted separately and identified as LTWS (Long-Term Work Strategy). The LTWS targets will be addressed in the future work of the MUCF. The key actions proposed for 2021 as well as the LTWS are subject to approval by the MUCF Steering Group Committee.

The MUCF works in cooperation with and for the MCs and stakeholders (producer organizations, industry associations, research institutes, regulators, government experts). The priorities identified in this Work Programme will continue to contribute to a sustainable European agriculture. In 2021, the MUCF will primarily focus on finalising the Guidance Document on Minor Uses (objective: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT), on serving as an exchange platform to identify solutions to plant protection issues for speciality crops under the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework (project: EUMUDA), and to coordinate, communicate and facilitate the work on minor uses between MCs (project: MEETINGS). The objectives are ranked according to priority in the individual projects.

Abbreviations:

EUMUDA	The European Union Minor Uses Database is an important tool to collect the minor use needs from Member Countries, to follow-up on these needs and to manage all projects.
EWG	Expert Working Group
LTWS	Long-term work strategy
MC	European Member States plus the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Norway.
MU	A <u>Minor use</u> means use of a plant protection product in a 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. (<i>according to Article 3(26) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009</i>)
MU needs	A <u>minor use need</u> is an identified plant protection problem on speciality crops (niche crops) or against plant protection problems which are not routinely encountered. These needs are compiled in a ‘minor use needs table’ in EUMUDA.
MUCF	The European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility. 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’.
PPPAMS	Plant Protection Products Application Management System developed by the European Commission to enable industry users to create applications for plant protection products and submit these to EU countries for evaluation.
SCoPAFF	The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. It plays a key role in ensuring that Union measures on food and feed safety, animal health & welfare as well as plant health are practical and effective. It delivers opinions on draft measures that the Commission intends to adopt.

PROJECT 1: MEETINGS 2021

<p>Objective: Annual General Meeting The ‘Annual General Meeting’ (AGM), involving all funding Member Countries, will meet at the end of March 2021. The AGM 2021 is planned as a virtual online meeting for the 23rd of March.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>AGM 2021-03-23 (planned as a virtual online meeting)</i></p>	<p><i>Approved annual and financial report for 2020 as well as the workplan and budget for 2021.</i></p>	<p><i>Reports and plans are accessible on the Extranet.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Spring Commodity Expert Group meetings and Horizontal Expert Group meeting The CEGs and HEG will meet between the 15th and 30th of April to discuss ongoing projects. The timing of the autumn CEGs and HEG 2021 will be discussed during the individual meetings. CEGs work to close MUs gaps by finding chemical or non-chemical solutions within an IPM framework. The CEGs consists of national minor uses experts and representatives of the respective growers’ associations or grower groups. The HEG discusses general issues related to MUs, as identified by the CEGs, the Steering Group or its members, aiming for harmonized procedures and at creating a level playing field among MCs.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Proposed dates for CEGs and HEG: (planned as a virtual online meeting) CEG Rice 2021-04-19 (half a day) CEG Tobacco 2021-04-19 (half a day) CEG Hops 2021-04-19 CEG Seeds 2021-04-22 (half a day) CEG Ornamentals 2021-04-22 (half a day) CEG Herbs & Spices 2021-04-23 CEG Fruits &Vegetables 2021-04-26/27 or 29/30 HEG 2021-04-28 (half a day) CEG Mushrooms 2021-04-28 (half a day)</i></p>	<p><i>Updates on the ongoing projects and new MU projects are reported in EUMUDA. Minutes and presentations are accessible in the Extranet. New Chairs of CEG Herbs & Spices and Tobacco, new co-Chair of CEG Fruits & Vegetables, as well as a new Chair of the HEG are announced.</i></p>	<p><i>MUCF will assist the Chairs and co-Chairs of each individual CEG in establishing a draft agenda. Presentations of the CEGs will be published on the MUCF website to highlight the work of the CEGs and raise interest in participating in the CEGs.</i></p>

