



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **Introduction and Summary 2020**

Crops are never ‘minor’ to those who produce them and are often far from minor economically to a particular region or country. The Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) continued their mission in 2020 to enable farmers in Europe to produce high quality crops by filling minor uses gaps through efficient collaboration and communication to improve availability of chemical and non-chemical tools within an integrated pest management (IPM) framework.

2020 began with a workshop on minor uses, held in Paris from the 18-20<sup>th</sup> of February. This workshop brought together key European stakeholders, minor uses specialists from the Member Countries and policy makers on minor uses and speciality crops. Experiences and expectations concerning the minor uses work and on the work of the facility were exchanged. A roadmap for the future of the minor uses work was established and published in the meeting page of the MUCF website, regarding the future organisation for minor uses work, and the role therein of the MUCF, the European Commission, the Member Countries and other stakeholders.

The Annual General Meeting for all Member Countries, the members of the Minor Uses Steering Group, the EU Commission, as well as the Director-General of EPPO was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The annual report and financial report of 2019 were approved and the work programme and budget for 2020 were not approved but were revised after the meeting.

The staffing conditions of the MUCF changed in the first quarter of 2020. The Technical Expert left the facility in February and the Coordinator at the end of March. Despite the difficulties with the COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment procedures and interviews were carried out, and at the beginning of October, Ms Barbara Edler was appointed as the new Coordinator.

I would therefore like to thank all those involved in the good work done in establishing the Coordination Facility, the MUCF team for keeping the work going during the transitioning period, as well as all Minor Uses Experts for their trust in the Coordination Facility and their committed hard work in solving minor use problems. Together we are able to solve Minor Uses issues.

Barbara Edler  
Coordinator of the MUCF  
February 2021

## **Achievements 2020**

### **Governance and funding of the Coordination Facility**

The MUCF relies on voluntary assessed contributions from Member Countries. All Member Countries were approached with a request for funding. The MUCF has contacted some Member Countries to follow-up on their contribution.

Output: The MUCF has received contributions/commitments from 17 Member Countries. Based on the responses received, a workplan and budget for 2020 was prepared and revised after the Annual General Meeting.

The following Member Countries contributed for 2020: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland (340 000 EUR in total). The Netherlands committed for 2020 but have not yet made the payment (25 000 EUR).

With the contributions as described above and the workshop registration fees of 7 779 EUR, the MUCF generated a total income of 347 779 EUR in 2020. As the total expenditures of the Facility amounted to 230 835 EUR in 2020, this resulted in a positive balance of 116 944 EUR.

With a positive carry over from 2019 of 92 005 EUR, the new carry over from 2020 to 2021 amounts to 208 950 EUR. The carry over from 2020 to 2021 will be split to build a reserve of 100 000 EUR and therewith resulting in a new carry over of 108 950 EUR.

Details are provided in the statement of revenues and expenditures in the Annex for a detailed overview.

### **Improving the EU Minor Uses Database - EUMUDA**

The European Minor Use Database (EUMUDA) is an important tool to store minor uses needs data from Member Countries, and to support the activities of the Commodity Expert Groups (CEG) in managing all work projects. The database lists 108 work projects in 2020. For 48 of these, the work progress status has been set to 'data is complete'; 46 projects are still in the process of completion. 2 projects were not supported to proceed by the active substance registration holder. 12 projects do not yet have a progress status. The MUCF will keep on collecting and updating minor uses needs data from all Member Countries and will work more closely with the project leaders on completing work projects.

Output: The MUCF has extracted an overview on emergency authorisations granted between 2017-2019 from PPPAMS and compared it with the list of minor uses needs and priorities in EUMUDA. One conclusion of this survey showed that 70 % of the 100 first priorities presented in EUMUDA were covered with emergency authorisations under Art. 53 of the Regulation 1107/2009. This survey showcased that emergency authorisations are steadily increasing to fill solution gaps for minor uses. Solving minor uses needs may lead to a decrease in emergency use authorisations.

The emergency authorisation survey is available and published in EUMUDA.

French experts analysed the emergency authorisation survey data in detail and concluded, among other things, that a total of 311 substances were covered by 1753 emergency authorisations granted between 2017-2019. Insecticides were authorized most frequently (906 times), followed by fungicides (442 times), herbicides (264 times) and others (141 times). Most emergency authorisations were granted for the active substance cyantraniliprole (5%), and for the pest *Drosophila suzukii* (6%).

## Co-ordinating expert groups

Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs) work to close minor uses gaps at European level by finding chemical or non-chemical solutions within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework. The Commodity Expert Group consists of national minor use experts and representatives of the respective growers' associations or grower groups. Currently there are eight CEGs covering the following commodities: Fruit and Vegetables, Hops, Mushrooms, Ornamentals, Rice, Seeds, Tobacco and Herbs.

CEG spring meetings: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restriction, most of the CEG meetings were postponed to the autumn. However, the CEG Fruits and Vegetables and CEG Seeds meetings were maintained and held in March via videoconference.

CEG autumn meetings: Meetings of the CEGs were held as virtual videoconferences on several days in November, this allowed cross participation of experts in different working groups. The highest attendance rate was at the CEG Fruits and Vegetables, where 40 participants shared and exchanged their expertise on minor uses for two days.

All CEG meetings focused on sharing and exchanging information on the availability of active substances in a crop/pest combination per member country. A status update on active substances that are (1) in the renewal of approval process, (2) have been renewed, (3) are approved, or (4) have been withdrawn was shared within each group. The experts noted that several active substances were withdrawn during the renewal of approval process, making adequate and appropriate crop production difficult due to the lack of available solutions. An analysis carried out by French experts and presented at the CEG Fruits and Vegetables showed that in 2020, a total of 475 active substances were approved in the EU under regulation 1107/2009. 66 renewed substances belonged to the group of candidates for substitution. Many active substances, 902 to be precise, were not approved.

