



## **WGABS 9 meeting Cali**

### **Side event**

**Tuesday 23 march 2010 13.15 – 14.45  
Second floor (Juscanz)**

### **Access & Benefit Sharing for Biocontrol Products**

**View of the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association**

Johannette Klapwijk (IBMA)

#### **The IBMA**

The International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) is the worldwide association of biocontrol industries producing micro organisms, macro organisms, semiochemicals and natural pesticides for plant protection and public health.

Alternative, biological and non-chemical plant protection has become an important issue worldwide, in order to correct the negative impact and the risks associated with the extensive and often inappropriate use of conventional chemical pesticides.

Based on long years of intensive research and development, the "Biocontrol industry" is growing fast and can offer safe and cost- effective solutions to society.

IBMA was created in 1995 to represent the views of these biological control producers, which are mainly small companies with limited resources: Manufacturers, research organisations, extension services, consultants, distributors, all contributing to the development of biocontrol and participating in IBMA activities.

With members throughout the World, IBMA has become the only worldwide organisation for biological crop protection, sustainable soil management, animal health and public hygiene. IBMA participate in the activities of international organisations such as OECD, FAO, WHO, the International Forum for Chemical Safety, the European Commission, etc...

For more information please see [www.ibma-global.org](http://www.ibma-global.org)

## **Biological Control**

A substantial and still increasing part of pests occurring in greenhouse crops worldwide is controlled biologically. To assure food safety and to reduce the negative impact of pesticides on the environment governments increase the regulation on the use of pesticides. Driven by requests from the market and the stronger regulations also Latin America, Asia, the middle East and Africa are at present strongly developing markets for biological control.

'Products' for the biocontrol industry are nothing else but organism collected from nature that are mass reared by the industry. Every company is free to rear and market the same species, as organisms cannot be patented. This results in a high level of competition.

Biological Control is based on a system of natural enemies, as normally different pests occur in a crop at the same time and every pest requires its own natural enemy(ies) for control. Invasive new pest species threaten existing biological control programs as long as no biological solution for this particular pest is found. Therefore a quick reaction is required. As greenhouse pests originate mainly in tropical countries, the most effective natural enemies can be found there also. Strong regulation of the export of organism from the providing countries will hamper research on new natural enemies and thus of the development of robust Biological Pest Control systems.

## **Views on ABS**

Together with the IOBC and ICIPE the IBMA presented its views on the terms of references in paragraph 11 of Decision IX/12 for the ABS AHTEC meeting held in Windhoek Namibia in December 2008. The paper can be found in the minutes of the Windhoek meeting p.109. The IBMA presented their view on ABS also on request of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. *See attached paper.*



## **Statement from the Invertebrates Biocontrol Group of the IBMA on Access and Benefit Sharing**

**Johannette Klapwijk**  
**Chair IBMA Invertebrates Biocontrol Group**  
**May 2009**

This statement refers to the 'Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization' as adopted by the CBD at the Conference of the Parties in 2002. It is stated that all genetic material falls under the provisions of the ABS system and as such also all Invertebrate Biological Control Agents (IBCA's).

The Invertebrates Biocontrol Group of the International Biocontrol Manufacturer's Association (IBMA) wants to express its concern about the effect of the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on the further development of their industry and of biological control as a sustainable alternative to chemical pest control.

The biocontrol industry is relatively small with an estimated total turnover of 200 million Euros per year. Benefits are rather limited: the average profit margin for invertebrate biocontrol products is no more than 3 – 4%. Most biocontrol companies are very small, having no more than 5 employees, thus having not much money to spend on research.

Therefore monetary benefit sharing might have the undesired result that development of new IBCA's is severely hampered. This is especially the case if monetary benefits are requested before it is established if an IBCA is effective at controlling the target pest and before it is clear if this product is also commercially viable. However, provided an IBCA is developed into a new product, the industry proposes to investigate ways to share non-monetary benefits by transferring knowledge to the source country and helping those countries to set up a biocontrol program (capacity building). In addition the source countries will benefit by gaining access to new IBCA's.

We fear that if implementation of the Bonn Guidelines results in a complicated, lengthy and costly process to get access to potential IBCA's, it is unlikely that any Biocontrol Company can afford to take the risk to spend that much effort and money, thus jeopardizing the future of the Biocontrol Industry and therefore also the future of biological control as a sustainable alternative to chemical pest control. We would therefore appreciate to be involved in developing a procedure which is feasible for the industry and which facilitates, rather than potentially hampers, the further development of biological control.

The arrival of new invasive alien pest species can threaten the continued existence of biological control programs if the access to its natural enemies in the source country is made prohibitively difficult. As a result farmers will be forced to intervene with broad-spectrum pesticides.

The report '*Use and Exchange of Biological Control Genetic Resources Relevant for Food and Agriculture*' as prepared by IOBC with support from FAO explains in detail which problems can be expected. The IBMA supports this report and strongly encourages to follow up the conclusions and recommendations.