<p>Objective: Spring Steering Group meeting</p> <p>The Minor Uses Steering Group comprises representatives from Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland and will supervise and support the work of the MUCF. The European Commission attends the meetings as a permanent observer, as well as the Director-General of EPPO.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Proposed Spring Steering Group meeting in the week 2021-05-08/12</i></p> <p><i>(planned as a virtual online meeting)</i></p>	<p><i>Update on work progress by the MUCF.</i></p> <p><i>Decision taken, when to call the vacant position for the new Technical Expert.</i></p>	<p><i>Work programme 2021 status update (accessible in Extranet).</i></p> <p><i>Dates to be confirmed by the Steering Group.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Autumn Commodity Expert Group meetings and Horizontal Expert Group meeting</p> <p>Planned as face-to-face meeting in Brussels, or as a hybrid meeting, meaning that if experts cannot participate physically, they get the possibility to join virtually. The CEG meetings are planned for 2 days (including plenary industry sessions) and HEG for 1 day on the proposed dates 2021-10-20/22. Participants will meet to discuss the progress of minor uses projects and issues.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Proposed dates for CEGs and HEG</i></p> <p><i>CEGs meetings 2021-10-20/21</i></p> <p><i>HEG meeting 2021-10-22</i></p>	<p><i>Updates on ongoing/new projects are reported in EUMUDA.</i></p> <p><i>Minutes and presentations are available in the Extranet.</i></p>	<p><i>MUCF will assist expert groups in preparing their work plans.</i></p> <p><i>Key presentations will be published on the MUCF website.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Autumn steering group meeting</p> <p>Meeting is planned as a face-to-face meeting, or if necessary, as a hybrid meeting. Proposed dates are 2021-11-22/26.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Proposed dates for the Autumn Steering Group meeting 2021-11-22/26</i></p>	<p><i>Draft Annual Report 2021</i></p> <p><i>Draft Financial Report 2021</i></p> <p><i>Draft Work programme 2022</i></p> <p><i>Draft Budget Plan 2022</i></p>	<p><i>Dates to be confirmed by the Steering Group.</i></p>

PROJECT 2: EUMUDA-further development, updates, and maintenance

<p>Objective: Survey on minor use needs, priorities, and solutions. The MUCF updated the table of minor uses needs in EUMUDA in 2018 and in 2019. In total, MU needs, priorities, and solutions from 31 MCs, are currently available. This survey will be repeated, and the table updated in 2021. The main goal is to keep EUMUDA dynamic, up to date and informative.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Individual Excel files with existing needs in EUMUDA per MC to be uploaded in the Extranet and updated by our national contact points.</i></p>	<p><i>The table of minor uses needs of EUMUDA is maintained.</i></p> <p><i>New priorities are set according to the MC responses.</i></p> <p><i>Solutions are reported & communicated to MCs via emails or newsletters.</i></p>	
<p>Objective: Comparison survey on emergency use authorisations (article 53). List of emergency use authorisations (granted 2017-2019) extracted from PPPAMS and compared to the table of MU needs and priorities in EUMUDA. Results of the comparison survey are publicly accessible in a new web page in EUMUDA (since 2020-12). This survey will be repeated in 2021 and results updated accordingly. Solving MU needs may lead to a decrease of emergency authorisations granted.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>New web page created in EUMUDA containing the minor uses table of needs + the corresponding information about emergency authorisation uses.</i></p> <p><i>Survey to be updated with emergency authorisations granted in 2020.</i></p>	<p><i>New web page in EUMUDA, displaying Nr. of emergency uses, countries and active substance information.</i></p> <p><i>Results are compared with the updated table of MU needs.</i></p>	<p><i>CEG experts analyse the survey results. Statistical analyses and conclusions will be displayed on the MUCF website.</i></p>

