



BI~~PESTICIDES~~

A Quarterly Newsletter of the ICGEB Biopesticides Group

The Southern Africa Biopesticides Project

Website: <http://www.sabiop.co.za>

Project Secretariat: sabiop@icgeb.org

Regulatory harmonisation: A 2-day in-person workshop was held on 11-12 July 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa to provide training on application of the regional harmonised biopesticide registration guidelines developed under the project. Participants included regulators, policymakers, industry representatives and extension service officials from the six project countries (Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), as well as representatives from several project partners. The draft guidelines were subsequently presented at a General Meeting of the Southern African Pesticide Regulators Forum (SAPReF) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 4-8 September 2023.



Residue mitigation studies: Residue mitigation studies are being conducted in Tanzania and Kenya to support the incorporation of biopesticides in pest control programmes - particularly to replace the use of late-season pesticides identified as contributory to violations of Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) standards in export markets. The samples from Phase 1 of the **Tanzania study**, to measure residue decline of methoxyfenozide for control of false codling moth on avocado, are yet to be analysed due to challenges in procuring required laboratory materials and consumables. Nevertheless, arrangements are being made for Phase 2, to investigate the use of Cryptogran to replace the final application of methoxyfenozide – planned to begin November 2023. The **Kenya study**, focusing on the control of anthracnose fungi on mango, is nearing completion. Analysis of Phase 2 samples has been concluded and the results are being interpreted to assess the efficacy of neem oil to mitigate the late-season application of carbendazim. The project team looks forward to sharing these studies' results in coming issues.



River Bioscience – Celebrating 20 years!*

<https://riverbioscience.co.za/>

Sean Thackeray (Chief Commercial Officer: River Bioscience)



River Bioscience was established in 2003 by the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa to address the need for the development of more sustainable technologies for use in crop production systems. Some of the ground-breaking achievements in the company's early years were the development and commercialisation of *Cryptophlebia leucotreta* granulovirus (CrLeGV-SA), *Helicoverpa armigera* nucleopolyhedrovirus (HearNPV), male annihilation technique for invasive fruit flies and protein-based bait stations. Over a decade later this investment is starting to pay off with record market use by growers in the past two seasons and exports into Africa increasing as markets clamp down on phytosanitary pests and residue limits.

River Bioscience continues to invest in developing new technologies and skills in South Africa through our partnerships with research organisations and universities. In 2022 a significant investment was made in infrastructure and capacity with the establishment of our Product Development and Innovation Department, which focuses on developing our long-term pipeline and generating relevant scientific data for growers to better incorporate biological products into mainstream agriculture.

To cap off our 20-year celebrations, River Bioscience has just received regulatory approval in South Africa for a novel active *Cryptophlebia peltastica* nucleopolyhedrovirus (CrpeNPV), which adds a new tool for southern African producers and will play a significant role in managing codling moth resistance to CpGv isolates in Europe and North America. We remain committed to being leaders in sustainable agriculture.



* Disclaimer: Please note that the inclusion of specific company information is intended solely to share information about industry developments in the biopesticides sector and should not be interpreted as an endorsement by ICGEB, STDF, or any of their partners.

"Pests and diseases in plants are a significant challenge in crop management. To minimise pesticide residues in food and the environment, it is important to explore sustainable alternatives like biopesticides. The STDF-funded project, that is being implemented by ICGEB, promotes the use of biopesticides and provides scientific guidelines for regulatory and extension services to incorporate them effectively into pest management programs."

- Samson Musonerimana PhD (*Director of research support services at the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi [ISABU]*)



Implementation of an STDF Project for pesticide residue mitigation in Latin America

Adriana Castañeda PhD (Consultant: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture [IICA])

On 21 February 2023, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) launched a project to promote the use of biopesticides and integrated pest control options on crops exported from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with a view to improving compliance with pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and facilitating international agricultural trade - and aligned with similar STDF projects in implementation in Africa and Asia.



The project - [Mitigating Pesticide Residues in Latin America Using Biopesticides](#) - will be implemented over a three-year period in 12 countries from

different regions within Latin America (central America, Andean and south cone countries in South America), including Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru.

Project beneficiaries will include selected producers and exporters, biopesticide manufacturers, the official regulatory sector and extension institutions in the 12 participating countries.

IICA will implement the project with the support of the Minor Use Foundation (MUF), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4), and private sector partners including CropLife Latin America, Avance Pasiflora, and Bioprotection Global.

The main objective for the first semester is to accomplish training through the regional excellence center that was launched on 26 June 2023 at the National University in Colombia. Here, the participating countries will be trained in laboratory analysis and field trials. Trainees will also have a demonstration of biopesticide efficacy trials.



Preparation for Latin America & the Caribbean regional excellence center for pesticide sciences training (Source: ©STDF/José Carlos Alexandre)



A note from the Editorial team:

We wish to apologise to our readers for the late publication of this issue of the quarterly Biopesticides newsletter. The Southern Africa Biopesticides Project management have been hard at work in the midst of one of the busiest (and most productive) times of the project – where we also reached the implementation halfway mark. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Issue 9: October – December 2023 will be published and circulated very soon, so do watch this space!

Editorial Team:

Dr. Dennis Ndolo – Group Leader & Project Manager
Ms. Karen Hope – Programme Specialist
(ICGEB Biopesticides Group, Cape Town, South Africa)

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