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ASIA-PACIFIC BIOPESTICIDES
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

*"For the Promotion of Biopesticides
and Enhancement of Trade
Opportunities"*



Discover Our Top Speakers For July!



**Dr. Malvika
Chaudhary**

Global Team Leader
- Digital Tool
Promotion
CABI
India



**Ms. Emma
Jenner**

Strategic Planning
and operations
Manager
CABI
Switzerland



**Mr. Mizanur
Rahman**

Senior Evaluator,
Efficacy and Safety,
Australian Pesticides
and Veterinary
Medicines Authority
(APVMA), Australia



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**2.00 PM
(UTC+07:00)**



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Presentation 1: The CABI BioProtection Portal

Presented by Dr. Emma Jenner, Strategic Planning and Operations Manager, CABI, Switzerland.

Dr. Emma Jenner began her presentation by introducing the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), emphasizing its mission to address global challenges such as food security and safety through advanced research and international development cooperation. She also highlighted CABI's role as a leading publisher of scientific information, committed to sharing knowledge across various platforms.

A focal point of the presentation was the introduction of the **CABI BioProtection Portal**, a key digital tool designed to support the growing bioprotection market. Dr. Emma explained that, despite global growth, the adoption of bioprotection products in many countries is hindered by a lack of information. This gap in knowledge and awareness, particularly among growers and advisory service providers, is the primary reason for developing the portal. While many bioprotection products are registered, they are often underutilized because advisors are unaware of their existence or how to apply them effectively.

The **CABI BioProtection Portal** is a free online resource that allows users to search for registered bioprotection products specific to certain countries, pests, and crops. It provides essential information about biocontrol agents, product types, usage guidelines, and includes comprehensive pest and crop guides. This tool is designed to benefit a wide range of users, including growers, advisors, national authorities, and biocontrol manufacturers.

To conclude, Dr. Emma conducted a walkthrough of the portal's features, demonstrating how to navigate and use the tool. She encouraged participants to explore and leverage this resource to enhance bioprotection adoption.

Presentation 2: Fostering In-Country Partnerships in Asia to Enhance Adoption of Bioprotection Solutions

Presented by Dr. Malvika Chaudhary, Global Team Leader - Digital Tool Promotion, CABI, India.

Dr. Malvika Chaudhary's presentation focused on her efforts to foster partnerships across Asia, as well as in regions like Africa and Latin America, to promote the adoption of bioprotection solutions. She emphasized the importance of collaborating with government organizations and NGOs to increase outreach and support various initiatives. These partnerships involve joint workshops, seminars, and training sessions, often co-sponsored with governments or partners, to enhance community engagement and encourage knowledge exchange. A systematic follow-up after these activities helps assess the reception of the portal and gather user feedback for further improvements.

Dr. Malvika also provided an overview of the bioprotection landscape in India, where there are currently 970 registered products and 361 manufacturing units, including private sector labs, state biocontrol laboratories, and research institutions like ICAR, SAUs, DBT, and CIPMC.

Industry associations such as BIPA, BASAI, and PMFAI also support the CABI BioProtection Portal as associate members.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain in utilizing the portal effectively. Dr. Malvika stressed the need to promote the portal to build stakeholder capacity, helping them better understand bioprotection and access information on registered products. She discussed the portal's area of operation and direct reach, highlighting strategies to engage users such as extension officers and farmers. A key achievement in India is the integration of the BioProtection Portal into state digital platforms for agricultural extension.

In neighboring countries, the portal is also gaining traction. In Nepal, a notable achievement is the integration of the portal into national websites. Dr. Malvika highlighted the status of bioprotection products in Bangladesh, where the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) is actively promoting the portal across all 64 districts. Collaborations with NGOs like BRAC and SFSA, along with private companies such as East-West Seed, have strengthened outreach. A major milestone was the approval by the Director General of DAE to promote CABI's digital tools nationwide. In Sri Lanka, CABI is working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Provincial Departments, plant clinics, and the School of Agriculture to promote the portal's usage.

In conclusion, Dr. Malvika summarized the growing outreach of the BioProtection Portal across multiple countries, driven by intensive promotional activities. She emphasized the importance of the portal as a timely and essential platform for providing critical bioprotection information to stakeholders.

Presentation 3: Regulatory Science – Australia's Perspective on the Efficacy Considerations of Biopesticides in Integrated Pest Management

Presented by Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Senior Evaluator, Efficacy and Safety, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), Australia.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman began his presentation by discussing the widespread reliance on synthetic pesticides for pest and disease control among farmers and growers. While synthetic pesticides are essential in crop protection when used appropriately, Mr. Rahman highlighted their associated risks, including potential impacts on human health, the environment, trade, and pest resistance.

He noted the recent shift in the European Commission's guidelines as part of the Green Revolution, which aims to reduce the use of chemical and hazardous pesticides. These guidelines encourage more sustainable agricultural practices, promoting alternative solutions such as biopesticides. Mr. Rahman posed a critical question: how will the EU's changing strategies affect other regions? He observed that major agricultural companies often focus their investments in Europe or the USA, and a shift in EU policy could have far-reaching impacts on the global supply chain, including research and development priorities. Current trends show increasing investment in biologicals and biopesticides, signaling growing interest in integrated pest management (IPM) systems.

Despite this interest, Mr. Rahman acknowledged several challenges in the adoption of biopesticides, such as research and development barriers, supply chain limitations, growers'

knowledge, and regulatory pathways. To address these issues, he introduced a new regulatory science concept currently under development.

He then provided an overview of the **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)**, outlining its legislative framework and key assessment areas. Mr. Rahman explained the fundamentals of IPM and the role of biopesticides within it, discussing the current global status and future trends of the biopesticides market, which is expected to be valued at approximately USD 6.7 billion in 2024.

When examining global biopesticide regulations, Mr. Rahman pointed out that most countries follow regulatory systems similar to those used for conventional chemical pesticides. Regulatory authorities, like APVMA, are considering either modifying existing legislation or developing specific provisions for biopesticides to address their unique characteristics.

Mr. Rahman addressed the efficacy challenges associated with biopesticides. He explained the principles of acceptable efficacy, which involve balancing direct efficacy with potential negative impacts and indirect considerations. To improve the evaluation process, Mr. Rahman proposed a tiered and systems approach to better capture both direct efficacy and the indirect benefits of biopesticides, while acknowledging the ongoing difficulties in quantifying these indirect effects