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Minor use and specialty crops – Agri-Food Chain views

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Future challenges (I)



1. Provide consumers with **high quality** and **diversified** range of agri-food products
2. Consumers are **looking for zero tolerance** on the quality of products, even visual aspects
3. Increasing worldwide **food demand** (promotion of healthy diets)
4. High EU **production standards** (e.g. Integrated Pest Management, safety requirements, etc)

Future challenges (II)



1. **Prevention, detection and control** of new pests and diseases (e.g. effect of climate change, global trade, etc)
2. Ensuring **common playing field** in the EU and global market
3. Resistance management and **increasing lack of Plant Protection Products** on the market
4. Crop rotation is becoming problematic

Guarantee the **competitiveness** of the entire agri-food chain

Minor uses and Specialty crops: why so important?

Minor uses and Specialty crops in EU why so important?

1. Crop protection solutions often not available, due to high costs of development
2. Mostly vegetables, fruits, nurseries and flowers which account for a EU production value greater than **€60 billion per year (20% of EU agricultural production value)**
3. **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

Any solutions within the EU legislation ?

Minor uses and specialty crops within the Regulation 1107/2009 (I)

1. Although several legal provisions are in place:

- Article 51 - extension of use -
- Extension of data protection of 3 months for any minor use application
- Article 40 - mutual recognition of active substances across Member States -

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

Minor uses and specialty crops within the Regulation 1107/2009 (II)

2. By 14 December 2011...

..the European Commission should have presented 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, Reg. (EU) 1107/09)

3. Several delays not encouraging for the entire agri-food chain

4. Need for action also recognised by the EU Member States

What is currently done ?

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

1. A lot of awareness raising by the EU agri-food chain partners
2. Two main conferences in 2009 and 2011
3. Several joint letters sent to EU/MS Institutions
4. Joint Press releases/Joint position papers



EU Expert Groups on minor uses

- 1. Several expert groups have been established** under the umbrella of the existing EU technical working groups on minor uses (North and South)
 - Fresh vegetables, Ornamentals, Hops, Frozen vegetables, Tobacco, Seeds, Rice
- 2. Several Member State Authorities and EU stakeholders committed to find solutions**
- 3. Optimise resources (e.g. time, money, expertise) – building trust !**

Need of permanent solutions



Welcome to the EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA)

Minor Use Tools:

[National Minor Crops / Uses](#)

[National Crop Areas](#)

[Minor Use Working Programs and Projects](#)

[Minor Use Trials and Studies](#)

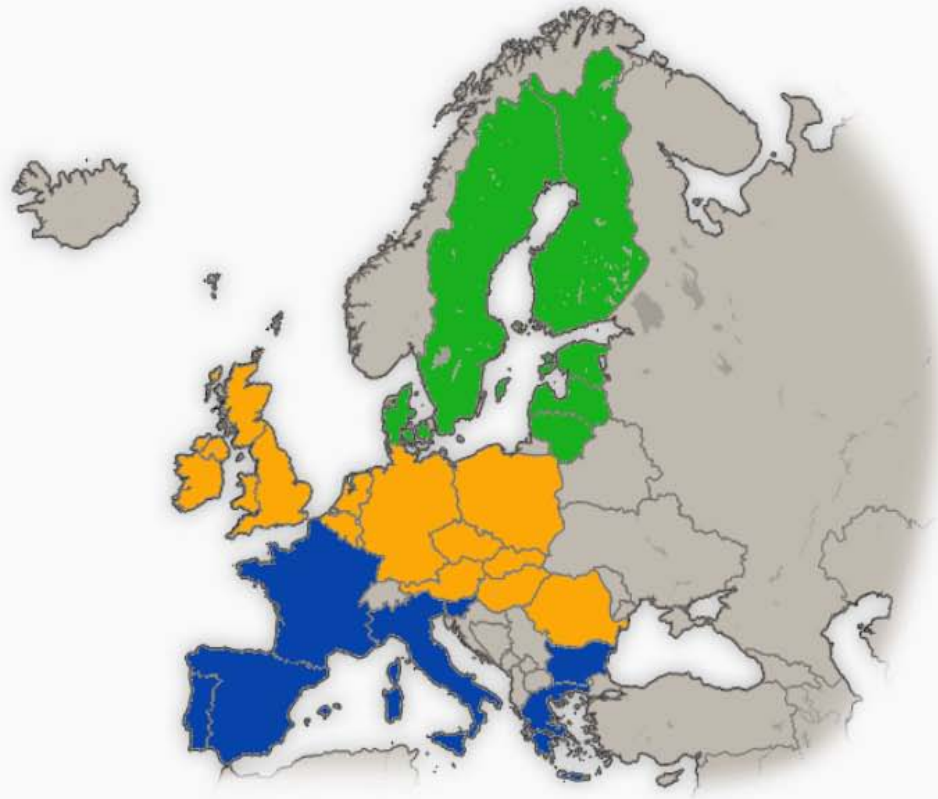
[National Authorisation Databases](#)

[Laws, Regulations, Guidelines](#)

[Plant Protection Information](#)

[News](#)

[Further Links](#)



Map Legend:

- Northern Zone
- Central Zone
- Southern Zone
- non-EU Member

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

How to solve this problem ?



EU Permanent Programme for minor
uses and specialty crops

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

1. EU Coordination – Coordination – (€1 million)

- Private/public bodies
- Management of a EU Database (e.g. EUMUDA)
- Field trials and efficacy data to facilitate PPPs authorization
- Setting up priorities for specific commodities
- Identification of gaps about lack of solutions
- Development of EU relevant guidance document
- International activities (e.g. USA)

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

2. EU Cooperation – Cooperation – (€ 5 million)

- Financing of research projects (e.g. data generation) to find solutions
- EU involvement is crucial (e.g. HORIZON 2020, EU Innovation Partnerships, other EU funds)
- Co-financing with national funds

This is not easy but some people
have greater problems to solve !!!

