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International Akademie Fresenius Conference

# Novel Pesticides

## Towards Sustainability in the Regulatory Framework of the EU

25 and 26 June 2026  
in Dusseldorf/Germany

### Highlights

#### Regulatory Update & Synergies with other areas

- Update from the European Commission
- Industry perspective on biocontrol developments
- Biochemicals and the Omnibus: latest industry insights
- Lessons from GM crops for novel pesticide regulation

#### Risk Assessment

- As under discussion in the respective working groups (EFSA / OECD): Fit-for-purpose risk assessment for biocontrol substances, including problem formulation approaches
- Update on the RATION Project

#### Safety & Market Access

- Industry Experiences with registering bacteriophages as crop protection products
- Environmental safety of biotechnological plant protection products (ENSAFE project)
- Accelerating market access for biocontrol – a Ctgb perspective

#### Socio-Economics, Real-World Experience & Emerging Tools

- Sustainability and socio-economic impact of biopesticides
- AI in Plant Protection Regulation: Opportunities, challenges, and practical implications



### The Experts

**Alison Blackwell** APS Biocontrol | **Marisé Borja** International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) / GAP Consulting | **Gunter Brader** Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) / Ration Project | **Nina Cedergreen** University of Copenhagen / ENSafe Project | **Domenico Deserio** European Commission | **Jacobijn van Etten** Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) | **Inge Huygens** Arche Consulting | **Patrick Kabouw** Aphea Bio | **Michael Kurzmeier** Agrexix | **Joachim Rumbolz** Ramboll | **Heike Scholz-Döbelin** Plant Protection Service of the Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia | **Anne Steenberg** Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) | **Kara Welch** Novonosis | **Michael Werner** Syngenta / CropLife Europe

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# Thursday, 25 June 2026

## Morning Session | 09:30 – 12:55 CEST

09:00 On-site registration

09:20 Welcome Address by the Organisers and the Chairs

Patrick Kabouw, Apeha Bio, Belgium

Jacobijn van Etten, Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb), The Netherlands

## Regulatory Developments & Synergies with Other Areas

09:30 Update from the European Commission

Domenico Deserio, European Commission, Belgium  
(virtual presentation)

10:05 Update from the IBMA

Marisé Borja, International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), Belgium

10:40 Update from Crop Life Europe

- The latest on Crop Life Europe's (CLE) Biochemicals Contribution Document
- Case studies related to the document
- CLE's positions regarding the proposed amendments to Regulation 1107 in the Food & Feed Omnibus Simplification, with a focus on the proposed biocontrol definition

Michael Werner, CropLife Europe / Syngenta, Belgium

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 What Can Novel Pesticides Learn from GM Crops?

- GM crops – the first novel technology to reach a global standard in agriculture
- From GM crops to regulatory practice: spectrum-of-activity, exposure-based reasoning, and long-term strategy
- Novel pesticides: What they can learn to build data strategies for fit-for-purpose regulation

Kara Welch, Novonosis, United States

12:20 Critical Ag Technologies: The Wider Policy Framework for Biocontrol

Kristen Sukalac, Biocontrol Coalition/ Prospero Ag, Belgium

12:55 Lunch break

## Afternoon Session | 14:00 – 17:20 CEST

## Safety & Market Access

14:00 Registering Bacteriophages as Crop Protection Products: Challenges and Opportunities

- Opportunities presented by bacteriophage as targeted, low-risk bactericides
- Overcoming technical challenges associated with the extreme host-specificity of bacteriophage
- Regulatory challenges associated with this novel technology

Alison Blackwell, APS Biocontrol, United Kingdom

14:35 Ctgb Green Team Perspective: Biocontrol – The Ongoing Activities to Accelerate the Access to Market

Jacobijn van Etten, Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb), The Netherlands

15:10 Coffee break

15:40 US EPA Perspective: Towards Sustainability – Registering Innovative New Pesticides

Nina Ortiz, US Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
(to be confirmed)

16:15 Introduction to the ENSAFE Project: ENvironmental SAFETY of Biotechnological Plant Protection Products

- What is special about peptide- and RNA-based products from a safety perspective?
- Testing species selectivity to dsRNA
- Grouping peptides to find patterns in fate and effects
- Using bioinformatics as predictive tools
- Communication and dissemination of results

Nina Cedergreen, University of Copenhagen / ENSafe Project, Denmark

16:50 Panel Discussion

17:20 End of the first day

18:15 Evening event



After the first conference day you are most welcome to attend our evening event for an unhurried evening of good food and leisure time. Please, join us to continue the day's interesting discussions in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

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Information available online at: [www.akademie-fresenius.com/3886](http://www.akademie-fresenius.com/3886)

