

Autumn 2019

Review of the year to date

Team Update

IBMA has welcomed new members onto our board in 2019. Sylvia Plak (Sumitomo Chemical) as IBMA President and Karine Grosbeau (Elephant Vert) our new Treasurer since 1 January 2019 have slotted into their roles and been very active in ensuring our organisation remains dynamic and pushes for recognition and proportionate regulation to facilitate market entry for innovative products. They alongside Vice-President Roma Gwynn (APS Biocontrol) have been providing the support and direction for our secretariat.

Ulf Heilig joined our team as an employee in January. As our Regulatory Affairs Director he has been able to provide more time than when he provided services as our Regulatory Consultant.

In June we welcomed our incoming Executive Director Jennifer Lewis who has spent a busy summer getting an overview of past IBMA work and developing its future strategy. She started off with joining the board and team on an away day in June to discuss the future of our association and the biocontrol industry within a new EU context.

Growing ambitions mean growing workload - Our administrative assistant Louisa Püschel started to work a half-day more (3 full days) a week from September to better support the team and Professional group heads.



IBMA board and secretariat busy in discussion of priorities, alliances and internal cooperation.

Executive Director : The first 100 days

I started my work as IBMA Executive Director on 4th June. Having previously worked for IBMA member companies and the IBMA UK National Group, I am thrilled to promote the biocontrol solutions of our growing industry at the IBMA Global level.

During June and July I had the luxury of a handover period with retiring IBMA Executive Director David Cary who introduced me to many National Group staff, some members, stakeholders, suppliers and policy makers.

In August, in addition to making a video and understanding the IBMA Global budget, I was able to then reflect on what I had learnt and draft a strategic plan for the coming 5 years for IBMA.

This draft I shared with the National Associations at the National Groups meeting on 4th September and with the Executive Committee meeting on 5th September.

The draft strategy will now be updated and shared at the Annual General Meeting at ABIM. Between ABIM 2019 and ABIM 2020 I will speak to each member company to gain feedback on the strategic plan and views on the association. Member endorsement is key to moving forward as an industry.

I look forward to attending ABIM and exchanging with members on the industry's vision and achievements.



Jennifer Lewis
Executive Director

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Events Update

Our industry is certainly of interest to event organisers at the moment. Every week we receive information from various sources that yet another event is being held to discuss the merits of, the regulation of, or the use of biocontrol products. The IBMA Board has taken the view that IBMA strongly supports our own event ABIM which we co-host with our partner Fibl every year in Basel in October.

We encourage IBMA Members to participate as much as possible as it is truly a networking event that helps our industry communicate internally and externally with regulators, policymakers and key influencers. By attracting generous sponsors we have been able to keep the registration costs to a minimum and enable small companies to attend and companies to send multiple delegates with different areas of expertise. When we make a small profit this is turned back into our industry to fund the work done by our association.

IBMA also supports meetings organised by our fellow umbrella federation Bioprotection Global (BPG) members such as the BPIA Spring Meeting in Portland, Oregon. NewAg International work with us and local BPG members to host Biocontrol Latam, Asia and Africa. These events give an opportunity to IBMA members exporting to these regions to participate as delegates, sponsors or exhibitors.

We also have been encouraging and supporting IBMA National Groups with events in their own countries and regions. These events also follow a similar pattern to ABIM in being more affordable than events organised by conference specialists. This means that local biocontrol organisations can attend a national or regional event to exchange information and discuss opportunities.

Events already held have been: The well attended Annual industry Colloque by IBMA France on 29th January in Paris; the March IBMA Italy Convegno in Bologna; participation by IBMA Spain at the Valencia Bioprotection Forum in June, focussing on Mediterranean Biocontrol opportunities; as well as the Biopesticides Summit organised at Swansea University and supported by IBMA UK.

On 4th June Artemis, the National Group of The Netherlands, celebrated its 25 years jubilee with a conference during which it presented its new vision for plant protection in the farming and horticulture sector towards 2030.



IBMA Vice-President Roma Gwynn presenting at IBMA Italia Convegno Bioprotezione per il futuro.

IBMA Special Advisor David Cary speaking at the Foro de BioProtección Vegetal in Valencia



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Key Project Updates

I. Key Project Proportionate Regulation

In June IBMA - David Cary and Jennifer Lewis - met with the European Commission's DG Santé Director General Anne Bucher, Klaus Berend (Head of Unit – pesticides) and Isabelle Clamou (biopesticides team).

The conclusions from this meeting were:

- Data requirements and uniform principles will be changed for microbials by mid 2020. Member State discussions will take place during summer 2019. EUCOM invited IBMA to input a decision tree to indicate the key risk areas to be addressed in risk assessment.
- EUCOM agreed to follow up with work on data requirements and uniform principles for natural substances and for semiochemicals.

