



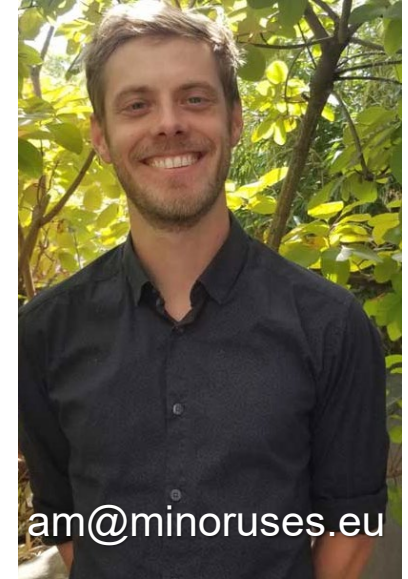
# EUROPEAN MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY (MUCF) ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENTS

ABIM 2022

BARBARA EDLER (MUCF COORDINATOR)

# ABOUT THE EUROPEAN MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY (MUCF)

- Established in 2015, activity hosted by EPPO. Based in Paris, France.
- 4 staff members, new team member Antoine Martin (Scientific Officer).
- Initially funded by the EU and the governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands for 3 years.
- Since 2018, MUCF has been entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from European Member countries.
- Funding for 2023 is secured.



*The MUCF **Mission** is to support European stakeholders in closing crop protection gaps in minor uses.*

*It coordinates collaboration and information exchange to improve the availability of sustainable crop protection solutions within an IPM framework.*

*The objective is to enable farmers to produce high-quality crops and contribute to sustainable European agriculture.*



# MUCF MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITY & CORE COMPETENCIES

## MUCF MEETINGS



- Host & facilitate MUCF Commodity (Fruits & Vegetables, Seeds, Ornamentals, Herbs & Spices, Tobacco and Mushrooms) and Horizontal Expert meetings (+ReEG) twice a year.
- Organise meetings between stakeholders to discuss possible solutions and approaches for identified minor uses needs.

## DATABASE EUMUDA



- Host & further develop the European Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA).  
<https://www.eumuda.eu>
- Implement & collect minor use needs and priorities, minor & major uses, minor & major crops, and crop acreage data information.
- projects on identified needs

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE



- Coordinate & support minor uses work among all Member & Partner Countries and stakeholders.
- Address regulatory hurdles (“ Explanatory Note”)
- MUCF newsletter  
[www.minoruses.eu](http://www.minoruses.eu)



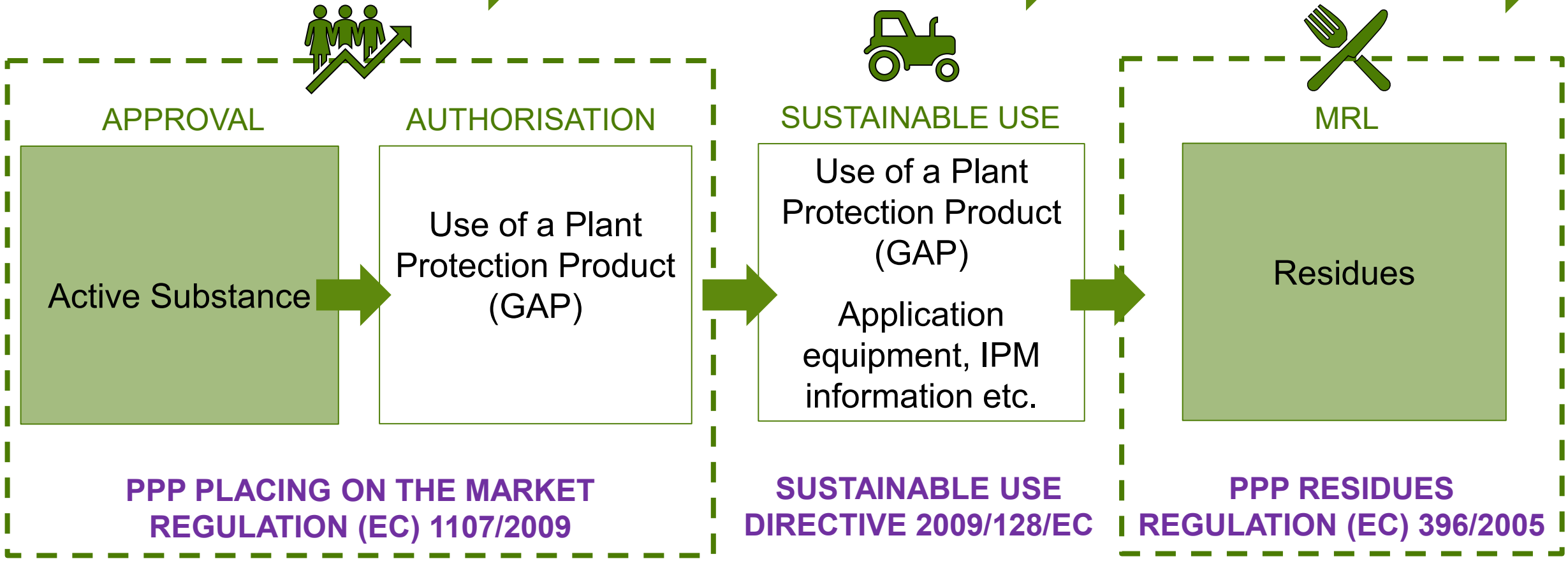
## BACKGROUND: WHAT ARE MINOR USES?