Objective: Survey on minor / major crops with acreages, list of minor uses, national minor crop definition, national crop grouping and national crop protection database.		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Surveys to be prepared on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Minor crop/use definition</i> • <i>List of minor / major crops + acreages,</i> • <i>National crop grouping definition and list</i> • <i>List of minor uses</i> • <i>National plant protection database</i> 	<p><i>Surveys on the main topics are prepared and communicated with experts.</i></p>	<p><i>Surveys will be conducted and send to the 31 MCs to collect and comprise available MU information. Experts shall provide crop and pest information, with EPPO codes.</i></p>
<p><i>Received data to be cleaned, terminology harmonized, & national tables merged in a database.</i></p>	<p><i>Results displayed in EUMUDA Progress is published on the MUCF website.</i></p>	<p><i>Started in 2021-LTWS</i></p>
Objective: Follow up of projects in EUMUDA		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Provide regular follow up on projects & communicate project updates (e.g., project completed, or PPP granted):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With the project leaders</i> • <i>With the Chairs and co-Chairs</i> 	<p><i>Stimulate MCs to participate in joint projects on common MU needs, & share efficacy and residue data. Improve communication about solutions within the CEG groups.</i></p>	<p><i>Communication of project updates will be facilitated through monthly mailing lists to the MUCF experts.</i></p>
Objective: Simplification of project pages in EUMUDA. The main goal is to ease the work for project leaders when entering new projects in EUMUDA and to provide more information in the overview of each individual project page.		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Workshop meeting with project leaders either via teleconference or face-to-face to be organized during first half of 2021.</i></p>	<p><i>Excel template to export projects in EUMUDA – and mandatory field which display the project summary page with the possibility to open links to further information, is defined.</i></p>	<p><i>Information such as entering all PPPAMS fields may not be necessary for the objectives of reporting projects in EUMUDA.</i></p>
<p><i>The outcome of the workshop to be implemented.</i></p>	<p><i>Simplified EUMUDA. One summary page for each project.</i></p>	<p><i>Started in 2021-LTWS</i></p>

Objective: Crop extrapolation database on efficacy and residues. MUCF work with EPPO staff and experts to develop and implement database on efficacy extrapolation as well as residue extrapolation (according to SANCO tables of extrapolation).

Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>EWG in cooperation with EPPO experts will work on developing and implementing a database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities from the EPPO tables of efficacy extrapolation.</i>	<i>Defined fields and structure of the database.</i>	<i>Database on crop efficacy extrapolation will be hosted by EPPO.</i>
<i>EWG on residue extrapolation to be established. The MUCF will work on developing and implementing a database to retrieve the extrapolation possibilities from the SANCO residue extrapolation tables.</i>	<i>Defined fields and the structure of the database.</i>	<i>Database on crop residue extrapolation will be hosted by MUCF.</i>
<i>Extrapolation databases are made publicly available.</i>	<i>Searchable databases to retrieve extrapolation possibilities.</i>	<i>Started in 2021-LTWS</i>

PROJECT 3: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT and DISCUSSION PAPERS

Objective: Guidance Document on Minor Uses. To enhance harmonized communication on minor use work between the MCs.

Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>The status of the guidance document is evaluated by the chair of the HEG.</i>	<i>Decision is made on how to proceed with the Guidance Document on MU.</i>	<i>2 possible options on how to proceed: 1. The GD is kept as it is and published on the MUCF website and crosslinked to the European Commission website. 2. Amendments are needed to ensure this document gets an approved legal status.</i>
<i>Guidance Document to be finalized.</i>	<i>Published Guidance Document.</i>	

Objective: Discussion papers. The ideas of five discussion papers were developed during the workshop ‘Minor Uses and Specialty Crops: The way forward in Europe’ held in Paris in 2020 and are summarized in the MUCF roadmap for the future. They address, among other things, hurdles in minor uses work and aim to improve regulatory harmonisation.

Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<p><i>Ideas for discussion papers are prioritised.</i></p> <p><i>A schedule of which discussion paper to start with to be drawn up.</i></p> <p><i>Expert working groups dealing with the topic of the discussion paper to be established.</i></p> <p><i>Possible topics for draft discussion papers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>strategic issues to strengthen coordination on minor uses.</i> • <i>setting a harmonised status of a crop and the creation of a single EU or zonal list of major crops.</i> • <i>a ‘PAN-European authorisation’ for products based on a ‘one-zone concept’ for minor uses.</i> • <i>the possibility that MUCF act as an entity that can submit applications for extensions of authorisations for minor uses and/or can assist in the preparation of draft Registration Reports.</i> • <i>organising priority setting meetings (like IR4 in the USA and PMC in Canada).</i> 	<p><i>The possibility of drafting the discussion papers will be explored.</i></p> <p><i>A prioritisation list that ranks the discussion papers and indicates which discussion paper to start with.</i></p> <p><i>Timetable for the preparation of the discussion papers.</i></p>	<p><i>LTWS</i></p>

PROJECT 4: WEBSITE & COMMUNICATION

<p>Objective: Dynamic and content rich website. The MUCF website (which serves as both a communication and marketing tool) is updated with news, survey results, a calendar of events, etc.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>The menu and the website to be restructured.</i>	<i>To provide better overview. Simplified more user-friendly website.</i>	
<i>Survey of emergency registration comparison to be communicated on the website.</i>	<i>One publication about the MUCF work in the news section.</i>	
<i>Links to relevant partners provided.</i>	<i>Links are up-to-date and displayed on the website.</i>	
<i>CEG Chairs and HEG Chair may provide a short expertise profile.</i>	<i>Profile displayed on the website.</i>	
<i>Meeting schedule to be displayed on the website.</i>	<i>Updated website</i>	
<p>Objective: Communication Work is underway to improve communication with MUCF members.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>Survey on background information of experts and stakeholders to be conducted.</i>	<i>Extranet and SMS mailing list is updated and subdivided per category. Background information provided in the Extranet expert section.</i>	
<i>A leaflet introducing the MUCF and the benefits for stakeholders to be produced and disseminated.</i>	<i>Leaflet with MUCF key messages and information.</i>	<i>The leaflet should be finalised and printed before some national contact points are visited individually.</i>

PROJECT 5: FINANCE

<p>Objective: MUCF Budget 2021</p> <p>Details of the estimated budget that the MUCF intends to spend for 2021 can be found in the Annex to this document. The financial budget for 2021 is prepared under the assumption that all MCs have paid their contributions by the end of 2020, or at the beginning of 2021.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>Contributions which will be received early in year 2021 for the contribution to 2020 to be accounted for in the 'reserve fund'.</i>	<i>A 'reserve fund' from the carry-over of 2020 to 2021 is established.</i>	
<p>Objective: MUCF Funding for 2022</p> <p>The MUCF will continue to depend on annual contributions from Member governments for its funding. The sustainability of this approach will depend on the continued timely payment of contributions. This will also require a more detailed and targeted budgeting for the coming year.</p>		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>Letter for contribution to the MUCF funding to be updated and personalised.</i>	<i>Yearly adjusted funding letter.</i>	<p><i>Work highlights to be included, e.g.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ongoing/completed EUMUDA projects</i> • <i>Minor use needs solved</i> • <i>Countries involved</i> • <i>Number of experts who participated in meetings</i>
<i>National contact points to be visited, to highlight the work of the MUCF and to facilitate a possible contribution to the fund (e.g. Spain, Italy, Poland).</i>	<i>The importance of MUCF is emphasised, and financial support is granted.</i>	<i>Leaflet showcasing the benefits of the MUCF may be used as material for these visits.</i>

PROJECT 6: MISCELLANEOUS

Objective: Ideas for the Long-Term Work Strategy (LTWS)		
Recommendations and ideas developed during the MU workshop in 2020, which are further worked on in 2021.		
Key Action Steps	Expected Outcome and success measure	Comments
<i>The MUCF participates in (international) events to provide updates on the work and activities of the facility.</i>	<p><i>To improve the visibility of the MUCF.</i></p> <p><i>To highlight the European work on minor uses internationally.</i></p> <p><i>To reinforce the network and identify opportunities for collaboration.</i></p>	Networking
<i>The facility continues to cooperate internationally with existing networks on MUs and will play an active role in the OECD-EGMU as far it has a direct relation and benefits to the work of the HEG and CEGs.</i>	<i>To represent the MUCF internationally.</i>	Networking
<i>The facility participates in the follow-up of the actions and priority projects resulting from the Global Minor Use Summit and Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshops.</i>		Networking
<i>EUMUDA may host the Global Minor Uses Database.</i>	<i>Possibilities of hosting the DB is explored.</i>	<p><i>This work cannot be done with only 1 IT-Officer employed for 50%.</i></p> <p>Database</p>