In addition, the different regulatory authorization approaches in each individual member country were found to hamper the process of product availability and a harmonised approach between them should be sought.

In many expert discussions, the maximum residue levels (MRLs) were addressed and viewed with great concern. MRLs for pesticides on food and feed of plant and animal origin are established to guarantee consumer safety and to regulate international trade. In the European Union, Commission Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 was adopted to harmonise the European legislation, to ensure the safe consumption of food and to avoid differences in MRLs for pesticides between Member States that could lead to trade barriers. The availability of plant protection products for use on minor crops, or against seldom occurring pests in major crops are generally limited. The problem is a complex one, driven by several factors. One factor is the high cost of data generation (inter alia for setting MRLs), but sufficient MRL trial data is an essential requirement under Regulation (EC) 1107. According to the EU Guidance SANTE/2019/12752 this situation should be mitigated by adopting extrapolation possibilities of residue trial data results from one or several representative crop commodities extended to related commodities in the same commodity group or subgroup for which trials have not been conducted. However, it was explained by a CEG expert that MRLs are a serious problem in e.g. herb production, because they are mainly derived from extrapolation from other crops. For that reason, fewer or lower set MRLs are existing for herbs and spices, which makes it challenging to produce them. It was further noted that raising MRLs would be for the commodity herb more producer friendly. This statement reflects the opinion of the herb cultivation expert.

Each CEG provided an update and overview about the status progress of the established projects in EUMUDA. In 2020, 1 work project was completed. For this crop/pest combination need, an authorisation was granted in two Member Countries of the central zone. 4 new work projects, concerning needs in ornamentals, have been created.

Several CEGs have started to prepare a template for an annual and a long-term work plan. The project work plan will be implemented for the first time in 2021.

One of the positive outcomes, among all the others, of the virtual held meetings of the CEGs was the participation of experts in different working groups. Which might not have happened at classic face-to-face meetings due to scheduling conflicts. Many Chairs noted that this led to an increase in participation and a lively exchange of solutions between experts representing different commodities.

All the work done in the CEGs cannot be presented here in detail for reasons of confidentiality. All achievements are available and accessible on the MUCF extranet to our members or can be provided on request by the MUCF.

Several calls for Chairs and co-Chairs were made before and during the CEG meetings.

-Claire Donkin was elected as co-Chair of the CEG Herbs on 9 December 2020. The MUCF would like to thank the Chair Frances Karlstedt, who has stepped down from her position, for her good work in leading the working group till 2020. The position of chairing the CEG Herbs remained vacant.

-The MUCF would like to thank the Chair Kadidiatou Kane, who has stepped down from her position, for her good work in leading the CEG Tobacco till 2020. The position of chairing the CEG Tobacco remained vacant.

-The MUCF would like to thank Anne Polette for co-chairing the CEG Fruits and Vegetables. The position of co-chairing this CEG remained vacant.

Output: The MUCF continued to provide administrative and technical support to the CEGs in organizing meetings.

The Horizontal Expert Group (HEG) discusses general issues related to minor uses, as identified by the CEGs. Aiming for the establishment of harmonized minor use procedures among the member countries. The HEG met on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Paris in a face-to-face meeting. In autumn the meeting was held as virtual meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Both meetings were well attended. The meeting in Paris was attended by 24 participants, the virtual meeting by 22 participants.

The MUCF would like to thank the HEG Chair Donal Lynch, who has stepped down from his position after the HEG autumn meeting, for his good work in leading the HEG in the previous 3 years. The position of chairing the HEG remained vacant.

Output: The MUCF continued to provide administrative and technical support to the HEG in organizing meetings.

A follow up and the process of finalizing the Guidance Document on Minor Uses was discussed. The document was forwarded to SCoPAFF for them to comment on legal aspects. Based on the comments received, the Coordination Facility, together with the Guidance Document Working Group, will prepare an updated revision of this document.

## Annex

### Statement of revenues and expenditures for the period 1 January - 31 December 2020 of the MUCF (2021-05-15) All costs are given in EUR.

<b>01 - Salaries and Staff expenses</b>	<b>176 675</b>
<b>02 - Administrative meetings and Governance</b>	<b>2 304</b>
02.01 - Steering group meeting	0
02.02 - Annual General Meeting	0
02.03 - Stakeholder Advisory Forum	0
02.04 - Staff travel and subsistence	2 304
<b>03 - IT - Communication - other costs</b>	<b>13 460</b>
03.01 - Infrastructure	12 000
03.02 - Software and services	725
03.03 - Communication	608
03.04 - Miscellaneous	127
<b>04 - Technical meetings</b>	<b>23 296</b>
04.01 - Spring Meeting	5 200
04.01.01 - Room rental and lunch	5 200
04.01.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	0
04.02 - Autumn Meeting	2 946
04.02.01 - Room rental and lunch	0
04.02.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	2 946
04.03 - Other meetings (CEG Chairs meetings, Workshop)	15 149
04.03.01 - Room rental and lunch	13 022
04.03.02 - Reimbursement experts (travel and accommodation)	2 127
<b>Overheads (7%)</b>	<b>15 101</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>230 835</b>
<b>Incomes</b>	
Member Countries Annual Contributions	340 000
Registration fees and other reimbursements	7 779
<b>TOTAL Incomes</b>	<b>347 779</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	
<i>Balance from the year 2019</i>	<i>92 006</i>
<b>Grand total year 2020</b>	<b>208 950</b>
Reserve 2020	100 000
Carry over 2020 to 2021	108 950