- The 'minor uses' issue is a complex one driven by a number of factors, all leading to **limited availability of PPP control solutions** for harmful organisms associated with minor crops.
- Minor uses, including the majority of specialty crops, are uses of pesticides where the potential 'use' is not large enough to **justify the registration** of that use from a PPP applicant's perspective alone.
- The primary reason for minor uses is a **lack of economic return to an applicant** from registering those uses, specifically the associated costs of generating the data necessary to obtain and maintain regulatory approval and authorization.
- Minor uses involve crops that are grown on a **small scale (minor crops)** and are often **high-value crops (specialty crops)**.
- In addition, minor uses may also include uses within major crops for the control of pests that meet an **exceptional plant protection need**.



# EU PESTICIDE LEGISLATION

## THE REGULATORY CYCLE OF A PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT



Regulated at MS level
  Regulated at EU level
  Minor uses/crops definitions



# WHAT ARE MINOR USES/ CROPS?

## DEFINITION

### Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 – Article 3(26):

Use of a plant protection product in a particular Member State on plants or plant products which are:

- (a) not widely grown in that Member State, or
- (b) widely grown to meet an exceptional plant protection need

Minor crop refers to the cultivation area.

National dimension

Minor crop

Minor use on a major crop

**EPPO Standard PP 1/224(2) Principles of efficacy evaluation for Minor Uses.**

Minor crop refers to the economic value of the crop.



# WHAT ARE MINOR USES/ CROPS?

## DEFINITION

**TECHNICAL GUIDELINES:** On data requirements for setting MRLs, comparability of residue trials and extrapolation for residue data on products from plant and animal origin (SANTE/2019/12752).

The following criteria were used for classifying a crop or a product as '**major**' in the EU:

(a) **Daily intake contribution** > 0.125 g/kg bw/day and relevant cultivation area (> 20 000 ha) and/or production (> 400 000 tonnes per year) in the zone

or

(b) **Cultivation area** > 20 000 ha and production > 400 000 tonnes per year

**All crops not defined as 'major crops' according to the criteria outlined above are minor crops.**

Minor/major crop refers to daily intake in combination with cultivation area or production amount.



# HURDLES AND ISSUES

## No harmonized definition

- Leaves it up to Member Country (MC) to define what constitutes a 'minor crop'-> A minor crop in one country, can be a major crop in another and vice versa!
- Interferes with the zonal procedure and mutual recognition.
- An EU wide **harmonized definition** of 'minor crop' would be needed to facilitate minor use authorisations.
- A **fixed acreage (per zone)** would be favoured by the growers association.

## No trust in dossier evaluation of other MS

- Mutual recognition is not applied as needed

## Duplication of work (regulatory) and costs (data generation) in different MS



- Distortion of competition at the European level for the crop producer
- Distortion of competition with imports from third countries





# WHY ARE MINOR USES & SPECIALITY/ MINOR CROPS SO IMPORTANT?

**Economical impact:** Minor uses represent 3% of cultivated area, but 20% of the EU crop production value. This corresponds to a value of more than **60 billion Euros** per year in Europe (Lamichhane *et al.* 2015). EU crop production (27 countries) value in 2021 ~242 billion Euros (<https://www.bmel-statistik.de>)

**Environmental impact:** Enhance biodiversity and enrich crop diversification in a region (Meynard *et al.* 2018)

**Socio-economic impact:** Minor crops which are largely produced in highly specialised (e.g., labour and capital-intensive) production systems create jobs in rural areas and thus counteract rural depopulation.