<p><i>MUCF may create a research platform on IPM research programmes, to improve the communication between growers, advisors, and research.</i></p>	<p><i>Possibilities of creating a research platform is explored.</i></p>	<p><i>Larger MUCF team required, e.g. Research Officer.</i></p> <p>Research</p>
<p><i>MUCF may prepare 'EU-crop profiles. These are documents that provide baseline information per MC or zone on crop production and IPM practices and record the pest management needs and issues faced by growers.</i></p>	<p><i>Possibilities of preparing IPM profiles are explored.</i></p>	<p><i>Who is the target audience for baseline information?</i></p> <p><i>Example: https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/botrytis-cinerea-botrytis-fruit-rot-and-blight-on-strawberry</i></p> <p><i>Cooperation with Experts from EU Universities needed. Currently, 500 high-priority needs are displayed in Table of Needs in EUMUDA, which would lead to 500 crop profiles at the beginning.'</i></p> <p>Research</p>
<p><i>The MUCF together with Copa*Cogeca, may organise workshops with several research networks to increase the value of MU research programmes.</i></p>	<p><i>Feasibility of workshops to increase research value in Minor Uses is explored.</i></p> <p><i>To improve the visibility of the MUCF.</i></p>	<p>Workshop</p>
<p><i>MUCF may explore the organization of 'priority setting' meetings on an annual basis. These would be based on the priority list of minor use needs, and the feedback from industry on possible IPM-solutions.</i></p>	<p><i>Feasibility of priority setting meetings is explored.</i></p>	<p><i>The priorities are set for minor uses needs together with all relevant stakeholders.</i></p> <p>Workshop</p>

Annex: Financial Budget Estimation for 2021

Expenditure		k EUR	Remarks
1	Salaries and Staff Expenses	238	
2	Administrative meetings and Governance	23.5	
2.01	Steering Group	1	One physical and one virtual meeting (Room rental).
2.02	Annual General Meeting	0	The AGM will be held as virtual meeting in 2021.
2.03	Staff travel and subsistence	22.5	2x SCoPAFF meetings per year (2d). 1 Conference (4d). 10 meetings with industry (5x chemical, 5x biopesticide for 1d) to discuss possible solutions. Visits to national contact points to facilitate financial contribution (5x for 1d). Autumn participation of CEGs and HEG (4d) for 2 persons in Brussels. Travel costs at assumed average of 300 EUR, train as preferred means of transport, to reduce emission footprint; accommodation costs at assumed average of 100 EUR; daily allowance at assumed average of 300 EUR.
3	IT and Communication	22	
3.01	Infrastructure	12	
3.02	Software and services	2	SurveyMonkey, DeepL subscription fees etc.
3.03	Communication	1	Marketing costs. Printing of the MUCF leaflet.
3.04	Miscellaneous	7	
4	Technical Meetings	19	
4.01	Spring Meeting CEG & HEG	0	Spring meetings will be held virtually.
4.02	Autumn Meeting CEG & HEG	13	2-days CEG meetings with industry plenary session, 1-day HEG.
04.02.1	Room rental and lunch	10	<i>In addition to a voucher for 2-days from 2020.</i>
04.02.2	Invited guest experts travel grant	3	<i>No reimbursement for experts. Guest experts invited on request might receive a travel allowance. To be considered on a case-by-case basis.</i>
4.03	Other meetings	6	Chairs, Guidance Document, Discussion papers
4.03.1	Room rental and lunch	6	4 x per year.
Overhead (7%)		22	
Subtotal expected Expenditure		324.5	