

# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Biological Control

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Thank you IBMA and world-wide biological control industry for honouring me in June 2010 with the Lifetime Achievement Award



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Biological Control

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, countries have sovereign rights over their genetic/species resources.

Agreements for access to these resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their use should be established between the parties involved (Access and Benefit Sharing = ABS).



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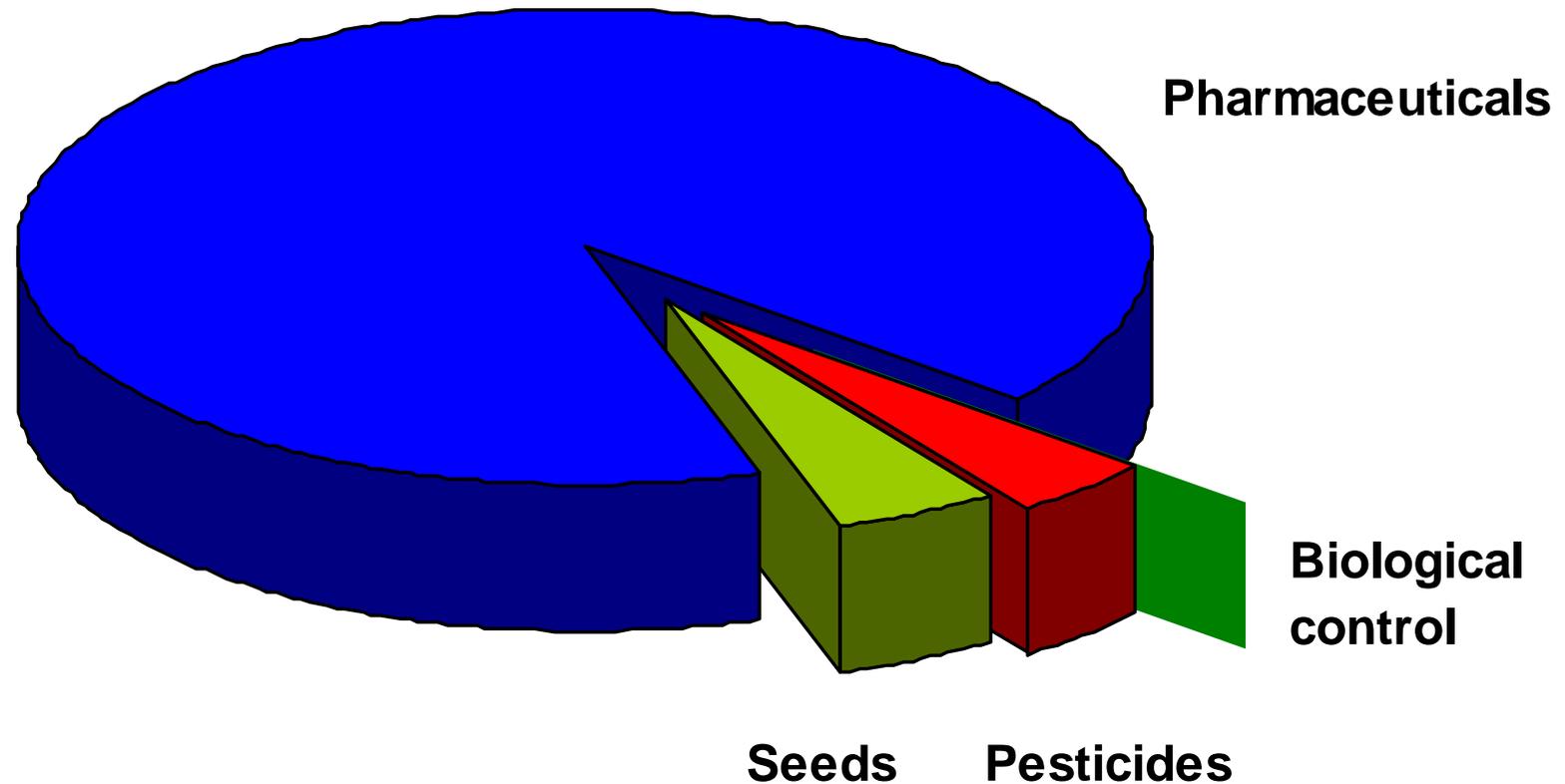
Agreements for access to these resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their use should be established between the parties involved (Access and Benefit Sharing = ABS).

This applies also to Biological Control Agents taken from one country to another.

Big players in the field of collection of exotic genetic resources are the pharmaceutical and pesticide industry, and the seed companies. Biological control is also very dependent on foreign exploration, but money wise, it is a very small player.



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control



Market value pharmaceuticals € 480,000 million  
macrobiological control € 300 million



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control

If countries will start demanding large amounts of money for each organism collected, biological control by exotic natural enemies will no longer be possible.

The biological control community will need to comply with whatever ABS regime is agreed by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2010, Montreal, Canada.

Therefore, IOBC Global formed a Commission on Biological Control and Access and Benefit Sharing, and wrote a report on request of and with support from the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control



We started  
in March  
2009 with a  
workshop,

finished the  
report in  
June 2009,

and a paper  
in Sept  
2009





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والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
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Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
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организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**THE USE AND EXCHANGE OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS FOR FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE**

by

Matthew J.W. Cock, Joop C. van Lenteren, Jacques Brodeur, Barbara I.P. Barratt, Franz Bigler,  
Karel Bolckmans, Fernando L. Cònsoli, Fabian Haas, Peter G. Mason, José Roberto P. Parra<sup>1</sup>

## Do new Access and Benefit Sharing procedures under the Convention on Biological Diversity threaten the future of biological control?

