



Implications of EU policy and regulations on crop protection in practice – now and in the future

EFFP Conference, Wageningen,
The Netherlands, 1- 5 October 2012



Food, **A**griculture and **F**isheries, and **B**iotecnology
Knowledge - Based Bio - Economy (K B B E)

European Commission
DG Research &
Innovation

Timothy HALL
Unit Head, E4





EU legislative framework:

- Plant Protection
- Plant Health

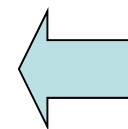
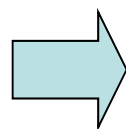
Research and Innovation Programmes

- activities in support of the above policies



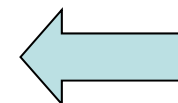
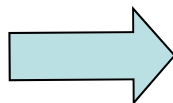
EU Regulatory legislative framework Plant Protection

Placing on
the market
of plant
protection
products



Sustainable
use of
pesticides

Collection
of statistics



Maximum
residue
levels of
pesticides



Technical requirements for
machinery





Approval of PPP

- Major revision of the whole regulatory framework
- New and stricter approval criteria and concepts
 - "Cut-off criteria" - Endocrine disruptors – Substitution principle
- Work sharing between EU and Member States
 - Approval of active substances at EU level – products at national level
- Incentives for low-risk and basic substances
 - Longer approval periods (15 y to unlimited) – accelerated procedure for authorisation of products
- IPM provisions





Review of active substances

- Before 1993: \approx 1000 substances
- Today: 412 approved
74 on-going
770 not approved





Sustainable use of pesticides

Objectives of the regulatory intervention at use level:

- Reducing risks and impacts of the use of pesticides
 - On human health
 - On the environment
- Promoting
 - The use of Integrate Pest Management
 - The use of alternative techniques





Sustainable use of pesticides

Reducing risks and impacts

- Training of professional users, advisors, distributors
- Sales of pesticides by qualified persons only
- Technical inspection of farmer's spraying equipment
- Aerial spraying
 - Complete ban – derogation only under very strict conditions
- Handling and storage
 - Avoid endangering health and the environment





Sustainable use of pesticides

Promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)(1)

- IPM ≠ no pesticides
- IPM =
 - *Low pesticide input management*
 - *Consideration of all available plant protection measures*
 - *pests and diseases kept at levels which are economically and ecologically justifiable*
 - *healthy crops with least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems*
- Obligatory as of 1 January 2014





Sustainable and responsible use of pesticides Promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)(2)

- Establishment of general principles among others
 - Preventive measures
 - *resistant varieties – crop rotation- adequate cultivation techniques*
 - Monitoring of pest and diseases
 - *field inspection – forecasting models – diagnostic tools -*
 - Threshold levels for acceptable presence of pest and diseases
 - Control: Biological, physical and other non-chemical methods, specific pesticides
- Best solution to be developed at national and regional level
 - Pest and diseases adapted to agricultural, soil and climatic conditions -
- Long term objective: IPM included in cross compliance scheme





Future work to develop the strategy

- Implementation of provisions for the approval of plant protection products
 - *Establishing criteria for endocrine disruptors (end 2013)*
 - *Identifying candidates for substitution (end 2013)*
- Sustainable use of pesticides
 - *Monitor and enforce legal transposition (ongoing)*
 - *National Action Plans of Member States (end 2012)*
 - *Implementation of IPM (January 2014)*
- Maximum residue levels
 - *Assessment of chemical mixtures (development methodology by EFSA ongoing)*





EU Regulatory legislative framework Plant Health – Bio-safety (1)

Plant Health Regime:

- Aims to block and regulate entry, movement and spread of pests in EU (plants and plant products)
- Imposes eradication and containment measures in outbreaks (co-financing)

Bio-safety legislation:

- Rules on movement of certain plants, plant products and other objects (threat of EU plants)
- Rules on trade (EU and non-EU imports)
- Rules on production controls, inspections and plant passports
- List of harmful organisms (including specific control measures)





EU Regulatory legislative framework Plant Health – Bio-safety (2)

When harmful organism is found in the EU, the country must:

- Inform Commission and other EU countries

EU database "EUROPHYT"

- Eradicate or prevent the spread of harmful organism
 - [Standing Committee on Plant Health](#) examines issue, resulting sometimes in new EU measures to control spread
- Emergency control measures by species
-- Emergency imports and long term measures





EU Regulatory legislative framework Plant Health – Bio-safety (3)

EU rules for movement and trade of certain plants, plant products and objects

Within the EU:

- Production controls and inspections at the place of production during the growing season and immediately after harvest
- Plant passports, issued once the material has passed all the EU checks
- Registration of EU producers

For certain plants, plant products and objects entering the EU a phyto-sanitary certificate is needed:

- Properly inspected, free from harmful organisms, in line with the plant health regulations of the importing country





EU Regulatory legislative framework Plant Health – Bio-safety (4)

Protected zones:

Aim at special protection for all or part of an EU country from particular harmful organism(s) (harmful organism(s) is not present or under eradication)

- Requirements on survey procedures to establish the protected zones
- Requirements for certain plants, plant products or other objects when moved into or within a protected zone





Current and future work

The Commission is currently reviewing:

- EU rules on Plant Health
- EU legislation on the marketing of seed and plant propagating material (SPPM)

The Commission is currently working on a dedicated legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species





Research & Innovation Activities

FP7 Projects on Issues of Plant Protection and Plant Health Concern (1)

- *IPM practices, pesticides*
PURE (9M), CO-FREE (3M), OSCAR (3M), TEAMPEST (2.3M)
- *Plant Health projects with IPM approaches to control pest(s)*
SharCo (3M), REPHRAME (3M), PALM PROTECT (3M)
- *Breeding projects (resistance breeding, biological control)*
Fruit Breedomics (6M), EU-Berry (3M), INNOVINE (6M)
- *Production systems*
EUPHOROS (3M), OSCAR (3M), VALORAM (3M), INNOVINE (6M)



FP7 Projects on Issues of Plant Protection and Plant Health Concern (2)

- *Risk assessment*

PRATIQUE (3M), ISEFOR (3M), REPHRAME (3M), SharCo (3M)

- *Diagnostics*

QBOL (3M), Q-Detect (3M), TESTA (3M)
PRATIQUE (3M), ISEFOR (3M), SharCo (3M)

- *Specific plant-pathogens interactions*

REPHRAME, pine wood nematode SharCo (3M), Plum Pox virus
PALM PROTECT (3M), *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier and
Paysandisia archon Burmeister

- *Research coordination*

EUPHRESKO II- ERA-NET (1M)



Future Research & Innovation Support Possibilities

WP2013

- 1) Topic on biological control agents for agriculture and forestry 9M
- 2) Topic on fruit pests and pathogens (*Drosophila suzukii* and other quarantine pests and pathogens) 6M
- 3) CSA-CA on reference collections and diagnostics databases of Plant Health concern 0,5 M
- 4) ERA-Net of IPM (including 'minor uses') 2M

HORIZON 2020 (2014-2020)

Societal challenge: "Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine & maritime resources and the bioeconomy" 4.15 B

