The Role of Biocontrol in the European Green Deal
International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association

Part of the Federation of Biocontrol industries Bioprotection Global

Biocontrol Association
Local associations around Europe – members represent us where no local Association

SMEs dominate
In Europe 71 SMEs and 76 micro-SMEs

Global with European Focus
150 member companies in Europe
Global members learn how to access Europe, 70 more members worldwide

Established in 1995

Global reach
Part of Bioprotection Global IBMA
Kenya and 35% of members from outside Europe
Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting
EU COM present
What is Biocontrol?

Examples of successful implementation of Biocontrol

- Invertebrates
- Semiochemicals
- Microbials
- Natural substances
Biocontrol is so much more than just pest and disease control

**Biodiversity**
- Biocontrol respects non-targeted fauna and flora
- Example of organic farming

**Soil**
- Biocontrol enhances soil life and soil health
- It reduces risks of chemical contamination

**Climate**
- Potentially less emissions
- Enabler for sustainable farming

**Human Health**
- Less exposure to pesticides for farm workers
- No chemical residues in food

**Farm Economics**
- Proven efficacy of biocontrol
- Response to chemical pesticide ban/restrictions
- High benefit/cost ratio

**Governance**
- Biocontrol goes together with ecosystem knowledge and holistic approach
The European Green Deal in Europe’s Answer to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

“This is Europe’s man on the moon moment... Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce, the way we consume with our planet and to make it work with our people.”
The Green Deal aims to make Europe Net zero by 2050

Cross sector policy – Farm to Fork is the food and agriculture strategy but it links to many of the others
Biocontrol – Essential to the EU Green Deal

Farm to Fork Strategy
For a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

- Reduce use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50%
- Pave the way to alternatives
- Enhance provisions on integrated pest management
- Maintain farmers’ incomes
Transition of Agriculture is key to EU Green Deal

IPM requires a hierarchy of practices – agronomy first with chemistry as a last resort – a biology first mindset

Biocontrol Links Farm to Fork, Biodiversity and Climate Strategies
Europe Political Will and Regulatory and Farm Reality: Opposing forces?

Political Will

Regulatory Reality

On Farm Implementation
Regulation is changing…… but slowly

Karine Mouret Grosbeau and Flora Limache will talk about this in detail on Thursday

Revision of Microbial data requirements

Important step to more tailored biocontrol regulation

22 June 2022
Sustainable Use of PPP Regulation (SUR)
- Biocontrol Definition
- National Action Plans
  - Mandatory IPM
  - Legally binding reduction targets
  - Indicative uptake targets for biocontrol

Common Agricultural Policy
20% for Ecoshcemes
Incorporation into National Strategic Plans
Limited or no link to biocontrol
22 June 2022
SUR proposes to open up CAP to facilitate IPM

Sustainable Use of PPP Regulation (SUR)
- Biocontrol Definition
- National Action Plans
  - Mandatory IPM
  - Legally binding reduction targets
  - Indicative uptake targets for biocontrol

Common Agricultural Policy
20% for Ecoshcemes
Incorporation into National Strategic Plans
Limited or no link to biocontrol
22 June 2022
SUR proposes to open up CAP to facilitate IPM
How to Progress the European Regulatory Situation

Definition of Biocontrol

Small Modifications to implementation of Existing EU Reg No 1107/2009

New Biocontrol specific regulation
Uptake of biocontrol varies by sector

- **Protected Crops**: Normal practice
- **Perennial crops**: Many good examples, work in progress
- **Arable**: Some good examples but a lot to do

Uptake is more advanced in perennial crops than in arable
Reasons for high uptake in greenhouses protected vegetables

- Fresh produce purchases want pesticide free
- No PHI so ease of harvesting
- Meets export market standards
- Biocontrol sold with IPM advisers
Reasons for uptake in specialty crops

- Significant chemical gaps
- Some advisers with knowledge
- Demand for pesticide free
- Specific value chain
Reasons for lower uptake in arable

- Commodity market with long supply chain
- Lack of biocontrol products
- Advisers with little incentive or knowledge to advice biocontrol
- CAP pays according to yield (with small incentive for environmental)
Let’s imagine

All regulatory problems are solved
If we had all the products required for biocontrol would farmers use in arable?

Yes but...........

“It works and I will not change back - In fact I need more products”

“I tried it once and it failed”

“No wish to try it – it does not work well enough and it is too expensive”

How can research address these concerns?
Converging Technologies are Creating New Solutions that improve reliability and efficacy of biocontrol

- New formulations
- Mode of action
- Artificial Intelligence
- Pattern recognition
- Remote sensing – to optimize application
- Sampling
- Forecasting to optimise timing
- New technologies
- Peptides
- Antibodies
- Remote sensing – to optimize application
- Sampling
- Forecasting to optimise timing
Farmer to Farmer networks for applied research

https://www.innovativefarmers.org/case-studies/

Celebrating 10 years of farmer-led research

In the last decade, Innovative Farmers has launched over 120 field labs and awarded over £450,000 in grants to groups of farmers supporting them to research the issues that matter to them. When we began, our concept of ‘field labs’ - on-farm trials - was not well understood. But now the model is firmly entering the mainstream.

A decade of putting farmers in the driving seat.

Sign up to our newsletter

Get the latest updates from the field labs, find out about opportunities to get involved and hear about upcoming events.

FIND OUT MORE

Find out how farmer-led research works

WATCH THIS SHORT FILM

Download the pdf version
Multi-stakeholder Projects – Living labs

Full Value Chain Involvement – ILVO Living Labs for agroecology in organic farming

All value chain involved - research, inputs industry, advice, farmer and food industry
The tide is turning – the pipelines are full

Research to upscale into arable
- Systems thinking
- Involve everyone
- On farm research with farmers
- Measure everything
Together we will upscale biocontrol for our future and our children’s future

“Biological Life is a force and once unleashed it will continue to grow and generate new life.”

Gabe Brown (2018) – Author of from “Dirt to Soil” and North Dakota farmer
Thank you

IBMA
International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association AISBL

Rue de Treves 61, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
WWW.IBMA-GLOBAL.ORG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Lewis
jennifer.lewis@ibma-global.org

REGULATORY CONSULTANT
Ulf Heilig
ulf.heilig@ibma-global.org

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION MANAGER
Isabelle Pinzauti Babrzynski
isabelle.pinzauti@ibma-global.org

ADMINISTRATION
Soizick Menais
administartion@ibma-global.org

Britta Schnittger
Britta.Schnittger@ibma-global.org