- Food sovereignty

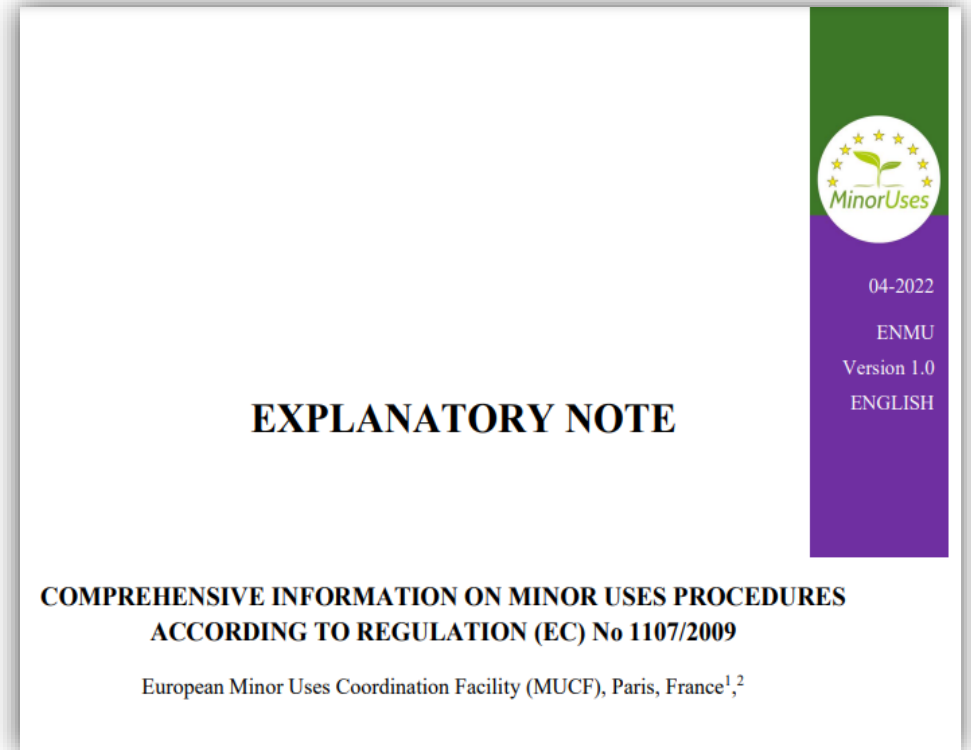
**Health impacts:** Diversification of diet.

- Increased consumption of certain fruits and vegetables are considered to reduce the risk of some types of cancer and coronary heart disease (Kendall *et al.* 2010)




## ACTIVITY: ADDRESS REGULATORY HURDLES

- The Explanatory Note on Minor Uses (Note) has been developed and peer-reviewed in co-operation with selected experts from several EU Member States (Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden), the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, and with support of DG SANTE's Legal Service.
- **Scope:** The Note was created to provide comprehensive information on minor uses procedures in the context of the implementation of Article 51 and other provisions related to minor uses for different parties such as authorisation holders, official or scientific bodies involved in professional agricultural organisations professional users, and competent authorities.



# EXPLANATORY NOTE ON MINOR USES

- **Objectives:**

- The Note should encourage countries to take a consistent approach in the evaluation of dossiers, the use of the risk envelope approach, and in the use of relevant extrapolation tables, i.e. EPPO efficacy extrapolation tables and extrapolation possibilities for residues.
- The Note is intended to stimulate the practical implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009, to reduce obstacles and other impediments for mutual recognition of minor uses between countries and to encourage harmonisation.
- This document has been presented to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on 2022-03-30/31.
- Endorsed by SCoPAFF (section: Legislation) in March 2022.
- The Note can be taken into consideration for applications submitted from 2022-04-12 onwards.
- [https://minoruses.eu/resources/explanatory\\_note](https://minoruses.eu/resources/explanatory_note) 



- Background information on minor uses
- General description of the approval process of an active substance, and description of the authorisation process of a plant protection.
- Residue and MRLs in or on treated products, food and feed.
- Efficacy
- **Authorisations for minor uses:**
  - Principle of the risk envelope approach
  - Draft RR for an extension of authorisation for minor uses acc. to Article 51
  - **Overview of the general principles of the zonal system for minor uses, mutual recognition and applications for extension of authorization for minor uses.**
  - Renewal
- **Possible measures for EU Member States to explore and facilitate the submission of applications for minor uses extensions.**
- MUCF description of the process from identification of a crop-pest need for a minor use application.



