

Invertebrate BioControl Agents (IBCA) Professional Group



Highlights 2023 - 2024

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Co-sponsors of the Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3) - Costa Rica



At the request of the IBMA a presentation on the **'impact of genetics in biocontrol production and regulation'** was given by Susannah Lommen and Angelica Cibrian



Martin Wohlfarter vice-chair IBMA IBCA PG gave a talk on regulation and joined the industry Q&A panel.

Regulation should be:

Fit for Purpose

Applicable across the EU (mutual recognition of risk assessments). Promote Biocontrol, Promote Safety.

Clear and Concise Definitions

Endemic vs Exotic as opposed to Native vs Non-Native. Classic vs Augmentative Biocontrol.

Enabling

- Producers/Manufacturers - Allowing cost-effective production and supply.
- Growers/Farmers - Fit needs and ease of use.

Quality Standard

Ecological safety and field efficacy.

Adopt Existing Guidelines and Policies

EPPO PM 6.



Mid Year Meeting

Koppert hosted a group of members from the PG at its premises in The Netherlands. We hope to continue this in coming years with visits to the sites of other member companies. Thanks to Peter Maes for giving a presentation on sustainability and Koppert staff for showing us around.

EU Regulation

- Regulations in several countries including Germany, Sweden and France have been up for discussion this year with questions and proposed changes taxing our members.
- The steering committee and global team are following these closely with help of all interested parties to ensure a positive outcome.
 - Germany** - Recommendations for removing the 100 year requirement
 - Sweden** - Commercial production of bio-controls should be using genetics from within Sweden
 - France** - ANSES requires Molecular analysis of organisms including prey mites.

IOBC quality update

Attempts have been made to set up a new group to update and finalise the IOBC quality guidelines. We approached the convenors of this project but it hasn't moved forward. It will rely on industry funding which may not be forthcoming as the overall aim is to put a greater burden on the producers.

Steering Committee:

Caroline Reid - Chair
Martin Wohlfarter - Vice-Chair
Ralf Udo-Ehlers, Patrick Frettinger, Jan Hulshof, Andrea Sala, Michaela Stolz, Enric Vila, Felix Wackers.

Ongoing work

- Discussion on transport issues within countries are always high on the members' priority lists

EPPO & ABS / Nagoya meetings are attended by the steering committee.