

**LETTER OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS (FAO)
AND THE
INTERNATIONAL BIOCONTROL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
(IBMA)**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (“IBMA”) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Parties” and individually as “Party”);

CONSIDERING that FAO has the mandate to reduce the reliance on pesticides by applying an integrated pest management approach; develop international quality standards and technical guidelines to reduce the risks of pesticide use, leading to consumer and environmental protection; adopt an ecosystem approach to crop production to develop agro-ecological knowledge and practices, which enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, and contribute to climate change adaptation and resilience; promote sustainable crop production and diversification to improve people’s nutrition, livelihoods and incomes in both rural and urban areas;

CONSIDERING that IBMA is registered under the Belgian law as an international non-profit-making association, which has the mandate to represent the biocontrol industry in bringing to the market green innovative and effective technologies for sustainable agriculture, allowing farmers to grow healthy, productive and profitable crops;

RECOGNIZING the common will of FAO and IBMA to strengthen the effort of mainstreaming biological control as a sustainable tool in global crop protection;

Now, therefore, FAO and IBMA:

1. Declare their intention to work together to finalize agreements, which will be signed at a later stage, in accordance with their internal rules and procedures, to:
 - exchange information and ideas on sustainable crop protection;
 - identify gaps and bottlenecks in mainstreaming the use of biological control, be it regulatory, research, production, or field use;
 - enhance capacities and pilot other solutions that will facilitate greater adoption of biological control as a sustainable tool in crop protection; and
 - promote the use of biological control globally.
2. Acknowledge that:
 - a) This Letter of Intent is a statement of intent and does not create any legal, financial, or other commitments for any of the Parties, nor does it create any formal

relationship between the Parties or authorize any Party to make representations on behalf of the other, or to bind the other in any manner whatsoever.

- b) Any confidential or otherwise sensitive information exchanged under this Letter of Intent will be subject to any restrictions concerning the dissemination and confidentiality that FAO or IBMA may apply as the owner of the information, and FAO and IBMA agree to keep such information confidential.
- c) No representation or warranty, express or implied, will be made by the Parties regarding the collaboration envisaged, including but not limited to any outcome thereof, any agreement or further relationship.
- d) This Letter of Intent or information about this Letter of Intent may be published on FAO's website after it has entered into force consistent with its policies on transparency, as updated from time to time. This Letter of Intent or information about this Letter of Intent may also be published on IBMA's website in a manner that does not imply endorsement by FAO of any of the commercial activities of IBMA and subject to the provisions herein on the use of the name and logo below. IBMA agrees not to advertise or otherwise make public for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill that it has a relationship with FAO.
- e) The name and/or logo of FAO and IBMA will not be used in any form of publicity or public disclosure unless with their prior written consent.
- f) Nothing in this Letter of Intent will affect the ownership of any intellectual property made available under this Letter of Intent, nor confers any right to use such intellectual property except as agreed by FAO or IBMA as the owner of the intellectual property concerned.
- g) Nothing in this Letter of Intent or in any document or arrangement relating thereto constitutes a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of FAO nor confers any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by FAO to IBMA or its personnel.
- h) This Letter of Intent shall automatically terminate upon conclusion of the agreements referred to in paragraph 1 above. In the absence of such agreements, it shall automatically expire two (2) years from the date of the last signature, unless the Parties agree in writing to extend its validity for a specified period.

Signed in two original copies in English, on the dates set out below.

The Parties agree that electronic signature of this Letter of Intent using the Adobe-Acrobat tool shall be treated as valid and legally binding. This Letter of Intent shall be treated as an original for all purposes.

For the Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations
(FAO)

Elizabeth A. Bechdol,
Deputy Director-General

.....

Date 5/11/2024.....

For the International Biocontrol
Manufacturers Association (IBMA)

HERMAN VAN MELLAERT
PRESIDENT

.....

Date14/11/2024.....