



Challenges in production and marketing for stonefruit and other fresh produce

Luc Peeters

President of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Phytosanitary Questions

Index

Introduction

Regulatory framework

Minor Uses and Specialty Crops

Integrated Pest Management

Roadmap for collaboration

Conclusions



Introduction



Introduction (I)

- **History**
 - 1958: Creation of Copa (after the Stressa Conference)
 - 1959: Creation of Cogeca
 - 1962: Joint Secretariat
- **« The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union »**

Introduction (II)

- **Copa – European farmers**
 - Bringing together 57 EU farmers' organisations
- **Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives**
 - Bringing together 31 EU Agricultural cooperative organisations
- **Two organisations...**
 - representing 25 million farmers and their families
 - as well as around 38,000 Cooperatives
 - 70 Member and 34 Partner Organisations



Regulatory framework



Regulatory framework (I)

Official regulatory framework

- Regulation 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides
- Regulation 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market
- Directive 2009/128/CE on sustainable use of pesticides (SUD)
- Directive 2000/60/EC on water policy (WFD)
- Regulation 1306/2013 on the horizontal regulation Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Regulatory framework (II)

Official regulatory framework

- Regulation 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides
 - Fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables
- Regulation 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products (PPP) on the market
 - National authorisation and mutual recognition → differences among Member States
 - “Candidates for substitution” and comparative assessment → distortion of competition in the internal market
 - Lack of PPP → problems with minor uses and specialty crops

Regulatory framework (III)

Official regulatory framework

- Directive 2009/128/CE on sustainable use of pesticides (SUD)
 - Integrated Pest Management at farm level
 - Storage, handle and spray of PPP
 - Treatment of remnants and their packing materials
 - Keep records of PPP
- Directive 2000/60/EC on water policy (WFD)
 - Phasing out of chemicals

Regulatory framework (IV)

Official regulatory framework

- Regulation 1306/2013 on the horizontal regulation Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
 - Farm advisory system → compliance with IPM general principles
 - Joint statement by the European Parliament and the Council on cross-compliance → “(...) *with a view to including the relevant parts of these Directives [Water Framework Directive and Sustainable Use Directive] in the system of cross-compliance (...)*”

Regulatory framework (V)

Specific marketing standards

- Products differ as to their perishability, seasonality, processing, waste rate levels, production area
- Common marketing standards have been one of the basis of Fruit and Vegetable CMO (since 1962)
- The Commission (2008) repealed 26 of the 36 specific marketing standards
- Currently, only one regulation for 11 standards (1 general marketing standard and 10 specific ones – peaches and nectarines)
- General marketing standard (GMS) is applicable to all fresh fruits and vegetables covered by the single CMO

Regulatory framework (VI)

Market secondary standards

- Farmer complies with all legal requirements (food quality and safety)
- Unbalanced power in the agri-food chain
- Demanded by major market players relating to price setting and condition for sales (positive/negative lists of Active Substances, number of AS)
- Are not always based on science
- Go beyond official governmental requirements (e.g. MRLs)
- Disproportionate burdens on small- and medium-sized producers
- Also linked to food waste



Minor Uses and Specialty Crops

Minor Uses and Specialty Crops (I)

Importance of Minor Uses and Specialty Crops

- Crop protection solutions not available, due to high costs of development
- Mostly vegetables, fruits, nurseries and flowers: €60 billion EU production value(20% of total EU agri-production value)
- 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
- Although several legal provisions exist under Reg.1107/2009 (e.g. extension of use, simplified procedure for MRLs; data protection, mutual recognition)...
- **... there is still a lot of work to be done to facilitate development and authorization of new Plant Protection Products, both chemical and biological!**

Minor Uses and Specialty Crops (II)

Current developments

- Several expert commodity groups exist under the framework of the North/South technical working groups on minor uses:

**Fresh vegetables, Ornamentals, Hops,
Frozen vegetables, Tobacco, Seeds, Rice**

- Participation of technical experts from national authorities, research institutes, professional organizations, industry
- Regular plenary meeting between EU Stakeholders and MS representatives
- Important to work together and save time and money
- Coordination Facility... but lack of involvement and participation from all EU MSs (e.g. financial constraints, language barrier, knowledge available)



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](#)

