

First Announcement – Mark Your Calendars!

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

IOBC Global



15th Workshop of the IOBC – MRQA Working Group

Delivering on the Increasing Demand for High Quality Invertebrates

Joint meeting of IOBC Global Working Group on Mass Rearing & Quality Assurance

Association of Natural Biocontrol Producers (ANBP)

International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association (IBMA)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the **15th Workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group on Mass Rearing & Quality Assurance (MRQA)** will be held in Bologna, Italy, 5-9th September 2022. Details of the venue will be given in a subsequent announcement.

The workshop objective is to explore opportunities for advancing the rearing of high quality entomophagous and phytophagous insects and mites, entomopathogenic nematodes, and other invertebrates for plant and animal pest management, human

and animal food, and a variety of other uses. The program will consist of symposia on current "Hot topics," invited and submitted presentations, and posters on selected aspects of invertebrate rearing and quality assurance as they relate to production and quality control. Presentations will serve as a basis for discussion and exchange, with the final aim of improving collaboration among scientists and practitioners.

General Topics for the Symposia include:

- Mass rearing and quality assurance of entomophagous arthropods and entomopathogenic nematodes
- Mass rearing and quality assurance of pollinators (hoverflies, bumblebees...)
- Arthropod mass rearing for various purposes (e.g., butterflies, displays, conservation, SIT, food and feed, etc.),
- Methods for assessing the quality of biological control products
- Education and training in insect rearing

Additional suggestions are welcome. Submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be organized via a dedicated website - www.mrqa.eu/workshop2022/ Instructions for presenters will be included in a subsequent announcement.

A technical visit will be organized in cooperation with Bioplanet s.r.l. Guided city tours can also be arranged.

Details on **registration fees and accommodation options** will be announced in a subsequent circular.

Looking forward to meeting you in Bologna!

Maria Luisa Dindo & Rose Buitenhuis

Organizing Committee:

Chairs:

Maria Luisa Dindo (Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy; IOBC-MRQA Co-convenor, Workshop Host)

Rose Buitenhuis (Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada; IOBC-MRQA Co-convenor)

Members:

Tom Coudron (USDA-ARS Biological Control of Insects Research laboratory, Columbia, Missouri, retired; IOBC-MRQA past convenor)

Patrick De Clercq (Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; IOBC-MRQA past convenor)

Lynn LeBeck (ANBP Executive Director, Clovis, California)

Norman Leppla (University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida; IOBC-MRQA past convenor)

Andrew Parker (IAEA, Seibersdorf, Austria, retired)

Marco Mosti (Bioplanet s.r.l., Cesena, Italy)

Caroline Reid (IBMA – Professional Group Invertebrate Biocontrol Agents)

Financial Assistance for Student and Early Career IOBC Members:

IOBC – MRQA has limited funds to award travel assistance to student and early career scientists (less than 5 years after graduation) who are IOBC members and are presenting a paper at the meeting. Application instructions will be included in a second circular.

Contacts:

For queries regarding sponsorship or display space, or for other logistic queries, please contact

Irene Lenci

Eikon communication

Eikon s.r.l.

via Perlasca 10 - 40137 Bologna - Italy

ph. +39 051 6238522

organizingsecretariat@eikoncommunication.com

www.eikoncommunication.com

For queries regarding the Workshop Topics and Symposia, please contact

Maria Luisa Dindo

Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL)

Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna

Viale Fanin, 42 - 40127 Bologna - Italy

ph. +39 051 2096288

marialuisa.dindo@unibo.it

<https://www.unibo.it/sitoweb/marialuisa.dindo/en>

Rose Buitenhuis

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
4890 Victoria Avenue North, Box 4000
Vineland Station ON, L0R 2E0 Canada
ph + 905.562.0320
rose.buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com
vinelandresearch.com

More information on IOBC-MRQA can be found at <https://www.MRQA.eu>

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