



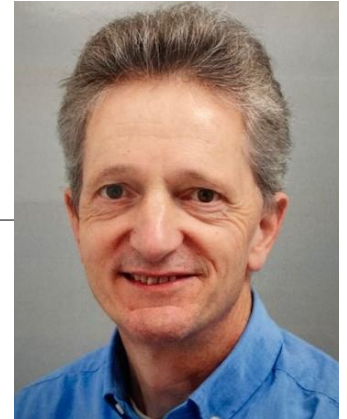
# OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES IN MINOR USES AND BIOCONTROL PRODUCTS FROM AN OECD EGBP PERSPECTIVE

Jeroen Meeussen – ERM

ABIM Session: Minor Uses and Regulatory Issues  
19-21 October 2020



# My Background



▶ Until October 2010: Ctgb

ctgb

▶ October 2010 – July 2015: DG Sante



▶ September 2015 – April 2020: EUMUCF



▶ Since 14th September 2020: ERM



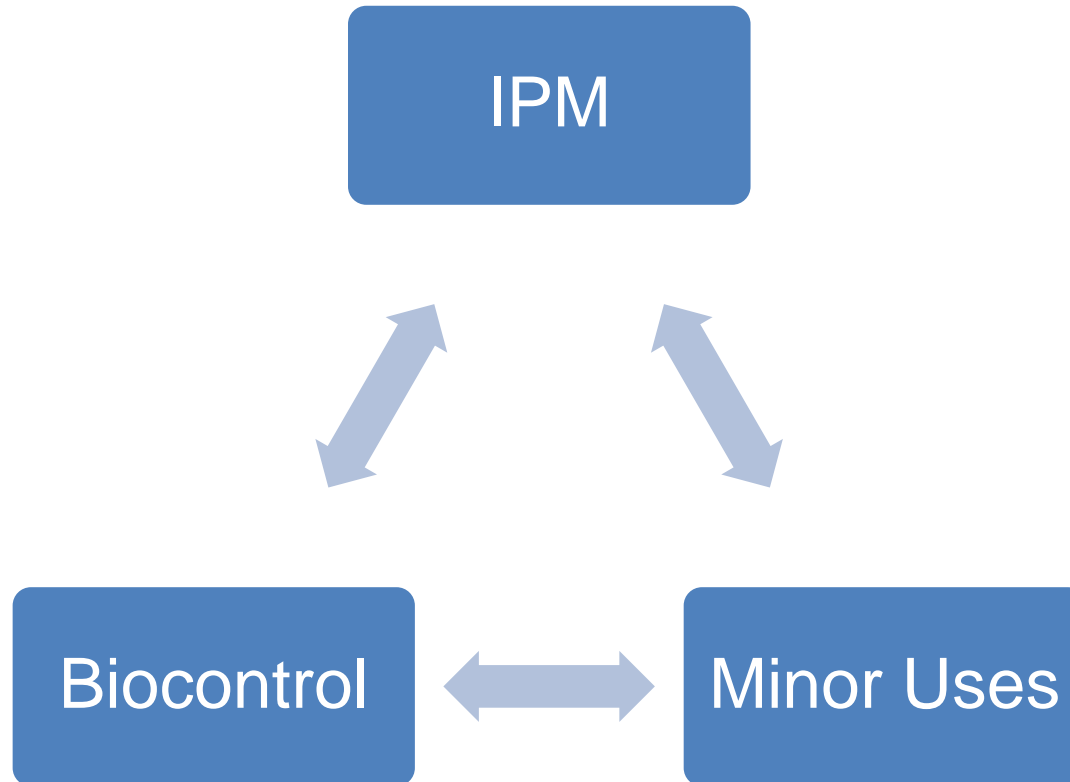
▶ Since 2005: Chair of the EGBP





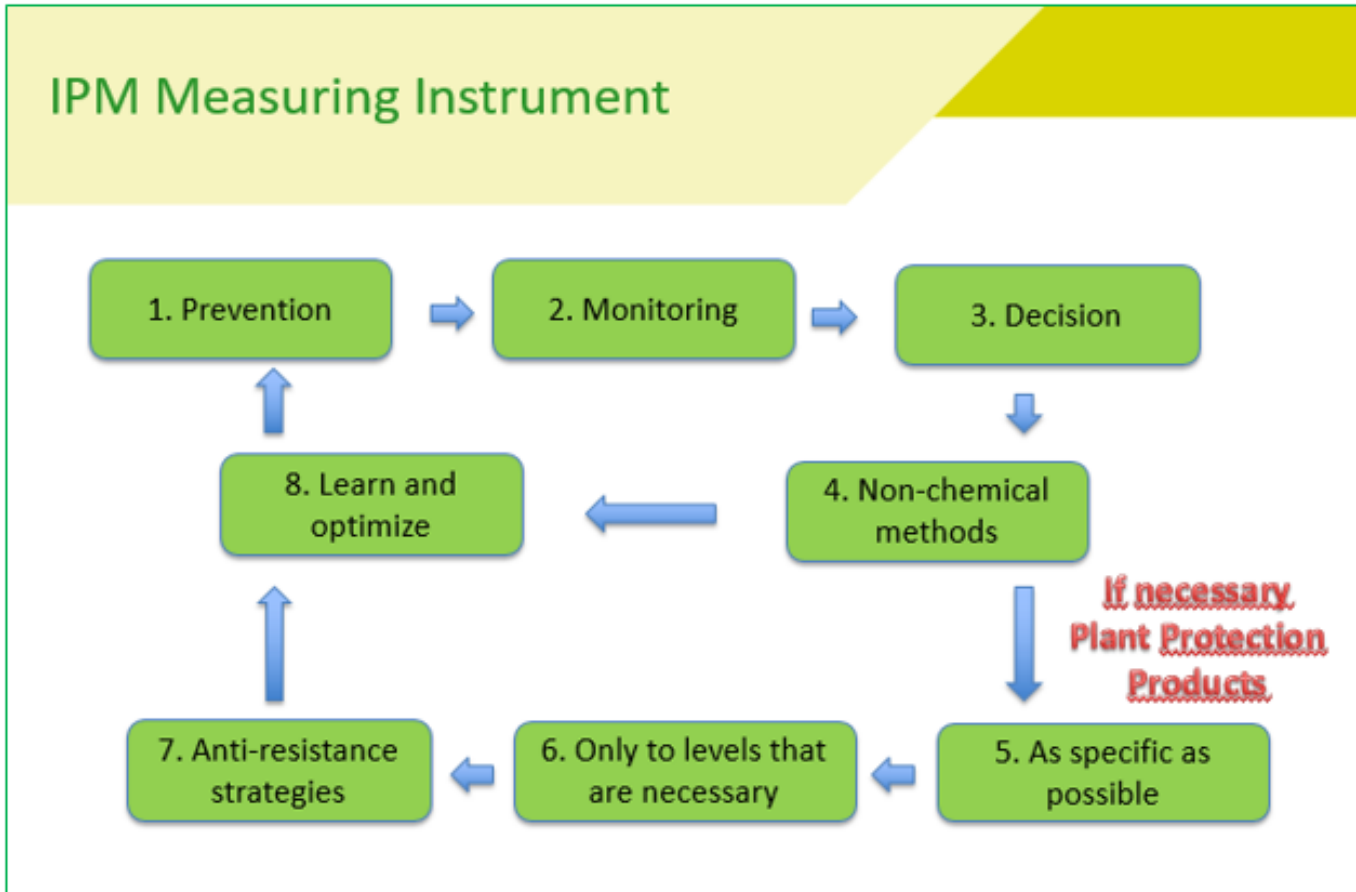
# Sustainable Agriculture

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# General Principles of Integrated Pest Management (SUD)





# Biological Pesticides

Macrobials



Microbials



Natural Substances



Semiochemicals



Note:

- **Microbials**, **natural substances** and **semiochemicals** are regulated under EU PPP legislation
- **Macroorganisms (= invertebrates)** are regulated at national level

*Thanks to IBMA*



# Minor Crops: Importance



- Only **3%** of the cultivated area, but representing **22%** of the value of the entire EU plant production value.
- Across the EU these minor crops represent a value of more than **70 billion Euros** per year.

minor use  
major value

website: [www.minoruses.eu](http://www.minoruses.eu)

If the EU<sup>1</sup> fails to provide plant protection solutions for minor use and specific crops<sup>2</sup> Is Europe ready to lose a market worth €70 billion/year, representing 22% of the total value of annual EU agricultural output?

