



# *OECD Pesticide Programme and Projects Related to Biopesticides*

**Dr Rodolfo Lacy**  
Director of the Environment Directorate, OECD  
30 August 2021



# Objectives of OECD Pesticide Programme

- Develop **practical** and **harmonised tools** that countries can use to implement their legislations regarding the safe use of pesticides
  - Test Guidelines
  - Electronic tools for data submission
  - Risk assessment methodologies
- Focus on **sustainable approaches** towards plant protection
  - new technologies for the design and application of pesticides which reduce risks to humans and wildlife.





# Considerations for evaluating the safety of Biopesticides

---

## Challenge

- **How to assess risks of biopesticides**
  - Most harmonised tools for evaluating pesticide risk are based on chemical pesticides, though properties of biopesticides can be different. E.g. microorganisms
    - produce their own chemicals (secondary metabolites of concern)
    - produce copies of themselves
  - **New methods** maybe be needed **to effectively evaluate safety**

## Possible Solution(s)

- Identification of **relevant test methods for microorganisms**.
  - **May 2022 Conference** *Innovating Microbial Pesticide Testing*
- **Publications to address barriers to biopesticides regulation**, e.g.
  - Seminar Reports (annually)
  - Risk Assessment of Secondary Metabolites of Microbial Biocontrol Agents (2018)
  - Guidance for assessment of Microbial Strains (2018)



# Considerations for Biopesticides producers

---

## **Challenge**

- Many of the **biopesticides producers** are **SMEs**
  - faced with relatively high cost burden for regulation of products with a small market.

## **Possible Solution(s)**

- Consensus documents that deal with **Niche Uses of Highly Specific Biocontrol Agents**, e.g.:
  - Bacteriophages
  - Baculoviruses
- The OECD Expert Group **recommendations** to enhance **Global Joint Reviews** and thus **reduce costs for market entry**
  - Particularly impactful for manufactures of biopesticides
  - Liaise with stakeholders on Guidance for Joint Reviews



# 2021 OECD Seminar on efficacy of biopesticides

---

## Challenge

- **Efficacy** of biopesticide plant protection products **can be highly variable**
- Not all biopesticides fit into typical efficacy testing protocols (e.g., pheromones, invertebrate biocontrol agents);
- There is a **need for improved application precision, user knowledge, and label use instructions;**

## Possible Solution(s)

- Incorporation of **additional flexibility** in **study design**
- Introduction of **digital tools** in **biopesticide labels**
- Consideration should be given to evaluating **efficacy** of biopesticides as **part of integrated pest management programs** (IPM), rather than as stand-alone treatments



# Conclusion

---

- OECD Pesticide Programme works to **streamline pesticide registration and reduce risk of pesticides**
- Pesticides practices continue to evolve, with **innovative products** but also **new challenges**.
- OECD aims to provide **tools to addressing challenges** and:
  - enhance protection of humans and environment,
  - integrate green growth strategies,
  - facilitate cooperation and cost savings for industry and regulatory authorities.

## Vision



### Enhance protection of humans, animals and environment

Co-operate globally on the evaluation and registration of agricultural pesticides resulting in benefits for human and animal health as well as for the environment and considerable resource savings for governments and industries. OECD-wide accepted data requirements, test guidelines and documentation standards for country evaluation reports should lead to mutual trust and full acceptance of evaluations based on good science.



### Integrate green growth strategies

Contribute to green growth of agriculture, horticulture and forestry by promoting resource efficient and integrated plant protection strategies that respond to the growing demand on food and feed production and to the need for sustainability. The OECD will also encourage work on modern cropping systems, precision farming and other computer-aided technologies in order to enhance sustainability and reduce risks associated with pesticides.



### Foster public confidence

Increase trust from society in the registration of agricultural pesticides and integrated pest management strategies in agriculture as basic instruments to ensure social and economic well-being and reducing risks to human health and the environment.



### Facilitate cooperation

Become a driver and the main facilitator of cooperation between countries and international organisations dealing with the safety of agricultural pesticides and pest management strategies in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.