

First Uruguayan workshop on the production of microbial biocontrol agents



The First Uruguayan Workshop on the Production of Microbial Bio-Control Agents (MBCA) was held on March 21 and 22, 2006, at INIA La Estanzuela Experimental Station, Colonia, Uruguay. Over 60 participants of private and public Institutions interested in the biocontrol of insect pests and diseases gathered to discuss the current status of the MBCA in the country, its limitations and perspectives and to coordinate actions to improve the application of BC in different production systems. The participants represented all areas of interest; research, teaching, private companies, agricultural production, public health, local and national government agents. International experts in the application of MBCA were invited as speakers and also to shared their knowledge and experience with the national participants in order to widen the analysis of the situation. Dr. Joop van Lenteren, IOBC President, joined the meeting on March 22 and addressed the participants about “*How does IOBC promote the implementation of Biological Control?*”. Drs. Flavio Moscardi, Daniel Sosa Gomez y Rose Monnerat from Brazil (EMBRAPA), Drs. Roberto Lecuona (IMYZA - INTA) and Juan Claus (Universidad Nacional del Litoral) from Argentina, Drs. Trevor Jackson and Gabriel Visnovsky (AgResearch) from New Zealand and Dr. Colin Berry (Cardiff University) from UK presented the “state of the art” and the current development of different microorganisms as bio control agents in their countries. Uruguayan researchers and local private companies exposed and discussed their current situation; their advances, achievements, as well as their limitations and agreed to the following conclusions: 1) to acknowledge the scientific development of different research teams with an important background on microbial processes, 2) to request a stronger legal and institutional support to encourage the use of BCA, 3) to emphasize the need of education in BC at different levels; civil society, farmers, consumers, scientific community and government agents. The organizing committee thanks all participants and takes upon the responsibility to keep on calling for this type of activities.