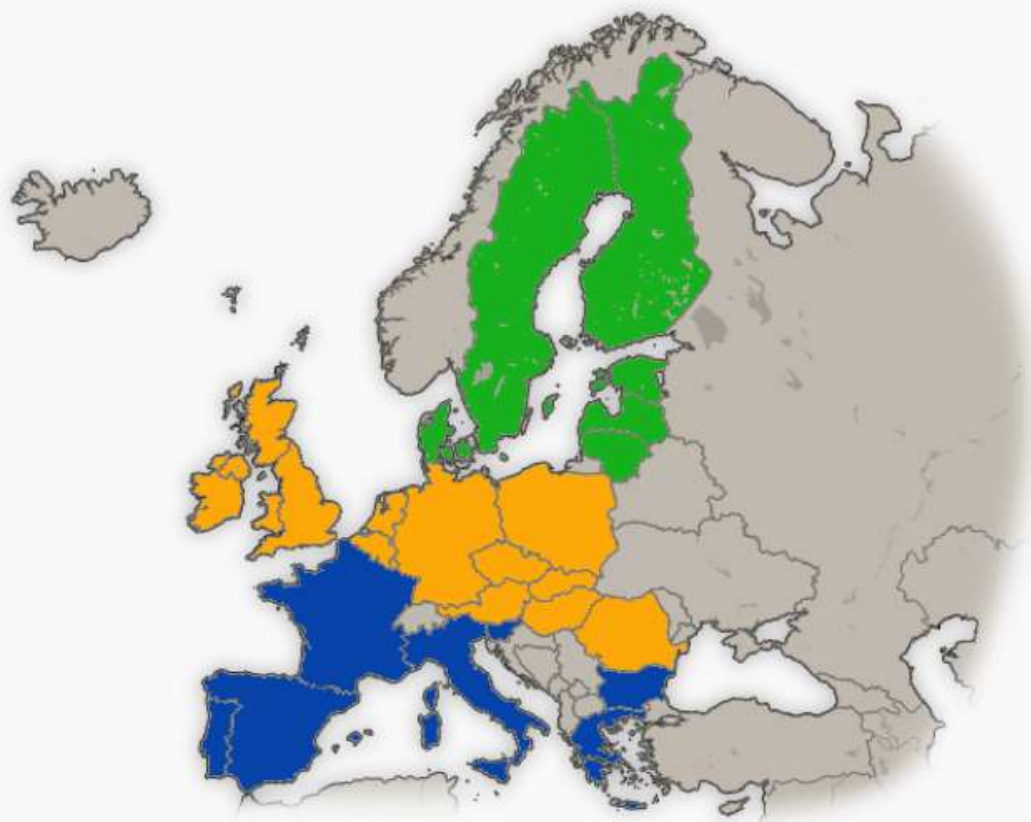
[National Authorisation Databases](#)

[Laws, Regulations, Guidelines](#)

[Plant Protection Information](#)

[News](#)

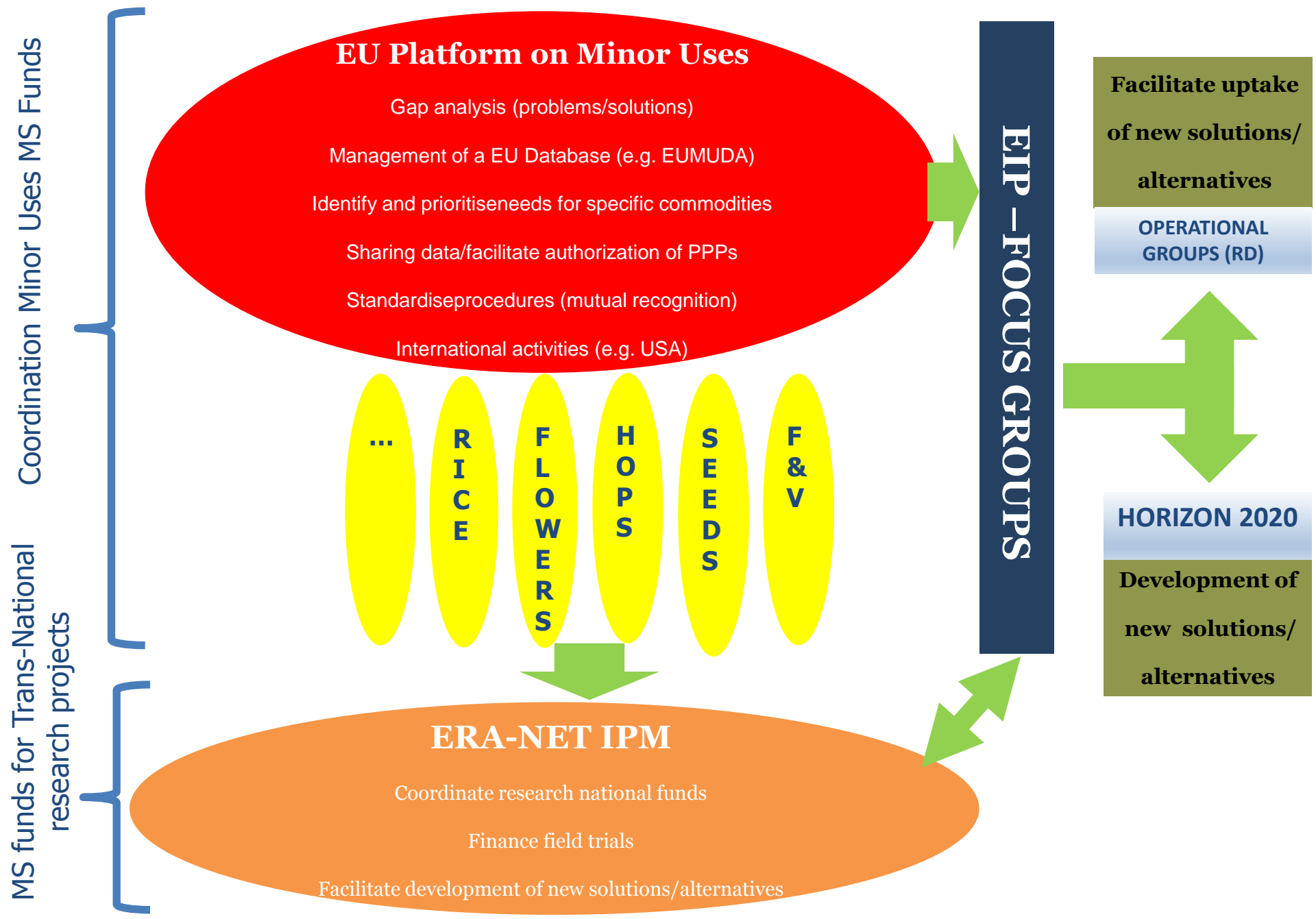
[Further Links](#)



