



IBMA - International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association Press Release

IBMA, the voice of the biocontrol industry, thanks the European Commission for the coherence of the Farm to Fork strategy for alternatives to chemical pesticides and the biodiversity strategy.

Brussels, 26th May 2020, IBMA is delighted to see the European Commission's new Farm to Fork strategy puts alternative to chemical pesticides at the top of the agenda and with this the revision of the Sustainable Use for Pesticides Directive to fully implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) throughout Europe. **IBMA with its partners IOBC and PAN Europe have long established an IPM triangle** which puts biology first in farming practices - which includes agronomy, mechanical and biological control -, which is key to developing a resilient agriculture for the future.

The International Biocontrol Industry Association – IBMA Executive Director Jennifer Lewis would like to underline:

“IBMA is the voice of the biocontrol industry. **IBMA has 25 years of experience working with farmers and the agricultural industry to provide alternatives to chemical pesticides, which includes biocontrol technologies, bioprotection and biopesticides. We are 257 members comprising 165 within the European Union of which 76 are micro SMEs, 71 are SMEs producing biological alternatives to chemical pesticides. There are many successful examples of biocontrol in action in horticulture and speciality crops, and some promising examples in arable crops.**” **Discover our new website presenting how Biocontrol is already a reality.**

IBMA thanks the European Commission for the coherence of the Farm to Fork strategy for alternatives to chemical pesticides and the biodiversity strategy. Biocontrol products used in a biology first farming or agroecological approach help restore soil biodiversity and nutrient cycling and above ground biological pest control helps rebuild ecosystems.

The current regulatory system is designed for chemicals. One of the key reasons that biocontrol uptake is still small after 25 years of work, is the pesticide regulatory system. An enabling environment for biological pest control is required to scale up the use of biocontrol products.

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