Overview of the general principles of the zonal system for minor uses, mutual recognition and applications for extension of authorization for minor uses

<b>Article 33</b> Application for authorisation	<b>Article 40(1)</b> General mutual recognition of authorisation	<b>Article 40(2)</b> General mutual recognition of authorisation	<b>Article 51(1)-(6)</b> Extension of authorisation for minor uses	<b>Article 51(7)</b> Specific mutual recognition for minor uses
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- APPLICANT
- REQUIREMENTS, CONSENT, AND PROCEDURE
- EFFICACY
- ASSESSMENT IF THE USE IS A MINOR USE IN THE GIVEN MS
- ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST
- EXTRAPOLATION REGARDING EFFICACY AND RESIDUE
- RISK ASSESSMENT: RESIDUE, ENVIRONMENTAL FATE, ECOTOXICOLOGY, AND TOXICOLOGY
- COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT
- LIABILITY
- DATA PROTECTION



## ACTIVITY: MINOR USES TABLE OF NEEDS - LAST UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022-

Ranked	Crop common name	Pest scientific name	Pest common name	Frequency	Priority points
No. 1	raspberry	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	spotted wing drosophila	19	52
No. 2	onion	<i>Peronospora destructor</i>	downy mildew	15	47
No. 3	white cabbage	<i>Delia radicum</i>	cabbage root fly	17	41
No. 4	strawberry	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	spotted wing drosophila	15	46
No. 5	carrot	<i>Chamaepsila rosae</i>	carrot fly	14	41
No. 6	blueberry	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	spotted wing drosophila	13	37
No. 7	onion	<i>Delia antiqua</i>	onion fly	13	34
No. 8	hop	<i>Pseudoperonospora humuli</i>	downy mildew	14	29
No. 9	onion	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	basal rot	13	31
No. 10	sweet cherry	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	spotted wing drosophila	11	36
No. 11	broccoli	<i>Delia radicum</i>	cabbage root fly	13	28
No. 12	raspberry	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>	two-spotted spider mite	11	31
No. 13	cauliflower	<i>Delia radicum</i>	cabbage root fly	13	25
No. 14	black currant	<i>Cecidophyopsis ribis</i>	black currant gall mite	13	25
No. 15	turnips	<i>Delia radicum</i>	cabbage root fly	11	27

# CONCLUSION & SOME DISCUSSION POINTS

>>Invitation to participate in the MUCF work to exchange on minor uses needs<<

## Decline of conventional chemical

- PPP industry invests less and less in new active substance development.
- Farm to Fork strategy with two main targets:
  - Target 1: to reduce by 50% the **use and risk of chemical pesticides** by 2030.
  - Target 2: to reduce by 50% the **use of more hazardous pesticides** by 2030.

**Upward trend** in the number of approved low-risk and basic substances (EC report 2020-05-20)

## Zero residue policy by supermarkets due to consumer trends

- Desire to have maximum information about the food. Full traceability.
- Pressure on retailers for better transparency and more responsibility, safety, quality standards, etc.
- Supermarkets in Europe specify a range of pesticide residues criteria for fresh produce (e.g. Lidl: Total sum of active substances found must not exceed five)

**Low-risk products are an important IPM tool** (consideration of all PPP measures).





Minor Uses Coordination Facility  
21 Boulevard Richard Lenoir  
750011 Paris  
France



+33(0)184790755



[barbara.edler@minoruses.eu](mailto:barbara.edler@minoruses.eu)  
[nathalie.boutron@minoruses.eu](mailto:nathalie.boutron@minoruses.eu)  
[antoine.martin@minoruses.eu](mailto:antoine.martin@minoruses.eu)



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