Following this meeting, IBMA initiated **working groups to develop decision trees** for the three regulated biologicals – microbials, natural substances and semiochemicals - led by the Professional Group heads, namely Matthias von Erffa (Bayer), Lara Ramaekers (UPL (Arysta)), and Alessandra Moccia (Suterra). Each technology type has been split into teams to look at each section (identity, toxicology, residues, environmental fate and ecotoxicology) so that a decision tree can be made.

Many staff from many companies have been part of the groups and many more have asked to be in copy of the various outputs so that they can comment. A big thank you to you all !

If anyone else wants to be in copy of the ongoing work of any group please contact the Secretariat (isabelle.pinzauti@ibma-global.org) and you will be added to the review list. Following comments from all those wishing to comment, the draft decision trees for microbials and natural substances will be shared at the Professional Group meetings during ABIM on 21 October 2019.

In September Executive Director Jennifer Lewis and Regulatory Affairs Director Ulf Heilig met with the Biopesticides Team of DG Santé (Eric Liégois, Isabelle Clamou, Domenico Deserio). The purpose of the meeting was for each party to update the other on progress. These are the meeting conclusions:

- DG Santé explained that they are progressing with the data requirements and uniform principles and had meetings with Member States in July and August.
- DG Santé are focusing on microbials and wish to have it finalised and approved in SCoPAFF in 3Q2020.
- Microbials are progressing and there is an agreement for IBMA to share the microbials decision tree work with DG Santé in December 2019.



IBMA engages in regular meetings with EUCOM representatives.

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Key Project Updates

2. Key Project Definitions

During July 2019 the IBMA definitions document was finalised. This was in 2 parts :

(i) Description of the technologies currently supported by IBMA, namely macrobials, microbials, natural substances and semiochemicals.

(ii) Global harmonised term “*bioprotection*” to describe biological technologies consistently since biocontrol may mean different things in different countries. This is especially important in intergovernmental organisations such as OECD and FAO.

The technology definitions was a huge piece of work largely conducted at the end of 2018 and the first half of 2019 by each IBMA Professional Group. The technology definitions were generally well received among the members but the global harmonised term *bioprotection* was less well owned across the associates, which is to be expected as it is not needed in national situations where the existing terminologies are clear. The term *bioprotection* has been developed and successfully used from a technical perspective in global intergovernmental meetings.

The communication working group has been asked to consider what wording should be used in branding and marketing of the biological technologies. The communications group led by Isabelle Pinzauti Babrzyński will report by end 2019.

*Biocontrol works !
We are currently gathering concrete
economic and technical evidence to
illustrate the viability of our products.*

3. Key Project Biocontrol works and is a reality

As an industry we need more evidence that biocontrol works. Many policy makers and stakeholders are asking for evidence on the effectiveness and reliability of biocontrol technologies. At the IBMA National Groups meeting, National Associations were asked to gather their examples of biocontrol in action and share them with the wider community of stakeholders and members.

To support biocontrol we need to have evidence that our technologies provide effective pest and disease control that is profitable to the farmer. IBMA therefore encourages all member companies to provide examples of working biocontrol programmes (presentations and videos). The aim is to make these examples accessible to all via our website.



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External relations

EUCOM News

At the beginning of September the new EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen released her list of proposals for new commissioners. The Commissioner-Designate for Agriculture is Janusz Wojciechowski (Poland), the Commissioner-Designate for Environment is Virginijus Sinkevičius (Lithuania) and the Commissioner-Designate for Health is Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus).

For our industry it is important to note that pesticides are clearly mentioned in the relatively short mission statements to the three candidates, with an important link to the European Green Deal and the Zero pollution ambition.

Moreover, it is crucial to notice that “the take-up of low-risk and non-chemical alternatives” is explicitly voiced in the Health Commissioner’s Mission Statement.

Within this context, the current two key goals of IBMA, shared at the National Groups Meeting on 4th September, of proportionate regulation and showing that biocontrol is a reality through field evidence, are now more crucial than ever to facilitate delivery of these European Missions.

Finally, DG Santé, DG AGRI and DG ENVI will be working jointly on these matters, under the lead of their respective Commissioners (who still need to be approved by the European Parliament).



The Mission statements of the new EU Commissioners for Agriculture, Health and Environment show that IBMA key goals of proportionate regulation and to demonstrate biocontrol is effective and profitable to the farmer are crucial to accomplish these European Missions. The EUCOM President-elect Ursula van der Leyen’s proposed team of Commissioners still has to be approved by the European Parliament.

