

COST Action CA16123
Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture (SACURIMA)
Webinar: Policy Recommendations for Improving Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture

Time: Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Place: Online webinar

Notes from the Sacurima Webinar – EU representatives/Brussel, June 30, 2.00 -3.00 p.m. (CET)

Participants list is attached in the end-

1. Pat Griffin (IE) as the moderator for the Webinar welcomed everyone, dealt with housekeeping matters, advised all that the Webinar was scheduled to run for 1 hour and asked Petya Stavreva to say a few words.
2. Petya Stavreva (BG) welcomed everybody and introduced herself as a former member of the European Parliament. Petya reflected on the fruitful meetings in Brussels last year with a number of EU Commissioners and MEP's and with Copa-Cogeca, and hoped that SACURIMA would get positive support for its suggestions for the new CAP. Petya then gave the floor to the chair of the SACURIMA COST Action to say a few words.
3. Risto Rautiainen (FI) as the Action Chair of SACURIMA gave a brief introduction on the establishment and work of the Sacurima COST Action network setting out that is now in it's final year. Risto stated that the COST Action members were happy to discuss what they had learnt within the network and looked forward to feed-back on the recommendations which would be presented today.
4. COST Communication officer Karima BenSalah from the COST Association gave a short presentation of the COST concept with a short animated video. COST Actions are established to strengthen interdisciplinary communication and research networks in Europe and COST international partners all over the world. Judith Litjens as the COST Policy officer also introduced herself as an observer.
5. The moderator then asked each of the participants to briefly introduce themselves. Following this the moderator asked Anne Marie Heiberg the chair of WG5 Dissemination to start the Action presentation.
6. Anne Marie Heiberg (NO) gave a power-point presentation setting out the background to the COST Action, the extensive media reports of fatal & serious incidents on farms across Europe, how the COST Action grew from 7/8 countries to 33 countries with over 100 multidisciplinary experts. Anne Marie also referred to our website and Facebook and set out our target audiences, particularly EU Policy Makers. Challenges faced included, Agriculture being one of the most hazardous industries in the EU, measured by work-related injuries,

illnesses, disabilities, deaths and the lack of risk management. There are also great variations in statistics, organizations and programs that deal with the safety, health, and well-being of farmers in Europe.

7. Risto Rautiainen (FI) presented a video which was produced by SACURIMA during the COVID 19 lockdown which focused on “Vulnerable populations working in agriculture”.
8. The presentation then moved onto the 5 Recommendations on the revised CAP coming from research carried out by the SACURIMA COST Action. Pat Griffin (IE) introduced Recommendation No 1 with the suggestion on the need to protect the safety, health and well-being of agricultural primary producers and farm workers in Europe by integrating OSH into all current and future agricultural policies. Updating the CAP policy objectives should include workplace risk management using ‘Safety Culture’, ‘Zero Vision’ and the ‘One Health’ principles. All other major economic sectors in the EU such as Manufacturing, Transport, Chemicals, Construction, etc., implement risk management with advanced safety cultures based on a Zero Harm/ Zero Injury culture. This is largely based on the application of the OSH Framework Directive and its daughter directives which are not applied in Agriculture.
9. Risto Rautiainen (FI) presented Recommendation No 2 and argued for the need to establish a European Network for Agricultural Safety and Health with regional and state affiliated organizations focusing on the safety, health, well-being and sustainability of people involved in agriculture. This network could develop the programs, tools and resources needed to improve the OSH performance of the sector.
10. John McNamara (IE) presented Recommendation No 3 & 4, on the need for funding for Ag Health & Safety research from Horizon 2020 & Horizon Europe. There have been very limited sources of funding at EU and national level to support research and development in the health, safety and well-being of farmers and agricultural workers. John also point out the need to develop and implement a safety, health and well-being risk assessment, education and skills program for primary producers, including self-employed farmers, family members, workers and students in agricultural schools.
11. Pat Griffin (IE) presented Recommendation No 5 on the need for improved Eurostat and national statistics to reflect the true incidence and severity of agricultural workplace death, injury and ill-health. From SACURIMA research, there is significant under-reporting of fatal and serious injury in Agriculture across the EU. For example, in 2013 there were zero fatalities reported from several countries such as Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg and Slovenia while France reported 1 fatality and Poland reported 4 fatalities. In the same year 2013, Germany reported 76 farm fatalities and Austria reported 49. Based on a simple questionnaire which received detailed responses from competent authorities in 20 member states it was found that 60% do not inspect farms operated solely by self-employed farmers, 75% of member states do not record or investigate fatalities on farms operated solely by self-employed farmers. Fatalities to these farmers, their family members or workers without a contract of employment are going unreported, not investigated and not recorded. Therefore the official 2013 EU (28) annual figure for farm fatalities of 366 per year could in fact be three times higher without even considering fatalities due to chronic health effects.
12. Pat Griffin (IE) also spoke on the final power point slide of the presentation. This slide showed a graphic of the 9 Objectives of the new CAP but Pat posed the question of where the primary producer and workers fit. It was proposed that we need to add the development of the farmer skills set and Ag Health & Safety as a clear objective no 10.

