Optimising EU regulation for biocontrol technologies

Roma Gwynn
IBMA Vice President

30 June 2022
Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative to reduce environmental footprint of rice production
IPM promoted since 1950’s
Source: Phillips McDougall database and analysis
Macroorganisms
Microorganisms
Natural substances
Semio-chemicals
**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

**HUMAN HEALTH**
- Less exposure to pesticides for farm workers
- No chemical residues in food

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

**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 pipelines are full

Research to upscale
• Systems thinking
• Involve everyone
• On farm research with farmers
• Measure everything
Continued Growth in Biocontrol - EU

Total market size is based on a survey of 180 members' sales in the 2019 growing season.
All graphical data is based on analysis of a subset of the data comprising 41% of the members representing 43% of market value.
EU approved biocontrol technology PPP

EU active substances (updated February 2022)
* Definition of bioprotectant PPP not fixed so approximate numbers only

Total all PPP = 519
From: Prof. Dr. Italo Delalibera Júnior, ESALQ – University of São Paulo - Brazil
EU approved biocontrol technology PPP

* Definition of bioprotectant PPP not fixed so approximate numbers only
EU RMS for microbial approvals

Improving regulatory approval processes for biopesticides and other new biological technologies in agriculture

Wyn Grant, University of Warwick, UK, and Rama Gayma, Biorationale, UK
Regulation in EU is changing

...... but slowly
A Successful biocontrol regulatory capacity

- Dedicated biocontrol technology scheme
- Expert evaluators
- Clear process – all steps from pre-submission
- Principle of data – requirements excluded except...
- Trusted and engaged partnerships
- Harmonisation
- Reciprocity of data
- Innovation enabling policies
Options to Speed up Biocontrol

- **Implementation of 1107/2009**
  - Accord low risk timescales at the start of evaluation process to potential low risk and biocontrol. These can be downgraded if the evaluation process reveals they are not low risk.
  - Grant certain MSs biocontrol expert status and only evaluate biocontrol through these experts
  - Mutual recognition is adhered to by MS

- **Small modifications to 1107/2009**
  - Prioritise applications for biocontrol – note that most crop protection companies are now developing biocontrol as well as chemistry
  - Provisional registration for biocontrol – re-instate Article 30
  - Prioritise derogations for biocontrol products where uses exist so reducing need for derogations for old chemistry

- **EU MS measures**
  - Facilitate application of microbial products through reduced fees, expert desk e.g. France, NL
  - Extension of existing product registration to all crops to facilitate expansion into arable

- **Long term system change**
  - New biocontrol regulation
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
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
Louisa Pueschel
administartion@ibma-global.org
Britta Schnittger
Britta.Schnittger@ibma-global.org