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External relations

External meetings

IBMA board and team present our association at many conferences, giving presentations (which you can find on our website) and engaging with stakeholders.

David Cary attended Greentech Amsterdam in June, presenting the IBMA White paper vision on sustainable agriculture for the future. Greentech has potential for IBMA and its members to keep updated and better understand technology advances that may be of interest for application of biocontrol solutions. It has less appeal for promotion of biocontrol.



David Cary presenting an outlook on a sustainable future at Greentech 2019

Later in June David Cary and Jennifer Lewis attended the Bioprotection Conference in Valencia where David presented the IBMA White Paper. It was a very well-attended national conference with a good mix of commercial and technical people from our industry.

In August, David attended the inaugural Biopesticide Summit at Swansea university, an event with IBMA UK engagement. It offers the opportunity for National Group members to engage with researchers and industry support for the UK market.

Jennifer Lewis opened the Biocontrol LATAM conference in August. Here she highlighted the need for technical and economic data showing that biocontrol works in broad acre and arable systems. Many such success stories exist in Brazil and several examples of companies selling microbial products onto over 1 Million hectares of soya or maize were presented. The rest of the world can learn much from the Brazilian examples.



At the Crop Innovations and Regulations conference in Barcelona in September, Jennifer presented IBMA's way ahead to achieve proportionate regulation in Europe.

In September David Cary visited Biocontrol Asia in Chengdu, a well-attended event particularly for Chinese and Indian companies. It shows the diversity of products in those markets, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration as well as pointing out regulatory hurdles that exist despite a new regulation for bioprotection products. It is not a market to enter without a good local partner and regulatory consultant.

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Consultations

DG Santé: IBMA is regularly consulted by DG Santé to comment guidance documents. New guidance documents on antimicrobial resistance and on metabolites of concern, both for microbial BCAs, are in progress. IBMA commented e.g. on draft revisions for guidance on zonal procedures and mutual recognition and guidance on the evaluation of new active substance data post (renewal of) approval.

EFSA Bee Guidance: EFSA has started work to revise the Guidance on the risk assessment of PPPs on bees issued 2013. IBMA Regulatory Affairs Director Ulf Heilig set up a small IBMA ad hoc group on pollinators lead by Silvia Hinarejos (Sumitomo Chemical). She is IBMA's expert in the EFSA bee guidance stakeholder consultation group. She already submitted comments on existing guidance to EFSA and she will, supported by IBMA experts, contribute practical information and comments during the development of future guidance.

OECD Expert Group on Biopesticides: Actively participating in the OECD EGBP, IBMA has contributed four draft issue documents: on mammalian tox testing (AS and PPPs), on bird studies and a statement on the impact of MBCAs on earthworms. Two additional issue papers, on fish test methods and on activated sewage sludge, will be submitted in the near future. The documents already submitted are currently commented on by OECD member countries.



Internal Meetings

September 4th National Groups Meeting

All National Groups were represented. Each association indicated their number one priority. The draft strategic plan was shared and discussed. An exercise in stakeholder mapping showed divergences and similarities of interactions at national level and helped National Groups and IBMA Global better frame their future work.

September 5th Executive Committee Meeting

Update and discussions focussed on:

- Partnerships and collaboration
- Budget needs to fit our strategy
- Professional and National Groups work
- ABIM programme and AGM
- Regulatory Affairs and Communication activities

September 6th – Webinar on white paper on proportionate regulation

IBMA organised a White Paper webinar, to explain to IBMA Members the White Paper, potential New EU Regulation for Bioprotection Agents – IBMA Vision in details.

37 members attended the webinar which was presented by IBMA Executive Director Jennifer Lewis and David Cary, IBMA Special Advisor (and retiring Executive Director).

The Webinar is available to members online - on the IBMA Website's Members Only section.

IBMA Special Advisor David Cary and Executive Director Jennifer Lewis talking to members during the IBMA Webinar on the White Paper

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Thank you to retiring Executive Director David Cary

After our National Groups meeting on 4th September, participants gathered to express their gratitude and best wishes to retiring Executive Director David Cary. David joined IBMA in 2010 as the inaugural Executive Director and served the association since then with passion and dedication, resulting in an invaluable contribution to our industry's current regulation and visibility.

David was a key player in the formation of BPG (BioProtection Global) and worked closely with international bodies including OECD, FAO and EPPO.

David will continue to support IBMA as a Special Advisor to certain projects.



Looking back at nine years of dedication to IBMA's goals -Retiring Executive Director David Cary



ABIM 2015 – Martin Andermatt, Lucius Tamm, Anne Merz, David Cary and Willem Ravensberg celebrating IBMA 20th Anniversary and ABIM 10th Anniversary ©2015_Foto_Josef_Riegger

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