<sup>1</sup> An awareness raising campaign promoted by the EU Agri-Food Chain Partners (ARFPH, CELCAA, COCERAL, Copa-Cogeca, ECPA, ESA, FEAP, PROFEL and Union-Peasants)

<sup>2</sup> The European Commission, The Council of The European Union, The European Parliament, and Member States

<sup>3</sup> Minor uses concern crops grown on relatively small acreage like fruits, berries, vegetables, cereals including rice, seed crops and small crops treatments, hops, flowers and all those plants that need a tailor made plant protection product, whether it is for growing them, storage or



# Importance of Minor Uses



- It is estimated that direct impacts on the agricultural sector (i.e. crop production loss and additional growing costs for farmers) account for more than **€1 billion** per year.

## EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA)

- > 3000 grouped needs (crop and pest combination) declared by Member States
- 45% insects, 30% fungi, 13% weeds
- Ex: *Drosophila suzukii* on raspberry

[www.eumuda.eu](http://www.eumuda.eu)





# Increasing Interest in Biological Control

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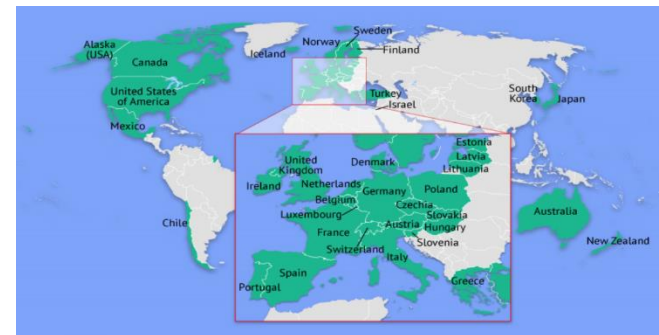
- ▶ It fits within **IPM-strategies** for a sustainable agriculture (SUD).
- ▶ To overcome problems with **resistance**. Applications with conventional chemicals can be alternated with biological control.
- ▶ **Residues**. More and more large supermarkets apply a zero-residue policy. When replacing the last chemical treatments by biologicals a zero-residue situation can be achieved.
- ▶ The **lack of new chemical active substances**.





# The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- ▶ Today the OECD has **37 member countries**
- ▶ **More than 70** developing and transition economies are engaged in working relationships with the OECD (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)





# Expert Group on Biopesticides



The **Expert Group on Biopesticides** (EGBP) was established by the Working Group on Pesticides in 1999 to help member countries to **harmonise** the methods and approaches used to **assess biological pesticides**.



Focus on the development of **harmonised guidance** for data submissions and reviews.

Promote **communication** and **exchange of information** by organising **seminars** and **workshops** on topics of common interest.



# Workshop on Minor Uses (I)

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The EUMUCF organized a **Workshop on “Minor Uses and Speciality Crops: The way forward in Europe”** on 18-20 February 2020 in Paris.

Aim of the Workshop:

- to enhance **regulatory harmonization**,
- come to a sustainable **European way forward** for minor uses work,
- establish a **roadmap** containing a **list of concrete actions** regarding the future organization of minor uses work in Europe.

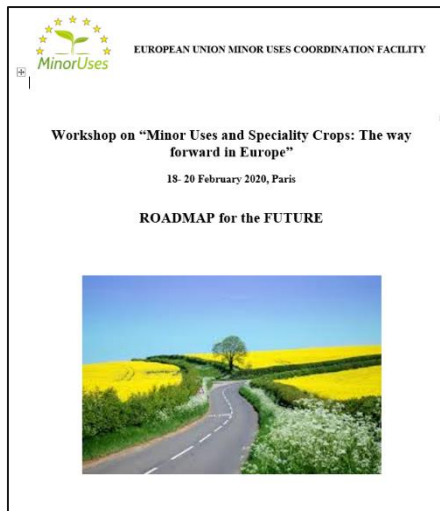




# Workshop on Minor Uses (II)

This **Roadmap** takes into account the outcome of the discussions at the Workshop resulting in the **four platforms** of future work:

- (i) Obstacles in minor uses work,
- (ii) **IPM research and implementation**,
- (iii) Communication and awareness raising, and
- (iv) The future organization of minor uses' work in Europe.



