



Plant Biologicals Network

Annual report 2018-2019





A plant biologicals hub in Southern Scandinavia

In recent years plant biologicals have emerged as a set of promising approaches to help address major challenges in plant production. When we laid the foundation for the network back in 2017, it was with the belief, that Southern Scandinavia has the precondition to become a leading collaborative ecosystem of private and public partners for research and innovation within plant biologicals.

We started out with nine core partners and are now expanding the network with additional members from both the private and public sector. Our common vision is gaining mutual awareness and knowledge exchange on plant biologicals that can contribute to solve societal challenges in relation to agricultural production and the environment. We hope to stimulate new business opportunities, improve agricultural production and develop educational capacity on the use of biological products.

It is our hope that the Plant Biologicals Network will be a driver for collaborations, investments, research and development of biologically based products for plant production. We see that plant biologicals will play a vital role in adapting the agricultural sector to a changing climate and in securing food production for the world population in the years to come.

Svend Christensen

Chair of Plant Biologicals Network

Mette Walter

Vice-chair of Plant Biologicals Network

Organization

The Plant Biologicals Network is organized as a member association, with a steering group of 12 members. The yearly general assembly for all members is the highest authority of the collaboration. The network secretariat is located at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at University of Copenhagen.

See the network bylaws on our website.



Core members



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



Improving food & health



DANISH
TECHNOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE



Ordinary members

UCL University College	Lund Universitet	BioScience Solutions	
Agrolab	chart Biotech	Syngenta Nordic	Manna Regulatory
Ingleby Farms & Forests	Azelis Denmark	EWH BioProduction	



Activities so far

Ethics workshop May 2018

Discussion of ethical challenges for the reception and view of plant biologicals.

Official Launch September 2018

Press release and launch reception to announce the initiation of the network.

Plant Biologicals Network Symposium 2018 November 2018

The first Annual Plant Biologicals Network Symposium.

Education & talent workshop March 2019

Identifying potential to strengthen education and knowledge exchange on plant biologicals.

Debate event with the think tank FREJ March 2019.

Debate on biologicals as new technological alternatives for sustainable food production.

Founding general assembly September 2019

Discussion of bylaws, inclusion of new members and expansion of the steering group.

Plant Biologicals Network Symposium 2019 November 2019

A look at areas where plant biologicals might help solve global, agricultural challenges.

Participation in CEN standard working group Continuous

Upcoming activities

In 2020 the network has several activities and focus areas in the pipeline. Among these are • knowledge sharing with the horticulture industry on the use of plant biologicals • agrotech and application of biologicals in the field • how to prove the effects of biocontrol in field trials • continued work with awareness building and education on plant biologicals • standardization and regulation on biological products for plant production.

CE-marked biostimulants

EU is the first governing body in the world to recognize plant biostimulants as a distinct category of agricultural inputs. The new European Fertilising Products Regulation entered into force on 15 July, 2019. The full application of the regulation (i.e. when the first CE-marked biostimulants, can be placed on the EU market) will be on 16 July, 2022. PBN will work with its members and the Danish authorities on interpretation and implementation of the new regulation.

Workshop – How can we include biostimulants in the national field trials program?

An increasing range of biostimulants are already available to Danish farmers. However, very few biostimulants have been tested in the national field trials (Landsforsøgene®) for their effect on nutrient uptake/efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and crop quality. SEGES and the Danish Technological Institute will invite manufactures and distributors of biostimulants to discuss how we can include the various products in the national field trials program. Date pending.

PBN Symposium 2020

Third Annual Plant Biologicals Network Symposium. November 2020.



Join the network

The Plant Biologicals Network is open for new members. Members can be companies, industry organizations, educational institutions, research and technology institutions, public authorities, interest groups or other organizations with relation to the plant biologicals sector.

Membership fee


The yearly membership fee is based on the amount of employees working with plant production in the organization:

- Companies with 1-50 employees working with plant production – 3000 DKK
- Companies with 50-250 employees working with plant production – 15.000 DKK
- Companies with over 250 employees working with plant production – 30.000 DKK
- Public institution or GTS institution with under 250 employees working with plant production – 10.000 DKK
- Public institution or GTS institution with over 250 employees working with plant production – 25.000 DKK

Contact

Please contact network coordinator Lene Rasmussen lras@plen.ku.dk / +45 30449952 if you would like to learn more about the network or become a member.

www.plantbiologicals.dk



How do we define plant biologicals?

Plant Biologicals are naturally derived products that can serve as biostimulants, biocontrol agents, resistance inducers or biofertilizers. They derive from naturally occurring microorganisms, plant extracts or other organic matter, including:

- macrobials (predators and parasitoids: e.g. mites, spiders, lady beetles and wasps)
- microbials (bacteria, fungi, oomycetes and vira)
- biologically derived products (plant extracts, lipopeptides and proteins)

	Macrobials	Microbials	Biologically derived
Biostimulants		○	○
Biocontrol agents	○	○	
Inducers of resistance		○	○
Biofertilizers		○	