

Copa-Cogeca – IBMA

Roadmap for collaboration in 2018- 2025





Copa-Cogeca/IBMA Roadmap for Collaboration from 2018-2025

Since 2009, EU farmers have been deprived of solutions to tackle pests and diseases. Moreover, they face increasing obligations to use alternative non-chemical pest control techniques, despite the insufficient information, knowledge and products at their disposal.

Biocontrol manufacturers have come up against obstacles when trying to introduce biocontrol solutions onto the market. Indeed, regulatory processes and delays are unduly long and slow down farmer uptake of the solutions available.

That is why, in 2014, IBMA and Copa-Cogeca decided to sign a first Roadmap for Collaboration with three main objectives:

1. Ensure that farmers are provided with effective biocontrol solutions
2. Ensure that biocontrol solutions are made available without unnecessary delays
3. Exchange knowledge in order to ensure that biocontrol solutions are used in a reliable and predictable manner

In light of the progress achieved, both organisations recognise the value of such collaboration and consider that there is a mutual interest to continue with it. The previous three platforms remain relevant and both organisations agree that their cooperation should be broadened with the creation of an additional platform.

In the meantime, there have been several initiatives that are relevant to this area of work, such as the establishment of the European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility (EUMUCF), the Motion for Resolution from the European Parliament (8/2/2018 [B8-0140/2017](#)) and the Expert Group on Sustainable Plant Protection. Copa-Cogeca and IBMA have actively contributed to all of these initiatives with a shared purpose and common goals.

Therefore, this new Roadmap for Collaboration will take into account these initiatives and incorporate this into the future work of IBMA and Copa-Cogeca. This will encourage a more efficient use of the existing resources. The Roadmap for Collaboration may also be extended to involve other stakeholders, where relevant, in order to disseminate advice to growers and improve communication.

Platform 1

Cooperation on EU Minor Uses and Specialty Crops



Copa-Cogeca and IBMA agree to cooperate to ensure that solutions are made available to growers for minor uses and specialty crops, and that the solutions should be ranked in order of priority, the first priority being non-chemical solutions including biocontrol. In most cases, tolerances do not need to be set for these solutions as they are exempt from an MRL requirement. Macrobial biocontrol solutions and other innovative industry developments may not require EU approval and/or authorisation.

Proposed solutions should take into account and document the availability of all techniques, including those not requiring registration such as macrobial biocontrol agents. Solutions should feature robust resistance management plans and implementation.

IBMA and Copa-Cogeca are to work towards implementing a robust system with the EUMUCF and other possible stakeholders (advisory systems, [EUVRIN](#), [EUFRIN](#)).

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- IBMA and Copa-Cogeca will facilitate the making available of solutions to growers for minor uses and specialty crops by taking an active part in Horizontal and Commodity Expert Groups.
- IBMA and Copa-Cogeca will collaborate to ensure that solutions tailored to the needs of minor uses and specialty crops include options from the biocontrol sector in particular.
- IBMA and Copa-Cogeca will work towards ensuring that databases are not unnecessarily duplicated and are developed, where possible, based on existing databases which are to be made fully functional.

Platform 2

Information exchange and targeted solutions

This platform is still relevant and of importance. Identifying needs and exchanging information are key to developing targeted solutions. In this respect, the organisations will cooperate on the following:

- ◆ identifying the main needs of farmers
- ◆ solutions and research and development activities in the biocontrol industry
- ◆ working towards producing robust pest and disease management programmes

Based on the needs of European farmers at national level and by sector, the EUMUCF has already developed a list of needs. This list, which is updated regularly, will be used as the starting point for the establishment of pilot crop systems



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- Copa-Cogeca will review and disseminate lists of priority issues for the pilot crops.
- IBMA will ask members to provide an inventory of solutions with information on registration status and availability, efficacy expectations and specific conditions and requirements, such as minimum plot sizes, reinforcement of boundary treatments with pheromones, minimum water volumes and presence of water for beneficial nematodes.
- Programmes will then be planned jointly. On-farm collaborative projects involving growers and IBMA members will be established in appropriate regional locations.
- IBMA National Groups and/or its members can participate in (already ongoing) local projects with Copa-Cogeca member organisations (e.g. in France and the Netherlands)
- Pest and disease management systems, including prevention programs, will be established and approved, including a provision for regional variation.
- Information exchange will be agreed and will involve dissemination to growers in appropriate formats and joint publication in agreed local publications.

Platform 3

Low-risk active substances and products



IBMA members would potentially benefit from bringing products onto the market several years earlier than they are able to do so at present based on their current experience. Copa-Cogeca members would also benefit from having products on the market several years earlier, with full data packages including robust efficacy testing to back label claims.

IBMA will continue to conduct this activity alongside active EU and Member State policy-makers. Copa-Cogeca will provide support through meetings and communication with DG SANTE and the activities of National Groups at EU Member State level.

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- Copa-Cogeca will work with IBMA at an EU Commission level and also at Member State level to encourage DG SANTE to apply revised provisions for low-risk substances and products under EU Regulation 1107/2009.
- Copa-Cogeca will support IBMA in calling on the EU Council and Parliament to include label claims for low-risk substances and products in the provision in Article 82 of Regulation 1107/2009 requiring the EU Commission to report back on the workings of the Regulation and possible amendments.
- IBMA and Copa-Cogeca agree that more could be done in terms of the timeline and fees to accelerate the placing on the market of low-risk substances and products, many of which will be biocontrol substances and products.

Platform 4

Regulation of biocontrol solutions proportionate to the risk they pose

IBMA will lead this platform with EU and Member State policy-makers, and Copa-Cogeca will provide support at EU level and national level through national farmers' associations.

Legislation needs to be fit for purpose to provide biological plant protection solutions to European growers. It must ensure that growers have access to the most up-to-date biocontrol tools through a regulatory system which assesses the tools based on data requirements and procedures that are appropriate and proportionate to the risk that these active substances and products pose to human health and the environment.

Collaboration should encompass but not be limited to exercises such as the REFIT of Regulation 1107/2009 and any follow-up activities resulting from the report to the European Parliament on the functioning of the Regulation, to which both organisations have contributed in a consultative and harmonised way.



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- Copa-Cogeca will work with IBMA to ensure that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council agree to introduce the proposed changes to Regulation 1107/2009.



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