

CDG Horticulture, olives and spirits – Flowers sector

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Minor uses and specially crops : update on recent developments at EU level

An EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility (technical secretariat), hosted by EPPO and jointly funded by the EU and by the governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands, was established on 29th April 2015.

The mission of the Facility is “to enable farmers in the EU to produce high quality crops by filling minor uses gaps through efficient collaboration to improve availability of chemical and non-chemical tools within an IPM framework.” The Co-ordination Facility is independent, but, however, will collaborate with EPPO’s existing programme of work on plant protection products. The Facility has its own account and budget and a Steering Group comprising representatives of the funders. A Co-ordinator to lead the work of the Facility has been appointed in July and has been installed in office since 1 September 2015.

The Co-ordination Facility will be tasked with the coordination of minor uses work between Member States and stakeholders, sharing of information and experience, launching of EU projects, stimulation of harmonisation and the creation and maintenance of a data base on minor uses.

In addition, the Commission under the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) supports a European Research Area Network on Integrated Pest Management (C-IPM Eranet project), which aims at the development of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), the coordination of national research programmes and infrastructures, and the organisation of transnational calls on IPM, including minor uses.

These two activities will allow a progress in identifying solutions – chemical as well as non-chemical – for farmers in the field of pest and disease control in minor uses.