

PHY(14)2497:6

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**COPA-COGECA AND IBMA ROADMAP FOR  
COLLABORATION IN 2014/2015**

# **COPA-COGECA AND IBMA ROADMAP FOR COLLABORATION IN 2014/2015**

Copa-Cogeca and IBMA aim to work closer together in 2014 and 2015 with the goal to accelerate the development and use of reliable, robust and efficacious plant protection solutions in EU Agriculture.

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.

At the same time, biocontrol manufacturers have been facing issues in bringing biocontrol solutions to the market through unduly long regulatory processes and delays and slow farmer uptake of those solutions available.

The lack of tools, be they mechanical, chemical or biological, to control pests and diseases, both on a preventive and curative side, is becoming a crucial factor for the cultivation of crops, including many specialty crops, in the European Union. This compromises not only food safety and security, but also the competitiveness of the entire agri-food chain, including its productivity and sustainability. Employment, diversity of high quality agri-food products provided to the society and biodiversity are all under threat.

Copa-Cogeca and IBMA aim to work closely to ensure that biocontrol solutions are made available without unnecessary delay and to ensure farmers are presented with efficacious solutions and appropriate knowledge to allow them to be used in a robust and predictable manner.

The Roadmap for 2014-2015 focuses on 3 platforms of co-operation between the 2 organisations.

## **PLATFORM 1**

### ***Information exchange and targeting solutions***

The organisations will co-operate to supply:

- a. Main needs of farmers;
- b. Research and development activities of the biocontrol sector producing solutions;
- c. Robust programmes of pest and disease management;

These activities will initially be focused on the following pilot crop systems in the area of:

- Bell peppers
- Grapes
- Cucumbers
- Leafy vegetables
- Soft fruit
- Rice
- Corn (Diabrotica)
- Carrots
- Onions
- Soil disinfestation and nematode control

Copa-Cogeca will prepare and disseminate lists of priority pests and diseases for the pilot crops. IBMA will ask members to supply an inventory of solutions with information on registration status and availability, efficacy expectations, control system needs and requirements. Control programmes will then be jointly planned.

On farm collaborations between growers and IBMA members will be established in appropriate regional locations. Pest and disease management systems will be developed and validated. Information exchange will be agreed and will involve dissemination to growers in appropriate forms and joint publication in agreed local media.

## **PLATFORM 2**

### ***Co-operation in EU Minor Uses and Specialty Crops***

Copa-Cogeca and IBMA agree to co-operate in progressing the principle that biocontrol products are made available to growers for minor uses and specialty crops, that the IPM programmes should be tiered with the priority of non-chemical solutions including biocontrol, where this is feasible. Proposed solutions should take into account and document availability of all techniques including those not requiring registration such as macrobial biocontrol agents. Solutions should have robust resistance management proposals and implementation. Copa-Cogeca and IBMA will work towards implementation of robust schemes alongside appropriate EU bodies.

## **PLATFORM 3**

### ***Low-risk active substances and products***

Copa-Cogeca aims to work together with IBMA at the level of the European Commission (EU COM) and Member State level to promote the need for DG Sanco to include revised provisions for low-risk substances and products within EU Regulation 1107/2009.

Copa-Cogeca will partner IBMA in seeking inclusion of the current deficiencies and legislative proposals for low-risk substances and products under a call to EU Council and Parliament in the provision in Article 82 of Regulation 1007/2009.

IBMA and Copa-Cogeca agree that more could be done with timelines and fees to accelerate the bringing to the market of low-risk substances and products, many of which will be biocontrol substances and products. IBMA members will potentially benefit from bringing products to market several years earlier than with current experience. Copa-Cogeca members would benefit from also having products to the market several years earlier with full data packages including robust efficacy testing to back label claims.

IBMA will lead this activity alongside EU Member States' policymakers. Copa-Cogeca will provide support through meetings and communication with DG Sanco, and activities of National Groups at EU Member State level.

---