

Improving the availability of plant protection solutions in minor uses of vegetables by collaborative work in the European Commodity Expert Group fruits and vegetables

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Minor uses in plant protection are areas of usage of minor economic impact. For some minor uses no appropriate control solutions (chemical, biological or mechanical) are available for practical usage. This relates specifically to vegetable crops, small fruits or ornamental crops. Recently, the European Minor Use Coordination Facility (MUCF) was established and located at the EPPO in Paris. The MUCF provides administrative and technical support to the European Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs, <https://www.minoruses.eu>). The CEG fruits and vegetables initiates and commissions collaborative work of EU member states like residue and efficacy trials to promote solutions. This is done in close co-operation with other stakeholders like companies. Currently, the CEG fruits and vegetables is engaged in promoting biological control solutions for thrips. As part of these activities, the JKI in Braunschweig conducted efficacy trials in leek with several promising biological products based on entomopathogenic fungi, fermentation solids of bacteria, or plant extracts.

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