



International Association for the
PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCES

IAPPS

NEWSLETTER

Number II

February, 2023



17TH ANNUAL BIOCONTROL INDUSTRY MEETING

At the 17th edition of the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting ABIM, co-organized by [FiBL](#) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association ([IBMA](#)), representatives of the biocontrol industry met from 24-26 October 2022. This worldwide event for the biocontrol industry took place live in Basel again. More than 1550 participants from 53 nations were able to network together, face to face, as well as listen to inspiring presentations and panel discussions. Business meetings between delegates and our [105 exhibitors](#) took place throughout the event. Both SMEs and large enterprises were well represented. An amazing number of innovations were presented. These are essential tools to facilitate the transformation to a sustainable agriculture.

As an unrivalled meeting place for the biocontrol industry, ABIM is internationally recognized. It remains the best place to discover and unveil new products, to discuss market opportunities, to present new research and products, to learn about the latest regulatory situation and to liaise with fellow professionals. The high number of delegates at this year's event shows the increasing importance of this topic. [Jennifer Lewis](#), IBMA Executive Director explains this development: "Biocontrol is essential in the transition of agriculture. These nature-based alternatives to chemical pesticides improve biodiversity, soil quality, crop health and resilience contributing to sustainable food production."

[Lucius Tamm](#), managing director of ABIM AG and Leader of the Department of Crop Sciences at FiBL Switzerland further draws attention to the role of biocontrol when it comes to sustainability: "Agricultural systems and processes must become more sustainable in the future. Biocontrol delivers crucial solutions and can shape this transformation process to sustainable agriculture successfully. This is why this annual meeting for the biocontrol industry is so important – for the industry itself and for the whole of society."

The program of ABIM 2022 included presentations from the European Commission on the latest policy positions on the new Sustainable Use Regulation and the relevant changes to the registration requirements of biocontrol. The new policies aim at reducing the dependence on chemical pesticides and facilitate authorization and uptake of non-chemical solutions. Innovations and successful IPM programs from around the world were presented, highlighting especially the dynamic development of biocontrol in Brazil. The crucial role and contribution of the food industry to the transformation of agriculture was discussed by value chain experts. Transformation also needs policy support. Examples of enabling policies from leading countries were shared and discussed.

Innovations have always been essential drivers for the biocontrol industry. This is why the Bernard Blum Award is presented annually to the most innovative biocontrol product of the year. Every year since 2015, an independent jury selects among a number of entries a winning biocontrol product which provides an effective solution in the management of pests or diseases while having a low impact on human health and the environment. The winning product of the 2022 Bernard Blum Award for Novel Biocontrol Solutions was Pronemite from Biobest. In 2nd place was Andermatt Biocontrol with Plutex and in 3rd place was Oricontrol Plus by Agrobio. The winner of the new category “Best Innovative product assisting biocontrol uptake” is CBC Europe’s product Shindo Trap. Read more about the products on the [IBMA Bernard Blum Award 2022 webpage](#).

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**REGISTRATIONS OPEN: PAN-AFRICAN
NEMATOLOGY NETWORK WORKSHOP**

From 1-3 March 2023, the second international Pan-African Nematology Network (PANEMA) workshop will take place in Mbombela, South Africa. This 3-day workshop, hosted by the University of Mpumalanga (in cooperation with North West University, the Agricultural Research Council and with support from Syngenta), will bring together trained nematologists, early-career researchers, students, agricultural extension workers, farmers and other stakeholders from across South Africa, Africa and beyond. This event builds on the success of the first PANEMA workshop, held in Eldoret, Kenya in February 2022, where more than 100 participants travelled from across Africa to attend the event.

Established in 2021, in the framework of the Erasmus+ project Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE): Nematology Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (NEMEDUSSA), PANEMA aims to promote networking and academic exchange between nematologists working in Africa. The focus of the network and workshop is on sharing good educational practices, creating and strengthening networks between higher education institutes (HEIs) and other stakeholders, and providing additional educational opportunities for those working in agriculture and nematology.

The workshop aims to have a good balance between seminars and hands-on practice in the field and lab, to enhance life-long learning and create opportunities for interactive discussions and networking between stakeholders. It is also a platform where students and African nematologists can showcase their projects and research. Next to nematode-related topics such as ‘Nematology and the One Earth Approach’, this workshop will focus on training in scientific communication skills to create better awareness about nematodes.

This workshop is open to farmers, agricultural extension workers, students, researchers, nematologists and interested parties. They are invited to register to attend this event in Mbombela, which can also be followed free online. Program and registration link: <https://nemedussa.ugent.be/2nd-panema-workshop-1-3-march-2023-2/> . For more information about the NEMEDUSSA project and upcoming PANEMA events, please see www.nemedussa.ugent.be. This project is funded with support from the European Commission.

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FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2023: FOR A TOXIC-FREE WORLD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Celebrating Laws and Policies for a Toxic-Free World: The Future Policy Award 2023.

The Future Policy Award is the first award that internationally showcases legislation and policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness for exemplary laws and policies and to speed up policy action towards a healthy planet and just, sustainable, and peaceful societies. Each year the World Future Council (WFC) focuses on one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent and receives nominations from all over the world for laws, policies or legal frameworks that are inspiring, innovative, and effective.

In 2023, the World Future Council is working in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as well as the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), the German Environment Agency (UBA) and the Michael Otto Foundation to highlight policies for a toxic-free world, regulating the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a focus on children and their environment.

Your expertise is needed!

Deadline for Nominations: December 4

We seek nominations of impactful policies, laws and legal frameworks that protect the environment and human health from toxic substances in products. Since children are especially vulnerable, a special focus shall be on

- Products explicitly designed for children,
- Products that children are exposed to or interact with
- Laws, policies and frameworks can be national, subnational, regional or local in nature and must:

- be in existence for long enough (2-3 years minimum) to demonstrate its effective implementation and impact;
- deliver identifiable improvements;
- be replicable under similar circumstances; and consider systemic aspects, reflecting the WFC's holistic and integrated perspective, in line with the [7 Future Justice Principles adopted by the WFC](#).

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The IAPPS Newsletter is published by the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences and distributed in *Crop Protection* to members and other subscribers. *Crop Protection*, published by Elsevier, is the Official Journal of IAPPS.

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.

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