Minor Uses: Experience and expectations from the biocontrol industry

Presentation by Ulf Heilig

Workshop on “Minor Uses and Specialty Crops: The way forward in Europe”

18th February 2020
Who are we?

Founded in 1995

Active members (75%)
- Producers
- Distributors

Associate members (25%)
- Knowledge transfer organisations
- Consultancies for the industry (regulation, strategy)
- R & D organisations (private and public ones)

> 250 members
165 in EU
~ 80% SMEs

National Groups in Europe

[Flag images of various European countries]
IBMA a member of the BPG
the global federation of biocontrol associations
Biocontrol categories

Macrobiials | Microbiials | Natural Substances | Semiochemicals

Note:
Microbials, natural substances and semiochemicals fall under EU PPP legislation
Macroorganisms (= invertebrates) are regulated at national level
**IBMA engagements**

**Participation**

In activities of international public organisations and institutions, e.g. OECD, FAO, WHO, EU Commission, EFSA, ECHA

**Partnerships**

- COPA COGECa – IBMA Roadmap for Collaboration, 2018 - 2025
- Collaborative Roadmap for IBMA & IFOAM EU for Organic Farming, 2019 - 2024
Background for COPA COGECA – IBMA Roadmap

EU review programmes resulted in farmers losing (chemical) solutions

- 1st Roadmap: 2014 to 2018

Since: EU MUCF, EP resolution in Feb 2018

Recognised value of collaboration for biocontrol industry and farmers

2nd COPA COGECA - IBMA Roadmap
2019 to 2025

1) Cooperation on EU Minor Uses & Specialty Crops
   - to make solutions available tailored to the farmers’ needs
   - Priority to non-chemical solutions including invertebrates
   - Use in robust pest and disease management programmes
   - Active participation in EU Horizontal and Commodity EGs

2) Information exchange on needs and targeted solutions

3) Favour the authorisation of low-risk active substances and products
   - Improved timelines and adequate fees
   - Many low-risk products are based on biocontrol substances

4) Regulation of biocontrol products proportionate to risk
Roadmap  **IBMA – IFOAM EU**

01 Bringing biocontrol solutions of natural origin to the market via dedicated proportionate regulation

02 Supporting the authorisation of substances / products in small markets (= minor uses and specialty crops)

03 Ensuring timely inclusion of approved substances in the EU positive list (create groupings)

04 Building relevant expertise for natural substances in competent authorities

05 Encouraging IBMA members to consider organic farming principles and certification

06 Supporting the EPPO positive list of macrobial biocontrol agents as basis for their evaluation in organic farming
IBMA experience with Minor Uses

There are major shortcomings in the implementation of current EU PPP legislation

Mutual recognition

- Delays, use restrictions, authorisations not granted,
  Example: garlic extract

Crop Groupings are different in different MSs
Example: difficult to find equivalences for extrapolations

No EU-wide common minor use status

- Each MS has its own list of minor uses
- difficulties to identify needs and propose solutions
- Common priority list established by EU MUCF helps

Highly-specific biocontrol products

- Disproportionate costs and fees for small markets
- Pests in minor crops
- Minor pests in major crops
Huge dossier required ⇒ SMEs having specific products for minor uses only cannot compensate by sales in major crops
Example: Summer Fruit Tortrix
Establish a harmonised EU-wide common minor use status
allowing setting-up an EU reference list

Give priority in assessment and reduce time to market for low-risk and biocontrol products

Grant EU-wide authorisations for biocontrol & low-risk PPPs for minor uses
based on EU-wide common minor-use status.

Grant derogations for niche uses

... and respect of timelines
IBMA recognises EU MUCF’s essential role in filling use-gaps (“Lückenindikation”, “usages orphelins”) by

- Co-ordinating work in generating data for uses in specialty crops / minor uses
- Facilitating information exchange between farmers, national bodies and industry: needs & solutions
- Setting priorities
- Representing Minor Use interests
  - in the EU e.g. in SC PAFF and
  - at global level e.g. in GMUS, OECD, FAO
- Participating in stakeholder events
  e.g. in ABIM, ECPA-ECCA Conferences

Vital need for sustainable funding by EU COM and MSs
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Triangle

The general principle of IPM is that the prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms should be achieved or supported especially by alternatives to synthetic chemical pesticides.

Chemical control

Biological control

Mechanical, physical, natural control

Monitoring, forecasting, warning systems

Agronomic practices such as crop rotation, resistant varieties, undersowing, intercropping, protection and enhancement of beneficials

Agrochemical practices such as crop rotation, resistant varieties, undersowing, intercropping, protection and enhancement of beneficials

Agronomic practices

Monitoring

Physical control

Biological control
Application of macroorganisms on minor crops in Belgium:

Whitefly control by different predatory mites on bell pepper

- Pre-inoculation with predatory mites (10/plant)
- Individual pepper plants with flowers removed + Nutrimite® (pollen) weekly
- After 21 days inoculation with *Bemisia tabaci* (10/plant)
- Untreated control
- Positive control: *Typhlodromalus limonicus*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>pollen (weekly)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Predatory mite 1</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Predatory mite 2</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Predatory mite 3</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Typhlodromalus limonicus</em></td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>+</td>
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Thanks to Sandro Frati
Co-chair IBMA IBCA PG
All mite species control significantly the whitefly population

Preventive application of predatory mites is advisable

Thanks to Sandro Frati
Co-chair of IBMA IBCA PG
The existence of the EU MUCF is vital for all stakeholders.

Conclusions

01 For Minor Uses, the placing on the market of PPP solutions - especially of biocontrol PPPs - shall be simplified and speeded up.

02 MUCF has an essential role in MU / specialty crops protection.
   By co-ordinating, it contributes to optimising the availability of tailored solution.

03 Biocontrol products have a great potential.
   Many are of low-risk and specific.
   Many do not need residue work.
   Macroorganisms should be considered, especially in specialty crops.
Thank You

https://www.ibma-global.org