



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 invite you to the 15th Workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group on Mass Rearing & Quality Assurance (MRQA) that will be held in Bologna, Italy, 5-9th September 2022.

Our intent is to have an in-person event, following all appropriate COVID-19 precautions and regulations.

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.

The program will include sessions on:

1. Mass rearing and evaluating biological control agents for crop pests
2. Special session on the book “Mass Production of Beneficial Organisms”
3. Mass rearing for SIT and other autocidal pest control
4. Methods for assessing the quality of biological control products
5. Mass rearing insects for food and feed
6. Mass rearing and evaluating pollinators
7. Open session

A technical visit will be organized in cooperation with Bioplanet s.r.l

Looking forward to meeting you in Bologna!

Maria Luisa Dindo & Rose Buitenhuis

IOBC-MRQA Co-convenors

Call for abstracts

Those who wish to present a paper, or a poster are invited to submit an abstract before **May 20, 2022**. Abstracts will be evaluated for significance and appropriateness to the Working Group mission by a scientific committee appointed by the organizers. By **June 10, 2022**, the presenting author will be notified whether the abstract has been accepted for a presentation or a poster.

The guidelines for presentations will be available on the website www.mrqa.eu/workshop2022/.

Instructions for Abstracts

Abstracts are to be written in English, and must include:

- The title of the paper, not exceeding 100 characters, spaces included.
- List the author and co-author(s), including contact details.
- An overview of the objectives, methods, results, and conclusions (text not exceeding 300 words)
- A list of up to 5 key words.

Please identify the session theme that fits best with the subject of the paper. Preliminary session themes are listed on the website www.mrqa.eu/workshop2022/

Abstracts are to be submitted via the website www.mrqa.eu/workshop2022/abstract/

Each applicant can submit up to two abstracts.

Registration

All participants, including those who wish to present a paper or poster, are required to complete the registration form on the website (www.mrqa.eu/workshop2022/).

Registrations will open on March 21st.

Registration fees will be as follows:

	Early bird (until June 20, 2022)	Late (after June 20, 2022)
Regular IOBC member	EUR 450	EUR 550
Regular non-member*	EUR 550	EUR 650
Student** IOBC member	EUR 300	EUR 350
Student** non-member*	EUR 350	EUR 400
Accompanying persons***	EUR 100	EUR 150

The registration fee covers participation in all sessions, conference materials, welcome reception (on September 5th), coffee breaks, lunches (on September 6th, 7th and 8th), social dinner, and excursion to Bioplanet.

*When registering for the meeting as a non-member, the participant will be entitled to become a

member of the IOBC Regional Section of their geographic region without any additional cost for a period of one year. A membership application through the IOBC Regional Section websites is still required.

**Students need to provide a letter from their advisor confirming their student status, that is to accompany their registration.

*** Accompanying persons are invited to join the workshop participants for the welcome reception, social dinner and excursion to Bioplanet . Touristic tours (not included in the programme) can be organized on request.

Note, we are unable to provide refunds for registration costs for any cancellations made after July 20th, 2022. Before that date, a fee of 20 euros will be deducted from the refund for administrative expenses.

Student and Early Career Professional travel awards

To encourage participation of students and early career professionals, IOBC Global is offering travel awards of up to €500 per grantee for attendees from the West Palearctic IOBC Region and up to €1,000 per grantee for attendees travelling from other regions. . The following eligibility requirements apply:

1. The grantee must be a paying member of an IOBC region.
2. The grantee must be age 35 or under at the time of the workshop.
3. The grantee must be engaged in a field of study relevant to IOBC-MRQA. Work on IPM systems where biocontrol is a strong component can be eligible.
4. The grantee must present in person during the meeting (oral or poster acceptable).
5. Successful grantees are required to write a short item for the IOBC-Global newsletter.

Applicants must describe in 500 words or less how their work contributes to the objectives of this working group. They must also include a current CV as well as the abstract for their presentation or poster. As only a limited number of grants is available, the convenors will make a selection based on the contributions that best fit the goal of the meeting.

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to the MRQA convenors, Maria Luisa Dindo (marialuisa.dindo@unibo.it) and Rose Buitenhuis (rose.buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com).

The deadline for submission of applications is **May 10th, 2022**. Award winners will be notified by June 10th, 2022 to allow enough time for travel arrangements and registration.

Venue and accommodations

The meeting will take place at the Giorgio Prodi Room of the San Giovanni in Monte complex (Piazza San Giovanni in Monte 2, Bologna).

Participants are expected to make their own reservations for their accommodation.

The following hotels are all located in the vicinity of the workshop venue.

- Albergo Garisenda ** <http://www.albergogarisenda.com/albergo.php>

- Hotel Roma *** <https://www.hotelroma.biz/>
- Albergo delle Drapperie *** <https://www.albergodrapperie.com/>
- Hotel Pedrini *** <https://www.hotelpedrini.it/>
- Best Western Hotel San Donato **** <https://www.hotelsandonato.it/>
- Art Hotel Commercianti **** <https://www.art-hotel-commercianti.com/>

The following hostels are especially suggested to young participants (the third is quite close to the railway station, a little decentralized from the congress venue)

- Il Castello Hostel Boutique: <http://ilcastellohostelboutique.hotelsbologna24.com/it/>

- Dopa Hostel: <https://www.dopahostel.com/it/>

- Combo: <https://thiscombo.com/it/location/combo-bologna/>

COVID-19 regulations

Our intent is to have an in-person event, following all appropriate COVID-19 precautions and regulations. In the unlikely case that an in-person event will not be possible due to changed travel and public health advisories, we will do our best to change to a virtual format.

We will regularly update the conference website to keep attendees informed about COVID-19 regulations that apply to access Italy and the workshop.

We strongly advice participants to arrange for travel insurance. The organizing committee is not taking any responsibility for travel and accommodation expenses, for example in case of cancellation.

Visas

Obtaining a visa for travel to Italy is the responsibility of the attendees. We can offer formal invitation letters if required, please contact the organizers.

Contacts

For queries regarding sponsorship, display space, or logistics, please contact:

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For queries regarding the workshop topics and symposia, please contact:

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

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