

REPORT ON THE VISIT OF PROF. MARIJA ZGOMBA TO THE University of Montenegro, Biotechnical faculty, WITHIN "LOVCEN" PROJECT 11-16TH APRIL 2016

This Report sets out the outlines of the program that was included in the LOVCEN Project aiming at two main topics, that were included in the lectures given to the students enrolled into the Plant Protection Specialist's Study.

1. Integrated Pest Management within the Plant Protection Programs and
2. Towards the development and dissemination of best practice on sustainable use of biocidal products.

The objectives of the first topic was to give an overview of the contemporary approach to the methods included in the IPM. The emphases was given on the possible complementary methods/alternatives to the conventional/chemical control of the most abundant pests. The presentations included Protection of vegetables, orchards and vineyards.

The aim of the second topic within training with the selected students was to identify existing best practices that have been developed by the competent authorities of European Member States or by industry (stakeholders) for the biocidal product types identified in Directive 98/8/EC, in order to ensure a sustainable use of biocidal products. More specifically, information provided were regarding:

- the approaches towards best practices on the use of biocidal products at Member States level,
- the best practices linked to the use of biocidal products developed and
- the way how the concept of best practices could be best adapted and used at Community level.

The Sustainable Use Directive defines "pesticide" as (a) a plant protection product as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and (b) a "biocidal" product as defined in Directive 98/8/EC.4.

The Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market has resulted in a new Regulation on biocides that is going through the EU legislative process. This aims to establish more harmonised rules in relation to the approval of active substances and the placing on the market and use of biocidal products.

Defining 'best practice' on 'sustainable use of biocidal products'

During the course the definition of "sustainable use of biocidal products" as well as further clarification of the term 'best practice' became clear. The definition of "use" provided in the proposed Biocidal Products Regulation is product-centred, which corresponds to levels of acceptable risk related to a biocidal substance, based on a product formulation and its application. "Sustainable use" is a broader concept that considers the use of biocides in general, along with the overall risks posed by all biocidal product use, and aims at the overall least impact on human health and the environment. It considers the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social, environmental) at the various points when decisions are taken concerning how to achieve the desired objective of preventing or controlling the growth of harmful organisms/mosquitoes. Thus it goes beyond acceptable risk to seek any additional opportunities for further risk reductions that can be achieved while ensuring effective action against harmful

organisms. This provides a further margin for ensuring least possible impacts on health and environment.

Sustainable use thus highly depends on the course on the decisions taken by the individual operator at the various decision points. This emphasis on decision points is also followed in the application of integrated pest management (IPM). Important decision points include consideration of long-term measures aimed at prevention, use of thresholds in combination with monitoring of mosquitoes to determine when an intervention is needed, and the choice of which control option to apply.

The definition of IPM or, specifically Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) refer to the need for “careful consideration of all available methods” as well as “other forms of intervention”, and therefore goes beyond a product-centered approach. This includes non-chemical approach, like the one it has been implemented within the LOVČEN Project, Mono Molecular Films. It is however important to acknowledge that it is not a straight-forward task to apply IMM methods.

Developing best practice: objectives and participation

The protection of human health is the most common *objective* for best practice documents. Documents typically follow two main approaches: the effective use of biocides against harmful organisms; and the reduction of human exposure to biocides. Many of the best practice documents destined for professional users or industry also sought to reduce costs, in some cases via the reduction of the volumes of biocide consumed.

Prof Marija Zgomba

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Zgomba', written in a cursive style.