Friday, 26 June 2026

 **Morning Session | 09:00 – 13:20 CEST**

**09:00 Brief address by the Chairs**

**Patrick Kabouw**, Apeha Bio, Belgium

**Jacobijn van Etten**, Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb), The Netherlands

## Risk Assessment

**09:10 Fit-for-purpose Approach for the Risk Assessment of Biocontrol Substances**

- Problem formulation using pathways to harm
- Microbial substances
- Non-living biocontrol substances

**Anne Steenbergh**, Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb), The Netherlands

**09:45 Update on the RATION Project – Microorganisms: Pipeline to Analyse Whole Genome Data for Risk assessment**

**Gunter Brader**, Ration Project / Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Austria

## Socio-Economics, Real-World Experience & Emerging Tools

**10:20 Long Term Perspectives: Sustainability and Socio-economic Impact of Biopesticides**

- EU policy and market transition to biological/low-risk crop protection
- Environmental sustainability impacts (biodiversity, climate, soil & water; IPM/organic compatibility)
- Socio-economic viability and scaling (farm resilience/market access; innovation and bioeconomy value creation)

**Joachim Rumbolz**, Ramboll, Germany

**10:55 Coffee break**

28<sup>th</sup> International AGRO Conference

### Behaviour of Pesticides in Air, Soil and Water

2 and 3 June 2026 | Dusseldorf and via Live Stream

[www.akademie-fresenius.com/agro](http://www.akademie-fresenius.com/agro)

**11:25 Experiences with the Practical Application of Biological Control: Successes, Opportunities, Pitfalls and Problems**

**Heike Scholz-Döbelin**, Plant Protection Service of the Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, (to be confirmed)

**12:00 The SSbD (Safe and Sustainable by Design) Concept as Decision-Support Tool for More Balanced and Future-proof Innovation in Crop Protection**

- Safe-and-Sustainable-by-Design (SSbD): a voluntary European framework that integrates hazard, exposure, circularity, and life-cycle sustainability
- How SSbD can be utilised to assess functionality, risk, and broader environmental and socio-economic sustainability dimensions
- How SSbD can help in anticipating future regulatory and market expectations

**Inge Huygens**, Arche Consulting, Belgium

**12:35 AI in Plant Protection Regulation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Practical Implications**

**Michael Kurzmeier**, Agrexis, Switzerland

**13:05 Final Remarks**

**13:20 Lunch and end of the conference**

Online Training

### Biocontrol: Navigating the EU Regulation for Microbials

23 July 2026 | Online

[www.akademie-fresenius.com/4058](http://www.akademie-fresenius.com/4058)

Online Training

### Biocontrol: Navigating the EU Regulation for Natural Substances & Semiochemicals

23 July 2026 | Online

[www.akademie-fresenius.com/4059](http://www.akademie-fresenius.com/4059)

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# Registration

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By email [registration@akademie-fresenius.com](mailto:registration@akademie-fresenius.com)

## Participation Fee:

**€ 1,795.00 plus VAT** on-site in Dusseldorf

Representatives of an authority or a public university are eligible for a reduced fee of **€ 895.00 plus VAT** per person (please provide evidence). The reduced fee cannot be combined with other rebates.

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## Do you have any questions?



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**Group Reductions:** For joint bookings received from one company we grant a 15% discount from the third participant onwards.

**Terms of Cancellation:** For our on-site events, written cancellations or transfers will be accepted free of charge up to four weeks prior to the start of the event. After this date and up to a week prior to the start of the event we will reimburse 50% of the registration fee. We cannot, unfortunately, provide refunds for later cancellations. For our online events, cancellations or rebookings to another event will be accepted free of charge up to one week before the start of the event. In the event of later cancellations or non-login to the online event, no participation fees can be refunded. In this

## Who should take part?

- ✓ Managing directors, managers, consultants and scientists working in the field of biological control
- ✓ Producers, distributors and downstream users of biologicals, pesticides that fall under low-risk category or were specifically developed to increase agricultural sustainability
- ✓ Technical Experts from Research & development
- ✓ Risk assessors, Toxicologists, Ecotoxicologists
- ✓ Product Stewards, Regulators

### Sectors taking part:

- ✓ Agrochemical industry
- ✓ Biotech Industry, Research institutes
- ✓ Authorities
- ✓ Professional associations
- ✓ Contract laboratories/consultancies

## Conference Venue

Novotel Düsseldorf City West  
Niederkasseler Lohweg 179, 40547 Düsseldorf  
Phone : +49 211 52060-0  
Email: [h3279@accor.com](mailto:h3279@accor.com)  
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We have reserved a limited number of rooms for our participants at the hotel. These rooms can be booked up to 4 weeks prior to the start of the event. Please book early and directly through the hotel quoting „Akademie Fresenius“ as reference.

case, however, you will receive access to the documentation download after the event. Please note that you can name a substitute participant free of charge at any time.

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