The maturing biocontrol industry and its role in the true green revolution

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The foundation of an industry and association

- 1995 formation of IBMA
- 6 founding members
- Largely operating with internal resources until 2010
- 3 areas of initial growth
  - Macros under protection
  - Bt. almost as a conventional PPP
  - Mating disruption in pome, stone and grapes
Significant setbacks to our industry and association

- Strength of a chemical industry
- A system that started off for regulating chemical PPPs and became even more focused on them
- Snake oils & safety claims
- An industry association that was naïve
- Intransigence of a regulatory system and implementers
- Conservative nature of farmers
- Method of comparison
Key boosts to our industry and association

- The promise of a new start with a new regulation
- The REBECA project
- Greenpeace focus on bad practice in protected crops
- Societal, stakeholder & policymaker support
- IBMA professionalism
- Lobbying activities
- IBMA White Paper
- Finally sitting at the table with a willingness to change
The 2 Green revolutions

1st Green revolution

- Plentiful choice of food since 1st green revolution for most countries
- More reliability of production
- Monocultures and industrialisation of agriculture
- Aging farmer population
- Cheap food
- Good quality food
- Seemingly endless availability of effective new fertiliser & PPP tools
The past activities of IBMA

- Regulatory proportionality
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Engaging with policymakers
IBMA an industry association in 2019

- Brussels base of IBMA
- 255 members
- 80%+ SMEs
- 2nd Executive Director – Jennifer Lewis
- 5 Secretarial staff
- Active Board
- Active Professional Groups
- Mission
- Professional organisation
What is the composition of our industry

- True innovators
- Partnerships
- Acquisitions
- Mergers
- Start-ups
- Multinationals
- SMEs
- Novel models
The 2 Green revolutions

2nd Green revolution – the true one

• Practice of true IPM increasing
• Holistic approach looking beyond the pest and its control
• Care for the environment and worker, consumer & societal health
• Reduced reliance on engineered inputs
• Review of what are quality standards
• Interest in farming by younger people
• Costs of remedial actions accounted for
The true green revolution delivering sustainable agriculture

IPM – a holistic bottom up system not adding to an existing chemical PPP regime

- Monitoring & Forecasting
- Physical & Natural control
- Biological control
- Chemical control

Good practice

Agronomic practices such as crop rotation, resistant varieties, undersowing, intercropping, protection and enhancement of beneficials

Monitoring, forecasting, warning systems

Mechanical, physical, natural control
Safety of inputs sourced from nature

- Just because it is natural does not mean it is safe
- Proportionate assessment of the risks of introducing something into the environment needs to be undertaken for human and environmental effects
- Coming from nature means we already possess some relevant knowledge which is better than any models
- A level of confidence in those observed compartments can be established
- Problematic natural substances can be avoided
Future Crop protection in Agriculture

• Founded on prevention and monitoring
• Intervention only when needed
• New tools all nature-based solutions
• Biopesticides, biostimulants, biofertilisers
• Resilient soils and resilient plants (microorganisms, seed treatments)
• Automation, ICT tools and intelligent equipment minimise use of products and exposure
• Holistic natural scientific approach
• Interventions upon a licensed PCA written recommendation
The future activities of IBMA

Promotion of Bioprotection

Developing messaging approaches to using biocontrol tools in programmes

Ensuring bioprotection technologies are at the forefront of new developments in agriculture

Continuing regulatory improvement for some time to come
What are the possibilities for our industry?

- Maintain or drastically improve on current CAGR of 15 – 20%
- Over 50% of new regulatory applications are biological PPPs and almost all will be in future
- Balance across technologies will be maintained particularly if data requirements and uniform principles are individually tailored per group.
  - New groups of products will enter the market
- The future penetration into Plant Protection? Figures from 20 to 50% have been forecast – is this ambitious enough?
Many thanks!