Matthew J. W. Cock · Joop C. van Lenteren · Jacques Brodeur ·  
Barbara I. P. Barratt · Franz Bigler · Karel Bolckmans · Fernando L. Cônsoli ·  
Fabian Haas · Peter G. Mason · José Roberto P. Parra

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**Abstract** Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) countries have sovereign rights over their genetic resources. Agreements governing the access to these resources and the sharing of the

benefits arising from their use need to be established between involved parties [i.e. Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)]. This also applies to species collected for potential use in biological control. Recent applications of CBD principles have already made it difficult or impossible to collect and export natural enemies for biological control research in several countries. If such an approach is widely applied it

# Ongoing actions

Summaries or complete translations of FAO report in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese

Short forum type of papers in:

- Chinese Journal of Biological Control
- Brazilian Journal of Entomology
- SPIPM newsletter ICEPE / CGIAR

*Biocontrol News and Information* **30(4)**, 67N–87N  
[pestscience.com](http://pestscience.com)

## General News

### **IOBC Reports to FAO on Access and Benefit Sharing**

In October 2008, IOBC (International Organization for Biological Control) established its Global Commission on Biological Control and Access and Benefit Sharing, with the mission to provide scientific advice

tions where application of ABS is not straightforward, to successes and the implications for ABS sharing. In June 2009, the report, which is unique in its overview of the current state of affairs in biological control, was sent to FAO for review and the final version was published by FAO on 16 October 2009. The (edited) executive summary of the



# Ongoing actions

## WORLD VIEW

*A personal take on events*

Nature September 2010

J. COCK, UNIV. BERN



## Biopiracy rules should not block biological control

*Global regime on benefit-sharing for genetic resources should take account of non-commercial interests, says Matthew Cock.*

**N**ext month, representatives of national governments will gather in the Japanese city of Nagoya to agree on how companies should share the profits of chemical and drug development with the nations that provided the original biological material.

As part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the proposed

used are not patented, for example. And how could the benefit to 200 million African cassava growers, enormous if converted into monetary terms, be shared with the South American countries that provided the wasp? Once established, biological control agents are self-sustaining and need no further intervention or expenditure. The

Contact with national governments, FAO, CBD, etc to make clear biocontrol does not involve big money and deserves special treatment

And we work now on a standard agreement for biocontrol under ABS (I will address this later)

# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control

ABS regulations should recognise the specific features of BC:

1. Many Biological Control Agents are exchanged, but have little recoverable monetary value;
2. Organisms are not patented, so can be used by anyone at any time;
3. Information about biocontrol agents used is publicly shared;
4. There are societal benefits for all, such as environmental and public health benefits, and reduction in pesticide use;
5. Biocontrol is widely used in both developing and developed countries, often using the same agents.



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control

In view of these specific positive features, the IOBC Commission recommends (among others):

1. ABS regulations should encourage and not block the biocontrol sector, by facilitating the multilateral exchange of agents
2. ABS in relation to biocontrol will normally be based on non-monetary benefit sharing, e.g. capacity building, shared research programmes and/or technology transfer, as already practised by several organisations and the industry



# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in biological control

## Final sentences of Forum Paper in BioControl:

- We urge BC leaders in each country to join forces and get in touch with the ABS contact point for their country as soon as possible, and raise the issues surrounding the practice of BC and ABS, using local examples when appropriate, so their national delegates to the ABS discussions in 2010 are appropriately informed.
- Only if the BC community of practice gets involved in the discussions now, they can expect their needs to be taken into consideration.



# Standard ABS agreement for biological control

COSUST-42; NO. OF PAGES 7

ARTICLE IN PRESS

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



ELSEVIER

Current Opinion in  
Environmental  
Sustainability

## Scientists – take action for access to biodiversity

Sylvia I Martinez<sup>1,2</sup> and Susette Biber-Klemm<sup>3</sup>

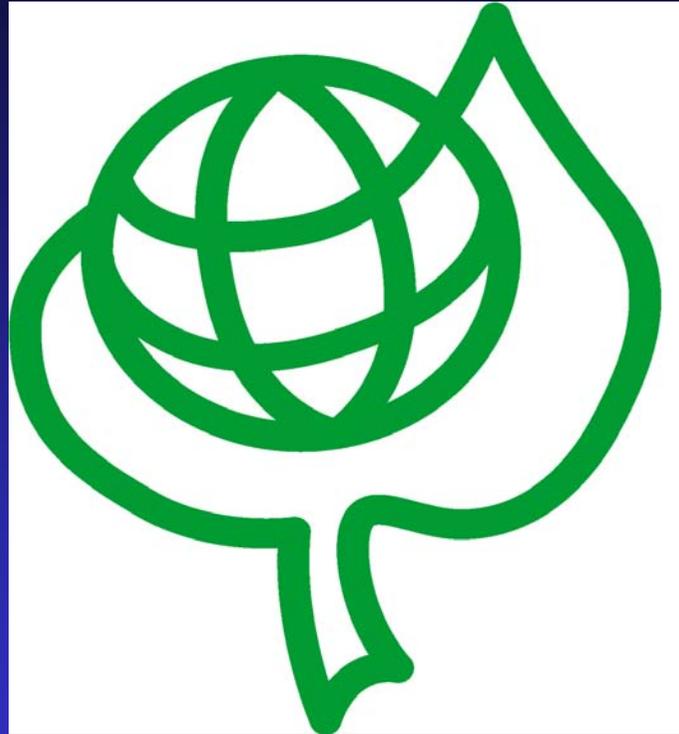
Biodiversity research generates critically important knowledge for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s goals. However, academic noncommercial scientists intending to study biodiversity experience obstacles caused by

and third, to take a stand in the negotiations and propose its options regarding ABS for research with noncommercial intent.

IOBC Commission now develops a biological control standard agreement under the non-commercial research umbrella, recommending it as a guideline for those countries where no regulation is in place



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