<https://minoruses.eu/mucf/meetings>



## Platform 2: IPM research and implementation

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### Barriers that prevent the adoption of IPM tools and technologies:

- **Limited number of tools** and **lack of information and knowledge** to help growers implement IPM
- IPM is often seen as **complex** and, generally, growers see access to chemicals as the solution to minor use problems
- The use of IPM practices represents an **economic risk** for growers which is not always balanced by a corresponding increased market price
- A **lack of flexibility** in legislative frameworks and regulatory processes to facilitate the registration of biological control agents and IPM-compatible PPPs





## Platform 2: IPM research and implementation

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### Suggested solutions:

- **Research networks** should specifically incorporate minor use needs as part of IPM research and programmes
- **Advisers** should make farmers aware of the possibility of claiming **EU CAP-payments** by applying the relevant general principles of IPM.
- **Advisory services** should develop useful tools (e.g. **'IPM-profiles'**) to disseminate relevant information to growers.
- **EUMUCF** should incorporate in future projects in EUMUDA conventional, biological as well as other types of solutions that can be used as building blocks in IPM strategies

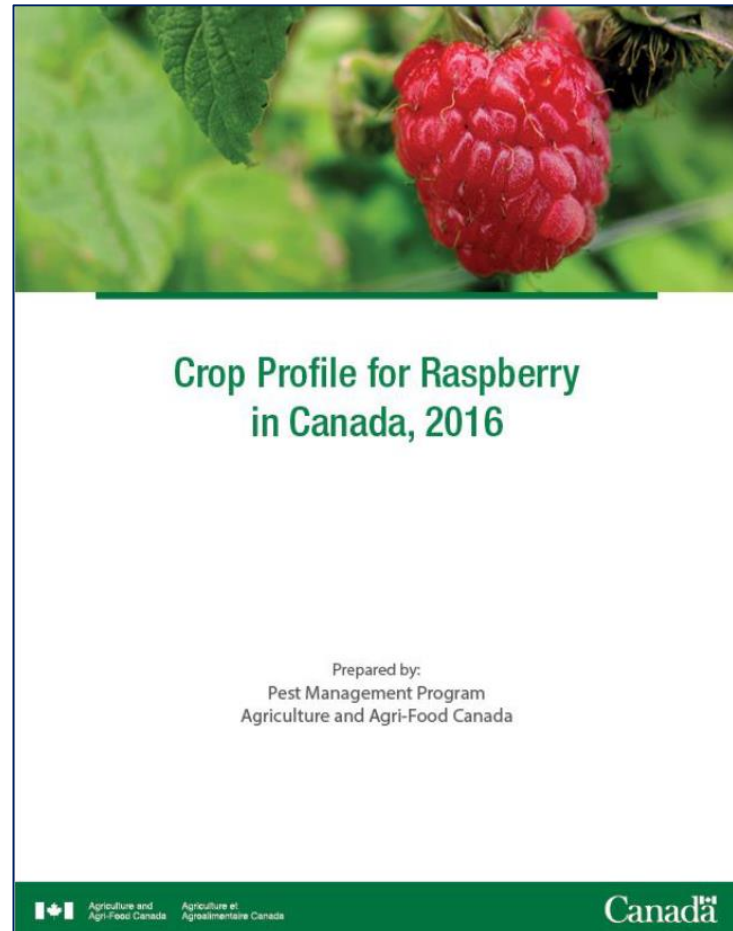




# IPM Profiles

'IPM-profiles' should provide per zone and per crop baseline information on:

- production and pest management practices
- abiotic factors affecting its growth.
- the biology of key pests, diseases and weed problems
- pest occurrence, integrated pest management options
- cultural and chemical methods of control
- registered pesticides available to growers
- pest management needs and issues faced by growers



**Sustainable biological**, physical and other non-chemical methods **must be preferred** to chemical methods if they provide satisfactory pest control

**Current data requirements and procedures** envisaged in Regulation 1107/2009 are **not appropriate** and proportional to low-risk biological solutions, which particularly affects SMEs

**The availability of PPPs for minor uses** is being negatively affected by a lack of implementation of the Regulation







# Report on SUD from the European Commission

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*Full title: Report on the experience gained by Member States on the implementation of national targets established in their National Action Plans and on progress in the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides, 20.05.2020*

The assessment of the implementation of IPM by Member States continues to be the most widespread weakness in the application of the SUD.

