

Open-ended workshop on biological control agents and biostimulants

23–24 September 2024

FAO Headquarters, German room (C-269)



OPEN-ENDED WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS AND BIOSTIMULANTS

Growing concerns about the impact of pesticide use on biodiversity and human health – and increasing demand for products from biodiversity-friendly production systems – have led to growing interest in alternative methods of pest control, including particularly the use of microbial and invertebrate biological control agents (BCAs).

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its 19th Regular Session, considered conservation and sustainable use of microbial and invertebrate BCAs and microbial biostimulants. It recommended that an open-ended workshop be held with the aim of

- (i) raising awareness of the potential of BCAs and biostimulants;
- (ii) reviewing the global regulatory situation regarding the import and export of BCAs and biostimulants, and ABS arrangements for relevant genetic resources;
- (iii) identifying possible regulatory gaps and unnecessary restrictions affecting the use of BCAs and biostimulants; and
- (iv) addressing environmental risk assessment for BCAs.

The open-ended workshop will be held in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI International) and the International Organization for Biological and Integrated Control from 23-24 September in Rome, Italy at FAO Headquarters. The workshop will be held back-to-back with the first session of the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (25-27 September 2024). The workshop is supported by the European Union through the ACP MEAs 3 programme, *Building capacity related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries*.

Simultaneous interpretation in all UN languages will be available.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

10:00 Opening remarks

- 10:00 **Godfrey Magwenzi**, Director of Cabinet, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
Martin Hill, President, International Organization for Biological and Integrated Control
Ulrich Kuhlmann, Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI International

PANEL I: BIOCONTROL - SETTING THE SCENE

Moderator: Ulrich Kuhlmann, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International - CABI

10:30 **BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: AN OVERVIEW**

Martin Hill, International Organization for Biological and Integrated Control

CLASSICAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS AND INSECTS

Hariet Hinz, CABI International

AUGMENTATIVE BIOCONTROL USING TRICHOGRAMMA IN CHINA: A CASE STUDY

Lian-Sheng Zang, State Key Laboratory of Green Pesticides, Guizhou University, China

CONSERVATION BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: SCOPE AND CHALLENGES FOR FURTHER UPTAKE

Tania Zaviezo, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

MICROBIAL SEED COATING FOR CROP GROWTH, YIELD, AND CROP PROTECTION

Helena Freitas, University of Coimbra, Portugal

ABIOTIC STRESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: STRENGTHENING CROP RESILIENCE WITH BIOSTIMULANTS

David Barton, European Biostimulants Industry Council

Discussion

13:00 Lunch break

PANEL II: BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Moderator: Ivy Saunyama, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Zimbabwe

15:00 **BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FOR ONE HEALTH**

Urs Schaffner, CABI International

NATURAL ENEMIES – NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR INVASIVE WEEDS IN THE PACIFIC

Lynley Hayes, Landcare Research

ASSESSING THE RISKS OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL**Rob Tanner**, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization**DISCIPLINARY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL****Kris Wyckhuys**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viet Nam**CHANGING GOVERNMENT PERCEPTIONS OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL****Raghu Sathyamurthy**, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation**BIOCONTROL INDUSTRY – MARKET CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES****Jennifer Lewis**, International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association**Discussion**

18:00 Reception

DAY 2: 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

PANEL III: THE POLICY LANDSCAPE*Moderator:* Martin Hill, International Organization for Biological and Integrated Control10:00 **REGULATION OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW****Ralf-Udo Ehlers**, Biocontrol Biotech Consult, Germany**REGIONAL HARMONIZATION OF BIOCONTROL REGULATIONS: CASE OF EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA****Paul Mwambu**, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, Uganda**BIOCONTROL AND BIOSTIMULANTS: THE REGULATORY SITUATION IN BRAZIL****Henrique Bley**, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Brazil**BIOCONTROL REGULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****Mike Mendelsohn**, Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America**ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING AND BIOCONTROL****Luciana Silvestri**, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Argentina**ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING AND BIOCONTROL: A CASE STUDY FROM KENYA****Joseph Mulema**, CABI International**Discussion**

13:00 Lunch break

PANEL IV: RECOMMENDATIONS*Moderator:* KimAnh Tempelman, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations15:00 **Discussion**17:45 **Closing remarks**