



DG SANTE Mission in Italy on bee health 2016-8759

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Information on SHB aspects

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SANTE F2**

Context

- **Commission activities on Bee Health**

- Limited legislative framework (EU trade, import conditions)
- Support to surveillance studies on bee losses
- Financial Support of National Apiculture programmes (DG AGRI) – including "combating beehive invaders and diseases, particularly varroasis"
- Restriction of use of certain pesticides

Need to observe state of play

- **Fact-finding missions**

- Gather information of implementation of EU legislation and application of national legislation
- Better understand the monitoring surveillance and control systems for bee health
- Determine possible gaps and difficult areas in existing EU legislation, and scope for possible improvement for better protection of bee health

SANTE F missions

Missions:

- Austria
- Spain
- Romania - joint mission with control over Plant Protection Products
- **Italy - including control on SHB - June 2016**

Visits:

- **Competent Authorities (Central, regional, local)**
- **Laboratories (National reference centre, import control laboratory)**
- **Bee-keepers associations,**
- **Apiaries (infected, under restriction - breeders, production)**

Conclusions

The control of the small hive beetle in Calabria is uncertain, but the spill over into Sicily was effectively managed. Effective controls and support from the beekeeping industry contribute to confidence in the favourable situation in this latter region.

The challenges faced by Italy, and experience gained on strategic, tactical and practical aspects for the control and eradication of the small hive beetle are hugely valuable at European level, for a better preparation and efficient early response of this exotic pest.

- **IT acquired a lot of knowledge on SHB surveillance and control**
 - Encountered technical, practical, sociological, managerial difficulties
 - Refined its strategy over time
 - Would benefit – and make others benefit - from a critical analysis and external review of strategic components (surveillance, control, epidemiological analysis)
- **Other MS are developing strategic tools to react to the SHB threat**
 - Enhanced surveillance
 - Training and awareness campaigns
 - Contingency plan

Even in the absence of European legislative framework, we can improve our strategy to control infestation of SHB – by exchanging experience on difficulties and solutions.

Contingency planning

- *Legal basis*
 - **For destruction – and compensation**
 - **For restriction of movement (PZ, SZ): animals, products, equipment**
- *Cooperation between CAs*
 - **Agriculture services (National apiculture programmes)**
 - **Forestry, police, local authorities...**
- *Collaboration stakeholders*
 - **Structure of bee-keeping**
 - **Expert group?**

**Involve - get support from
Bee-keeper associations**

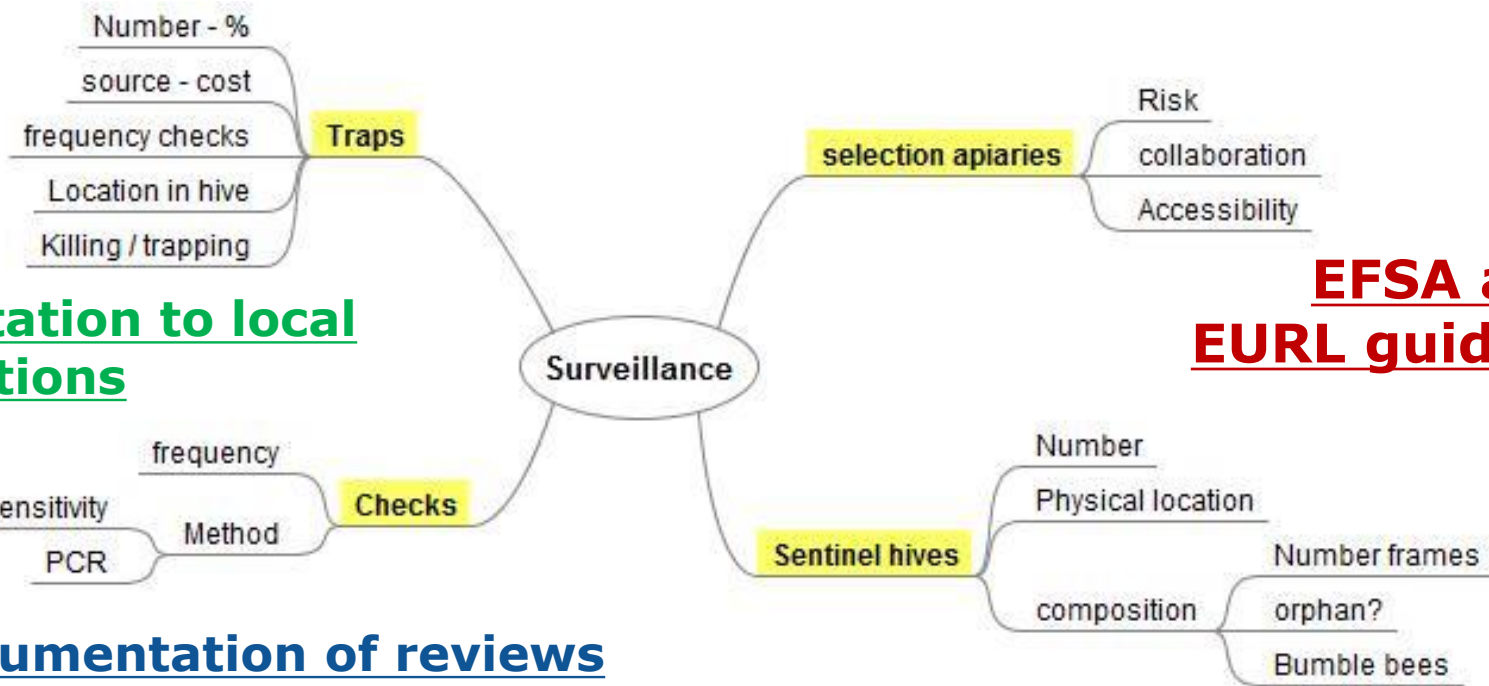
Issues for contingency plans

- *Financial provisions*
 - **Implementation and control of measures**
 - **Compensation** – valuation
- *Epidemiological investigation*
 - **Underlying traceability system** – sources of information
- *Establishment of PZ / SZ*
 - **Duration?** **Sicily: Y+2**
 - Pollination needs - artificial swarm? Bumble bees (use/production)?
 - Lack of food (artificial feeding) + no profit - reduce nb hives – favour SHB spread?
 - Transhumant bee-keepers – how to process honey?
 - **Conditions for movements between zones: equipment, products – official controls**

Monitoring and surveillance systems

lessons from IT experience

- **Factors affecting notification - passive surveillance**
- **Active surveillance – what works best (results of detection)**



Adaptation to local conditions

EFSA advice
EURL guidelines

Documentation of reviews

More to be learnt from experience:

- *Method of destruction – disinsectisation*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Training*
- *Laboratory support*

Simulation exercises?

Exit strategy?

Italian experience:

- **What worked well (tips)**
- **What went wrong (why?)**
- **Drivers for adapting surveillance and control**



European
Commission

Thank you