Article 3(6) of the SUD defines IPM as the "careful consideration of all available plant protection methods and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of populations of harmful organisms and keep the use of PPPs and other forms of intervention to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment". The Commission considers IPM as one of the cornerstones of the SUD, and that its full implementation is necessary in order to reduce dependency on pesticide use.



# Report on SUD from the European Commission

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*Full title: Report on the experience gained by Member States on the implementation of national targets established in their National Action Plans and on progress in the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides, 20.05.2020*

There is a consistent upward trend in the number of approved non-chemical, low-risk and basic active substances.

The Commission has taken a range of actions to accelerate the procedures to place low-risk PPPs on the market. These include prioritising the updating, by the end of 2020, of the data requirements and assessment methodologies for micro-organisms, and initiating BTSF training in 2020 to strengthen the expertise in Member States for the assessment of applications for micro-organisms and other bio-pesticides.



# Report from the European Commission

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*Full title: Report on the experience gained by Member States on the implementation of national targets established in their National Action Plans and on progress in the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides, 20.05.2020*

The Commission is supporting a range of research projects to broaden the range of alternative pest control strategies, tools and technologies and to determine the impacts of pesticide use on the environment and human health.

The Commission, through the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, supports research and innovation to develop more sustainable pest control strategies, tools and technologies to support IPM, such as new low-risk products, biological controls, decision support tools and to determine the impacts of pesticide use on the environment and human health<sup>40</sup>.



# Farm-to-Fork strategy

*Evaluation of Regulations 1107/2009 & 396/2005*

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## 16 improvement areas identified...

1. Better implementation – addressing delays and increasing transparency
2. Improved implementation of the cut-off criteria
3. Simplify the comparative assessment of candidates for substitution
4. Cumulative risk assessment
5. Environmental- and Bio-monitoring
6. Define Environmental Protection Goals and update Guidance Documents
7. Improve the zonal system for authorisation of PPPs
- 8. Solutions for minor uses**
9. Increase oversight of emergency authorisations
10. Further reduce the need for vertebrate animal testing
- 11. Promote sustainable plant protection, low-risk solutions and efficient risk mitigation**
12. Better enforcement of the PPP Regulation
13. Better enforcement of the MRL Regulation
14. Faster response to emerging MRL issues and to technical progress
- 15. Using green diplomacy to promote our green agenda for pesticides**
16. Increase internal coherence and consistency with EU legislation



# Sustainable Agriculture

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# Some regulatory hurdles for minor uses

- Better implement the **zonal system** and more specific the **mutual recognition** of minor uses' authorisations between the Member States
- Ease the **risk envelop approach** for minor uses
- Carry out **forecast studies** on the **availability** of active substances and PPPs
- Link the work on minor uses to other **policy initiatives** (e.g. Green Deal, Farm-to-Fork Strategy, Horizon Europe)
- Explore setting a **harmonised status of a crop** and the creation of a single EU or zonal list of major crops





# What can you do?

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Some suggestions:

- **Member States** can identify minor crops, and broadening the range of pest control techniques on these crops, as a priority item
- **Research networks** should specifically incorporate minor use needs as part of IPM research and programmes
- **Advisory services** should develop useful tools to disseminate relevant information to growers
- **Advisors** are the link between growers and research, and they can contribute to the early adoption of safe, innovative and effective (biocontrol) solutions by farmers
- **EU** should revise the data requirements for micro-organisms, facilitate the assessment of biopesticides and support research and innovation
- **Industry** can consult the table of minor uses needs in EUMUDA, communicate (existing) biocontrol solutions and bring biocontrol solutions to the market to solve minor uses issues
- **EUMUCF** should incorporate in EUMUDA other types of solutions than conventional or biological that may be useful as building blocks in IPM strategies
- **EUMUCF** should work together and coordinate with relevant stakeholders to find biocontrol solutions for minor uses
- Etc.



# Conclusion

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Biological solutions can provide excellent tools for sustainable agriculture and to fill minor use gaps!







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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## ANY QUESTIONS



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