Map Legend:

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

EU Programme on Minor Uses and Specialty crops



Minor Uses and Specialty Crops (V)



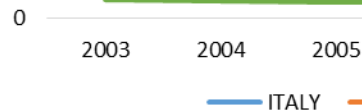
Crop Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)
Pest threat Spring thrips (*Scirtothrips inornata*)
Region at risk Spain
Crop area at risk 10 000 ha
Potential pest impact The spring thrips attack the persimmon trees mostly during their flowering, altering the



1 The spring thrip (*Scirtothrips inornata*)
 2 Impact of spring thrips
 3 4 Healthy persimmon

**minor use
 major value**

If the EU** fails to provide plant protection solutions for minor use and speciality crops*** Is Europe ready to lose a market worth €70 billion/year, representing 22% of the total value of annual EU agricultural output?



* An awareness raising campaign promoted by the EU Agri-Food Chain Partners (AMFPA, CILCAA, COCERPA), Copia-Cogeca, ICFR, ESA, Inaheff, IBMA, PROCEL and Union Placis

** European Commission, Council of the European Union, European Parliament, and Member States

*** Minor uses concern crops grown on relatively small acreage like fruits, herbs, and vegetables, cereals, including rice, seed crops and small crop seed treatments, hops, flowers and all those plants that need a tailor made plant protection product, whether it is for growing them, storage or transportation



Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (I)

National Action Plans

- Focus on risk reduction (not volume reduction)
- Basic training has to be accessible to all professional users

Training

- Basic training and continued information is crucial for everyone applying PPPs, including farmers
- Several farmers' unions and cooperatives are already involved in such programmes and in some Member States there is already a legislative framework in place

Integrated Pest Management (II)

Integrated Pest Management

- We must accept that the market is looking for zero tolerance in the interest of product quality and safety
- Several options (chemicals, biological, mechanical) are needed within multiple modes of action
- Good implementation goes beyond farmers' responsibility (e.g. early warning systems, database of weather info)
- IPM is a flexible tool and can only be effective if the decision is made on the ground (case per case solutions)

Integrated Pest Management (III)

Examples of good practices

- Belgium: IPM guidelines in place as an initial part of private production schemes for good agricultural practice
- Germany: IPM as part of the national legislation. Current development by growers
- Netherlands: IPM guidelines are part of private production schemes for good agricultural practice
- Italy: national guidelines for on-farm IPM application
- Spain: alternative pest and disease control systems, supported in different Rural Development Programms
- Slovakia: IPM guidelines especilly for fruit, vegetables and grapes



Roadmap for collaboration

Roadmap for collaboration (I)

Copa-Cogeca

- EU farmers have been deprived of plant protection solutions to prevent, detect and control pests and diseases
- They are facing increasing obligations to use alternative pest control techniques where information and knowledge are not always sufficient, and availability of effective alternative products is limited

International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association (IBMA)

- Biocontrol manufacturers have been facing issues in bringing biocontrol solutions to the market through unduly regulatory processes and delays and slow farmer uptake of those solutions available

Roadmap for collaboration (II)

Aim

- To accelerate the development and use of reliable, robust and efficacious plant protection solutions in the EU
- To ensure that biocontrol solutions are made available without unnecessary delay
- To ensure that Farmers are presented with efficacious solutions and appropriate knowledge to use biocontrol solutions in a robust and predictable manner

Roadmap for collaboration (III)

Work platforms

1. Information exchange and targeting solutions
 - Main needs of Farmers
 - Research and development
 - Robust programmes of pest and disease management
2. Co-operation in EU Minor Uses and Specialty Crops
 - IPM programmes should be tiered with the priority of non-chemical solutions, where feasible
3. Low-risk active substances and products
 - To accelerate the bringing to the market of low-risk substances and products

Conclusions

1. EU legislation on placing on the market, sustainable use and end results is well elaborated to protect consumer as well as the environment.
2. Legislation is based on scientific evidence and evaluation.
3. Secondary standards are (also) about marketing going beyond scientific assessment
4. Food chain stakeholder initiatives will tie up the loose ends/loopholes in legislation e.g. : minor uses, specialty crops , low risk and biological pest control
5. EU Farming community is working in compliance with the legal requirements to fulfill market demands for food safety and sustainability.



**Thank you for your
attention**

www.copa-cogeca.eu