



## WORKSHOP



**WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2021**  
**10.30AM-12 NOON CET**

**FORUM  
FOR THE  
FUTURE**

### **TOPIC: The shift to nature positive food and farming – what role for biocontrol?**

**FORMAT:** 1.5-2 hours. Interactive virtual workshop with case studies and evidence as inspiration. The workshop would take the form of a Food Systems Summit Dialogue under Chatham House rules, and thus would provide an opportunity to feed directly into the Summit.

**AUDIENCE:** EU food companies, suppliers, Food Systems Summit.

**FOCUS ISSUES:** Arable

**THE PROPOSITION:** Biocontrol could be a valuable tool in reshaping agricultural practices to be more nature and environment positive, potentially supporting biodiversity, reductions in pesticide use and regenerative farming practices that support better soil health and carbon sequestration.

**FRAMING:** Biocontrol is often a poorly understood area outside of horticulture and may face barriers to adoption, from lack of knowledge of its use, limited experience in practice, CAP funding structure and existing practices being profitable and fitting with existing farming operations. However, both food businesses and suppliers are actively incorporating nature-friendly farming in their strategies and the policy agenda is shifting to a focus on ecosystem services and the value of natural capital. Biocontrol has the potential to support and enable growers to deliver these outcomes. This workshop will address how biocontrol is currently used, opportunities and issues in key new areas such as arable crops, and identify potential ways forward to enable uptake of practices that support biodiversity and soil health while delivering safe, viable, productive farming.

#### **KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS FOR THE PRE-RESEARCH AND THE WORKSHOP:**

- How can biocontrol support the transformation to agricultural practices that are nature and environment positive?
- What evidence and case studies illustrate these points?
- How does this align to corporate strategies and ambitions for food businesses and suppliers?
- How are suppliers and growers currently utilising biocontrol?
- What opportunities are there for further adoption of biocontrol and what barriers are impeding its use?
- What is the perspective of farmers and where do they see opportunities and barriers?
- What could food businesses do to support and enable more sustainable practices?
- What could food businesses and farmers do to support and enable more use of biocontrol in their Integrated Pest Management? What approaches to pest and disease control can maximise biodiversity?
- What recommendations for further action are needed?

**HOST AND FACILITATION:** Forum for the Future, joint organiser with IBMA.

#### **POTENTIAL SPEAKER PANEL:**

- Forum - context setting
- IBMA
- 2 case study farmers
- 1 food business case study
- IEEP to describe key messages and issue

#### **OUTPUT:**

- Workshop summary and key recommendations by sector/actor
- Food System Summit Dialogue summary
- Short briefing on next steps for IBMA

