Views of a Biocontrol Producers Association

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IGOs and European Institutions all say we should green agriculture.

FAO, OECD and the EU all have greening initiatives. In Europe the SUD and the EU Sustainable Plant Protection 40 point implementation plan are but two of these.
Farmers PPP tools

Farmers need tools to produce the food we need for our expanding world population and changing dietary needs.

Biocontrol tools will add to food security.
What “Non-chemical solutions” are currently available from the Biocontrol industry?

Microbials
- Viruses, Bacteria & Fungal Pathogens
  - Found naturally in soil, used in food, feed & and unregulated uses

Macrobials
- Predators, parasites & nematodes
- Living organisms found to naturally protect crops

Semiocchemicals
- Pheromones, Plant volatiles
  - Communication tools found in nature with no killing effect

Natural & Biochemical Products
- Botanicals & Other Natural substances
- Products derived from nature

Usually regulated as PPPs
Not usually regulated as PPPs
Human health and our environment more and more are justifiably a focus of concern when approving and renewing PPPs.

Biocontrol tools will still be tested rigorously.
Conventional chemical PPPs

Synthetic chemistry active substances and products approved under 1107/2009 and renewed under AIR programmes are needed as tools in our farmers toolboxes as they pose a manageable risk
New PPP active substances

A majority of new PPP active substances being approved in the EU from today will be biological and a majority of these will pose low risk.
Regulation of low-risk PPPs

If an active substance poses a low risk to the environment and human health it should be fast tracked to the market as per the mfR of EP and not be delayed by increasing scrutiny as with other PPPs.
Resistance and Biological PPPs

Biological tools most often have complex modes of action. They are less prone to resistance development and a key part of preventing or delaying onset of resistance for other PPPs. Resistance is further exacerbated by reducing the number of tools a farmer can use.
Specificity of biological PPPs

Many biological products are extremely specific i.e. to a single species and therefore by nature pose a low or negligible risk to our environment including human health.
IBMA promote holistic biocontrol based agriculture

- Prevention of pest & disease explosion
- Use of all available tools
- Minimise risk to human health and the environment

IPM is necessary to ensure a robust holistic control of pests and diseases of today and tomorrow
Concluding remarks

If policymakers around our world including in Europe are in agreement and favour of greening agriculture using IPM as the standard practice and bringing more low-risk biological products to the market – what are we waiting for?
Thank you for the opportunity for participating