



BIOPESTICIDES

A Quarterly Newsletter of the ICGEB Biopesticides Group



The Southern Africa Biopesticides Project

Regulatory harmonisation: A working document – towards the development of a biopesticide regulatory framework for the Southern Africa region – has been developed and will be presented to the Southern African Pesticide Regulators Forum (SAPReF) for their consideration in early 2023 (date to be confirmed). Following input from the Forum (and revisions made as necessary), the draft will be submitted to the SADC Secretariat, and subsequently to individual countries in the region, for appraisal. A roadmap on translating and incorporating the guidelines into national legislation will then be developed. Training on various aspects of the guidelines will also be given to the project countries.

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. Phase 1 of the Tanzanian study, to measure the rate of residue decline of methoxyfenozide for control of false codling moth on avocado, began in November 2022. Phase 2 of the Kenyan study, to assess the efficacy of neem oil to mitigate the late-season application of carbendazim for the control anthracnose fungi on mangos, is due to begin in January 2023.

Residue mitigation training workshop: An in-person training workshop, on both the field and laboratory components of the residue mitigation studies, was recently held in Nairobi, Kenya (31 October – 4 November 2022), and hosted by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). The 30 trainees were from key governmental institutions of the project countries: Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Additional participants/observers included two members of the Project's Advisory Board. In addition to the technical training, participants received functional capacity development (or "soft skills") training. The Project's intention is for the trainees to serve as trainers: to transfer knowledge and skills onto colleagues in their respective institution as an extension of skills development, as well as to other stakeholders within their network so as to increase awareness on, and promote the use of, biopesticides in IPM.



"Many developing economies face challenges of excessive pesticide use which, among other things, adversely affects trade because of exceedance of established Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in export markets. It is therefore laudable that ICGEB, through an STDF funded project, is working towards developing a strategy for incorporating biopesticides into pest control programmes to mitigate specific residue infractions."

- Dr Murenga Mwimali (*Principal Research Scientist: Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organisation [KALRO]*)



Promoting Biopesticides and Enhancing Trade Opportunities in Asia

Dr Sasireka Rajendran (Project Manager: APAARI) s.rajendran@apaari.org



Since 2020, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions ([APAARI](#)) and Ag Aligned Global have been implementing the STDF-funded project "[Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities](#)" across ten countries in Asia, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. The primary purpose of this project is to mitigate pesticide residues and facilitate trade by preventing Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) export violations related to pesticide residues on agricultural commodities. The project activities include generating crop-specific MRL decline data for the participating countries, enhancing biopesticide regulatory harmonisation in the region, capacity building for microbial biopesticides manufacturing, and knowledge sharing and dissemination of key project outcomes with Asian farmers and other stakeholders.

The stand-alone aspect of the project is the blending of technical and functional skills in all project activities that work best for individual and institutional capacity building. There is a mutual sharing of experience and knowledge on the findings and implementation from the region with the Southern Africa Biopesticides Project implemented by ICGEB. Between April



Microbial biopesticide manufacturing workshop, Vietnam. October 2022 (Source: APAARI)

and September 2022, the project team conducted several in-person trainings on MRL residue decline studies in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. A regional workshop on microbial biopesticide manufacturing was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in October 2022 with participants from the partnering countries. Additionally, national and regional farmers' outreach activities are being conducted through close collaboration with Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA).



MRL residue decline study field training, Indonesia. 2022 (Source: APAARI)

You might also be interested to know:

The Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) has released a [Pesticides Atlas – Kenya Edition](#). This special edition atlas gives new information on the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Kenya, and is available for download.

Up-coming Events in the Biopesticide Sector

- 08 April 2023: [International Conference on Crop Protection Technologies \(ICCPT\)](#), Rome, Italy.
- 06-07 June 2023: [Biopesticides Europe 2023](#), Brussels, Belgium.
- 06-09 June 2023: [XVI Meeting of the IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Biological & Integrated Control of Plant Pathogens"](#), Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- 10-11 June 2023: [International Conference on Agronomy, Crop Science & Protection \(ICACSP\)](#), Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 21-22 June 2023: [International Conference on Agronomy & Crop Protection \(ICACP\)](#), Vienna, Austria.
- 28 June 2023: [International Conference on Entomology & Crop Protection \(ICECP\)](#), Istanbul, Turkey.
- 20-25 August 2023: [ICPP 2023: 12th International Congress on Plant Pathology](#), Lyon, France.
- 13-15 September 2023: [Workshop "Trends in Microbial Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture"](#), Belgrade, Serbia.

ICGEB Fellowship and Grant Opportunities

** Closing date for all applications: 31 March 2023.

- [ICGEB Arturo Falaschi PhD Fellowship in Life Sciences.](#)
- [ICGEB Arturo Falaschi short-term PhD Fellowship.](#)
- [ICGEB Arturo Falaschi Postdoctoral Fellowship in Life Sciences.](#)
- [ICGEB Arturo Falaschi short-term Postdoctoral Fellowship.](#)
- [ICGEB SMART Fellowship.](#)

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Produced under the framework of the project "Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonisation and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the SADC Region (STDF/PG/694)", financed by:



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