



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Workshop Medicines for Bees – What the Agency can do to increase availability 14-15 December 2009

Report from Breakout session:

GROUP 1

Presented by: Isaura Duarte
Head of Animal And Public Health
European Medicines Agency

An agency of the European Union





Analysis of current situation

Critical diseases in bee keeping sector

- Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*)
- Nosemosis (*Nosema apis*)
- American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*)
- European foulbrood (*Melissococcus plutonius*)
- *Nosema ceranae*
- Bee virus

New threats are expected from:

- *Tropilaelaps mite*
- Small hive beetle

Analysis of current situation

Options for treatments

Are the options for treatment sufficient?

Varroa

- Treatment is available although there are problems of resistance and of efficacy
- Strategy for control and treatment is needed – New ways of treatment and new medicines are needed
- Medicines are available but not equally at European Level

Analysis of current situation

Options for treatments

Are the options for treatment sufficient?

Nosemosis (Nosema apis and Nosema ceranae)

- Prophylaxis is essential
- Good beekeeping is the key
- Options for treatment are needed – Antibiotics and coccidiostats are not the solution (no consensus view)

Analysis of current situation

Options for treatments

Are the options for treatment sufficient?

American foulbrood

- No treatment is wanted – destruction of infected colonies, shook swarm method

European foulbrood

- Prophylaxis is the key – antibiotics are not the solution (no consensus view)

Analysis of current situation

Options for treatments

Are the options for treatment sufficient?

Tropilaelaps

- Treatment available is considered sufficient at present - Use treatment for varroa

Small hive beetle

- Veterinary medicines based on coumaphos –Ok for short term
- More are needed in long term particularly for southern countries



Analysis of current situation

Options for treatments

Are the options for treatment sufficient?

- Bee viruses

- Essentially linked to the control of varroa
- No need for specific medicines

Analysis of current situation

Possible reasons for lack of treatment options

- Resistance problems with existing products
- Efficacy problems
- Incorrect treatment
- Lack of harmonised treatment strategy
- Availability of medicines
- Insufficient knowledge of beekeepers
- Costs



Proposals for possible solutions or actions

- Strategy has to come first to decide case by case whether medication should be used, in which conditions e.g. in last resort
- Products should be authorised as veterinary medicines to ensure that they are adequate to the intended use
- Easier registration of medicines of substances with MRLs specially the ones in Annex II – Harmonisation between Member States
- Optimising the use of the substances already available with more flexibility for changing formulation and conditions of use

→ Organic acids What the Agency can do to increase availability"



Proposals for possible solutions or actions

- Further research is needed for development of new/alternative treatments
- Better instructions for use of the products
- Creation of a group of experts to propose a strategy for treatment
- Control programmes are needed that include good beekeeping practice and medicines



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY

Thank you for your attention

European Medicines Agency