



# BIPESTICIDES

A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
ICGEB Biopesticides Group

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## The Southern Africa Biopesticides Project

The three-year (2021-2024) regional project, Enhancing Trade Through Regulatory Harmonisation and Biopesticide Based Residue Mitigation in the SADC Region, led by the ICGEB and funded by the STDF, seeks to address the challenge of low export market access by some countries in Southern Africa; owing to the non-compliance with existing maximum residue level (MRL) trade standards. The project aims to combine the use of conventional pesticides with microbial-based biopesticides to control key agricultural pests within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy. The project has three main components:

- Regulatory harmonisation: developing common biopesticide regulatory practices with selected project countries (Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe);

- Residue mitigation: through strategic incorporation of non-residue producing biopesticides, following conventional pesticides, help reduce pesticide residue levels and hence enhance compliance with MRL standards; and,
- Functional capacity building: developing the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours needed to ensure individuals and organisations can work effectively to achieve the project's stated objectives.

Two new members joined the ICGEB Biopesticides Project in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2021:

Mr. Michael Siboto, Project Administrator  
Mrs. Karen Muirhead, Programme Specialist



You might be interested to read: "Pesticide residues: The safe trade challenge" an article on EIF Trade for Development News platform, highlighting results and lessons from STDF's previous work.

<https://trade4devnews.enhancediif.org/en/op-ed/pesticide-residues-safe-trade-challenge>

## Use of biopesticides can enhance market access under the WTO regime

**Ravi Khetarpal (Executive Secretary – Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions)**



The international agricultural trade of many developing economies in Asia and other parts of the world still face increasing challenges in conforming to Codex Alimentarius (norms of the World Trade Organisation [WTO]) and other trade partners' pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs). This is either because these MRLs are not established or because they are too low to reasonably comply with real-world use patterns by farmers. In light of this, an innovative approach is being developed to mitigate pesticide residues and facilitate market access and trade under a Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) funded project: Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities.

The project aims to mitigate pesticide MRL export violations through strategic use of non-residue producing microbial-based biopesticides to control key pests, especially at the end of the crop growing season (the period when pesticides contribute most to residues at the time of harvest). The purpose of the project is, therefore, to promote Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) related technical capacity development blended with functional capacity building in South and South-East Asian countries. Additionally, the project aims to contribute to regulatory harmonisation on registration of biopesticides and also training and education of farmers on targeted use of biopesticides in Asia.



### Upcoming events for the Southern Africa Biopesticides Project:

**27 October 2021:** Monthly Project - USDA Coordination meeting

**29 October 2021:** Technical Working Group meeting

**24 November 2021:** Monthly Project - USDA Coordination meeting

**22 December 2021:** Monthly Project - USDA Coordination meeting



# An industry perspective on biological pest control

**Jaco Marais (Product Manager: Row Crops [Biorational Products], Philagro)**



South Africa is a country rich in history, culture and natural resources. From an agricultural perspective, South Africa is a significant role player - cultivating numerous crops for internal use and the export market. Due to pressure on the use of conventional chemistry and demand from consumers for food produced in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner, biopesticides are growing in market access and adoption. Additionally, utilising biopesticides as part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies contribute towards managing crop pests in a manner where the environment and financial aspects benefit.

South Africa is a leader on the African continent regarding application of biopesticides. The South African Bioproducts Organisation (SABO) is a voluntary association representing industry entities and research affiliates with a focus on biopesticides, biostimulants and bio-fertilisers. It is important for SABO to promote the use of biological products in a scientific and responsible manner.

All types of biopesticides sold commercially in South Africa must be registered under The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947, and entails generating data related to product efficacy, quality, and safety. Registering a biopesticide can be a challenging and tedious endeavour. Costs associated with development and registration can reach staggering amounts, thus limiting the ability of small-to-medium biological enterprises to bring new biopesticides to the market. Therefore, it is important for industry and regulatory authorities to engage positively in addressing challenges and harmonisation related to biopesticide data requirements and ensure that use of bio-control technology flourishes in support of economic, social, and environmental prosperity in South Africa. Philagro is based in Pretoria (Gauteng) with a regional office in Somerset West (Western Cape). Our products enable growers to produce high quality, safe produce whilst maximising their return on investment. We pride ourselves in providing in-time product supply, ongoing technical sales support, and product stewardship to ensure effective solutions to production challenges of our clients.



## Events & Opportunities in the Biopesticides Sector

- 13 - 14 October 2021: Global Biocontrol Summit, 2nd edition. A 2-day online course. <https://www.global-biocontrol.com/>
- 18 - 20 October 2021: Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting (ABIM) 2021, Basel, Switzerland. <https://www.abim.ch/>
- 26 - 29 October 2021: IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Integrated Protection of Olive Crops", Lisbon, Portugal. <https://aphorticultura.pt/9iobc>
- 31 October - 3 November 2021: Entomology 2021, Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), Denver, USA. <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting/2021>
- 8 - 9 December 2021: "Fundamentals of EU Biopesticide Regulations" - A 2-day online course by New AG International Academy.

### Editorial Team

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**STANDARDS and TRADE  
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