

# International Congress on Biological Control at CATIE: Towards Regenerative and Sustainable Agriculture Sostenible

 16-18 September 2025

 Turrialba, Costa Rica

## Program

### Day 1

Hora	Actividad	Responsable
8 - 9 a.m.	Registration	
9 - 9:15 a.m.	Opening	
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	German School: Rhizospheric microorganisms for the biological control of soil pathogens	Prof. Dr. R. Sikora, University of Bonn, Germany
10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Coffee and booth visits	Organizing Committee
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Biological control of phytoparasitic nematodes using endophytic microorganisms	Prof. Dr. J. Halmann, Director of Julius Kunst Institute, Brainstain, Lower Saxony
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Poster session	Master of Ceremonies
12:15 - 2 p.m.	Lunch	
2 - 2:45 p.m.	Spanish School: Molecular analysis of banana rhizosphere biodiversity	Dr. Jesús Mercado Blanco, Scientist at the Spanish National Research Council, EEZ-CSIC
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.	Spanish School: Use of chitosan for the management of insects and foliar pathogens	Prof. Dr. Luis Vicente Lopez Llorca, Leader of the Plant Protection Department, University of Alicante, Spain
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Coffee	Organizing Committee
4 - 4:30 p.m.	Sustainable Large-Scale Productivity: Real-Life Experience of Cultivated Pineapples of Costa Rica	Dr. Luis Arturo Salazar Rodríguez, General Manager of Grupo Los Nacientes
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	LAC Producers Panel: Advantages and disadvantages of biological control applications	Moderator and four LAC producers share their experiences with biological control in tropical crops
5:30 p.m.	Cultural act and welcome cocktail	CATIE International Club

**Registration USD 600**

We will have a poster competition

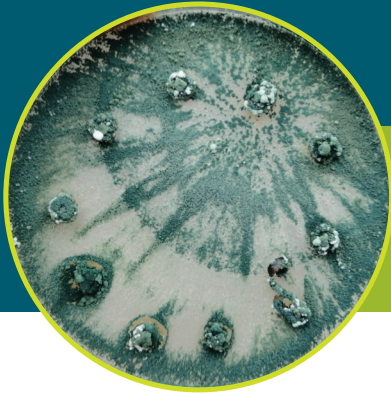
## Program

### Day 2

Hora	Actividad	Responsable
8:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Brazilian School: 50 years of experience in biological control in Brazil	Dr. Jose Marcondes, Leader of Biological Control, Biological Institute of São Paulo, Brazil
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.	Brazilian School: Lessons learned with the private sector in biological control projects in Brazil	Dr. Ana de Carvalho, Director of the Biological Institute of São Paulo
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Coffee	
11 - 11:45 a.m.	Brazilian School: Innovar Group: Revolutionizing biological control in Brazil using bioreactors on farms	Carlos Henrique de Paula, Leader of Research, Innovar Group, MG, Brazil
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Poster session	Poster authors present their research
12:15 - 2 p.m.	Lunch	
2 - 2:45 p.m.	American School (USA): Integrated pest and nematode management	Prof. Dr. Johan Dessenger, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida (IFAS-UF)
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.	American School: Importance of diagnosis and epidemiology for efficient biological control of pests and diseases	Prof. Dr. Paul Esker, Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology, Penn State University, USA
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Coffee and booth visits	Organizing Committee
4 - 5 p.m.	Italian School: Studies on the rhizosphere and its functional diversity of microorganisms for the biological control of soil pathogens	Dr. Aurelio Ciancio, Researcher at the Institute of Sustainability and Plant Protection (ISP-CNR), Bari, Italy
5 - 6 p.m.	Panel of Producers: Discussion on biological control perspectives in tropical and subtropical crops	Moderator and four LAC producers

Registration USD 600

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### Day 3

Hora	Actividad	Responsable
8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Central American School: Use of endophytic microorganisms for the control of soil pathogens in bananas and plantains	Dr. Luis Pocasangre, General Director of CATIE
9:15 - 10 a.m.	Biological control of insects using bioreactors in export crops in Central America	MBA Nilson Silva, CEO Geus Organic-On Farm, Central America
10 - 10:30 a.m.	Coffee and booth visits	
10:30 - 11 a.m.	Studies on pesticide reduction in coffee production	Dr. Luc Villain, CIRAD
11 - 11:30 a.m.	Soil quality studies and regenerative coffee agriculture	Dr. Elias de Melo, Coffee Researcher at CATIE
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	LAC Producers Panel: Perspectives on biological control in tropical crops	Four LAC producers
12:15 - 2 p.m.	Lunch	
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Workshop on the importance of the private sector in promoting biological control	Leaders from global biological control schools and private sector representatives
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Coffee and booth visits	
4 - 4:45 p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations from the private sector workshop	Leaders from global biological control schools and private sector representatives
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.	Congress closing and acknowledgments	Dr. Luis Pocasangre, General Director of CATIE
5:15 - 7 p.m.	Free time	
7 p.m.	Closing dinner at the International Club	Organizing Committee

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