13. Pat Griffin (IE) opened up the Webinar for comments and discussions from the Chat function and asked Pekka Pesonen from Copa-Cogeca to elaborate on his comment.
14. Pekka Pesonen from Copa-Cogeca started by giving credit to an important presentation and that he was listening very careful to all our arguments referring to his own experiences in USA during his studies. He also pointed out the importance of the food sector and the need to create sustainable agriculture. Pekka then pointed out the problems with decreasing funding for agriculture. The EU difficulties in this area are very much related to our farm structures, which is evident in comparison with the US. Small farm structures and the elderly farming population are certainly factors. Copa-Cogeca and Geopa-Copa (agri employers' organisation) have supported measures to address this in the EU; including the general sustainability, economic, ecologic and SOCIAL matters. The current difficulty is that the MFF proposes actually lower expenditure in 2018 prices to the CAP, in particular in the Pillar II / Rural Development area. In addition, the former ring-fencing of the €10 billion for Horizon 2020 -funding on bioeconomy will question our needs in the research area. He further referred to continued important collaboration with COPA, that we need a sustainable, safe and professional agriculture in the future.
15. Pat brought up the importance of the image of agriculture, the lack of generational renewal across many parts of the EU which threaten food security and sustainability. Farmers face many challenges not least in climate change, improving water quality, ensuring bio-diversity and new challenges around COVID-19 as well as occupational health & safety. Pat also brought up ideas about possible solutions including on-line training on all these issues and health & safety for farmers.
16. Pekka Pesonen thanked all for a good and fruitful meeting and for the good suggestions for improvements in agriculture safety.
17. Pat thanked everyone and referred to our web-page and Facebook if anyone wished to get any further information. Petya closed the meeting, mentioning that SACURIMA members will promote these policy initiatives in upcoming meetings and communications with National and EU officials.

Webinar minutes written by Peter Lundqvist (SLU) and Jarkko Leppälä (Luke)

Webinar participants:

Chris MacManus, EU
Sally-Ann Malone, EU
Essi Kiiski, EU
Juan Saez, EU
Daniel Buda, EU
Robin De Switter, EU
Pekka Pesonen, Copa-Cogeca
Manuel Delgado, Geopa-Copa
Karima BenSalah, COST Association
Judith Litjens, COST Association
Estelle Emeriau, COST Association

Sacurima COST Action network members:

Mr. Pat Griffin, HSA, Ireland
Prof. Risto Rautiainen, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
Prof. Jože Starič, Slovenia
Prof. Peter Lundqvist, SLU, Sweden
Ms. Petya Stavreva, Bulgaria
Ms. Anne Marie Heiberg, Norway
Prof. Laura Girdziute, Lithuania
Dr. Erich Koch, SVLFG, Germany
Dr. Jarkko Leppala, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
Dr. John G McNamara, Teagasc, Ireland
Prof. Claudia Cordovil, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Prof. Claudio Colosio, University of Milan, Italy