



Number I

January, 2018

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The first International Congress of Biological Control will be held in Beijing, China, May 14-16, 2018.

The purpose of the congress is to strengthen communication and cooperation between researchers investigating biological control techniques of insect pests, invasive weeds and plant diseases, and to promote the global development of biological control technology and industry. The theme of this conference is: *Biological Control for a Healthy Planet* with a sub-theme of Interdisciplinary Biological Control.

This congress, hosted jointly by Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), China Society of Plant Protection (CSPP) and International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) will cover a wide range of biological control topics regarding insect pests, invasive weeds and plant diseases. The organizing committee has invited many excellent scientists to attend the congress and more excellent investigators are joining the congress. We are confident that you will enjoy the congress in Beijing, China's beautiful and historic capital city and discuss new developments and future directions of biological control with scientists around the world. It is our great honor to welcome you to the First International Congress of Biological Control.

The conference will include three sessions: plenary lectures, invited talks, poster session and the exhibition of new technologies and products. Topics will include, but no limited to, the following:

- Integration of the various classes of biological control
- Biological control of plant diseases, insect pests and weeds
- Biological control as a means of preserving biodiversity
- The impact of climate change on biological control
- Risk assessment and biosafety for biological control
- Industrial policy and market development of biological control
- Socio-economic impacts and capacity building for biological control
- Current status and uptake of biological control in the Belt and Road countries

Committee Chairs

Scientific Committee Chairs
WU Kongming (CAAS)
George Heimpel (IOBC)

Organizing Committee Chairs
TANG Huajun (CAAS)
Barbara Barratt (IOBC)

Local Working Group Leader
QIU Dewen (CAAS)

Program outline

May 14, 2018:AM: plenary lectures; PM: Session presentations

May 15, 2018: AM: plenary lectures; PM: visit Modern Agricultural Exhibition

May 16, 2018: Session presentations and closing speech

Registration and Accommodation

You can register online or fill in the preliminary registration form and send it to us by E-mail. We have selected international hotels for participants. Please make your hotel choices and send to us when you register.

For more detailed information about registration and accommodation, please refer to our website.

<http://www.canevent.com/customPage/customPagePreview?pageId=43612&eventId=10003226>

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8TH PPPHE SYMPOSIUM ON “EFFICACY AND RISKS OF BIORATIONALS IN ORGANIC AND INTEGRATED PLANT PROTECTION STRATEGIES - ACCEPTABLE?”



The German Scientific Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health r.S. (Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft e.V. , DPG), the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) and the Humboldt-University Berlin (HU) invite you to be part of the upcoming **8th International Symposium on Plant Protection and Plant Health in Europe (PPPHE)** on „Efficacy and risks of biorationals in organic and integrated plant protection strategies - acceptable?“. The symposium will be held **December 13 and 14, 2017** at the **Julius Kühn-Institut in Braunschweig, Germany**.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Protection in Organic Agriculture (PPOA) should be science-based decision- making processes that identify and reduce risks from pests and pest management related strategies. They coordinate the consideration of pest biological factors, environmental conditions, and all available instruments to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage, while concurrently combining economical means with the least possible risk to people, property, resources, and the environment.

We use the widely known term »biorationals « as an operative expression to speak about certain kinds of components of plant protection strategies, which are assumed to have advantages concerning risk characteristics on the one hand while at the same time provide acceptable efficacy in reducing pest impact. Nevertheless it is not our intention to propose a new legal category! The products we want to speak about are often materials that are biologically-derived or, if synthetic, structurally similar and functionally identical to a biologically occurring material. Micro-organism, plant extracts, basic substances, semiochemicals, as well as non-pesticidal products like biostimulants, biological yield enhancers, plant health promoters, and soil conditioners are a matter of discussion.

Such »biorationals« alone do not reveal sufficient efficacy against pests, but are useful to be integrated in plant protection strategies. In addition, the risk-evaluation requirements under national and European regulatory frameworks of these diverse »biorationals« are very different from each other or there is even a lack of regulatory infrastructure to ensure that »biorationals« get a targeted risk assessment and approval procedure.

On this background, the symposium wants to work out

- a critical perspective on the risk and efficacy evaluation of »biorationals«
- an overview of agricultural and socio- economic experiences with »acceptable « instead of »sufficient« efficacy in pest management strategies
- impediments to introduce »biorationals « under the existing Sustainable Use Directive 2009/128
- a conclusive statement to promote »biorationals « for use in agriculture

For registration and updated information please visit our homepage

<http://www.ppphe.phytomedizin.org/>.

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HUGE EARTHWORM POPULATIONS DAMAGING SEVERAL IMPORTANT CROP PLANTS

Although earthworms are key factors in healthy crop ecosystem, their presence in excessive numbers can cause damage to crops.



Heavily stunted maize plants due to excessive earthworms populations

A vegetable farmer from Tarore, Vijaypur, (Jammu and Kashmir, India) reported damage and drying up of spinach owing to the presence of huge populations of earthworms during June, 2016. He had to go for re-sowing of the crop because of heavy damage. Likewise, damage due to the presence of huge populations of earthworms have been noticed in maize during July, 2017 at the Research farm of Advanced Centre for Rainfed Agriculture, Dhiansar, Bari Brahmana, J&K, India. The maize plants showed stunted growth. With the application of insecticide,

Chlorpyrifos 20EC, resulting in reduction in earthworms population, the maize plants however, recovered. Huge populations of earthworms were noticed to damage roots of vegetable crops like Okra and bottle gourd at the farmers field at village Kathwal, Chhatha, Jammu, J&K, India. Soil moisture in these fields was 85 – 90%, supporting the huge proliferation of earthworms, resulting in drying up of okra and bottle gourd plants at early stage. Rice field too were noticed to be heavily infested with earthworms at the research farm of Chhatha, Jammu, J&K, India. Differences in earthworms population were recorded in rice experiments laid at Chhatha, Jammu, where herbicides, and different Integrated Weed Management techniques were applied.

These earthworm species damaging the crop plants at all these locations, were top soil dwellers or *endogeic* specie that live in the upper 2 to 3 inches of the soil. They feed primarily on partially decomposed organic matter that is already incorporated in the soil. These endogeic species ingest large amounts of soil, which they mix with digested crop residue in their guts. The specimens collected from all these different locations have been submitted to the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India for identification. Further experiments are being planned to confirm crop damage due to huge populations of that particular earthworm species, in pot condition.

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IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.

It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world's crop and forest ecosystems.

Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site www.plantprotection.org.

The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:

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