Welcome to the World BioProtection Forum's (WBF) first e-newsletter, bringing together the news from the last year and looking forward to the next 12 months.

While COVID and climate change dominate the headlines, feeding the world's population remains a key issue, and government and public sentiment is driving demands for biological alternatives to chemical pesticides. Challenges in innovation and regulation continue to hamper the process so WBF is focusing on its work bringing together some of the bioprotection industry's best qualified scientists and academics to further research and develop products which can combat the increasing threat to global food security.

After so many online events in 2021, we cannot wait to be able to get together with colleagues in May for our annual Summit & Awards. We also look forward to increasing our membership in 2022 and to continuing to collaborate with our supporting partners for the collective good of the industry.

Best wishes,
Dr Minshad Ansari
Founder & Chairman of the World BioProtection Forum

If you are interested in joining WBF, please contact James Air, Sales Director
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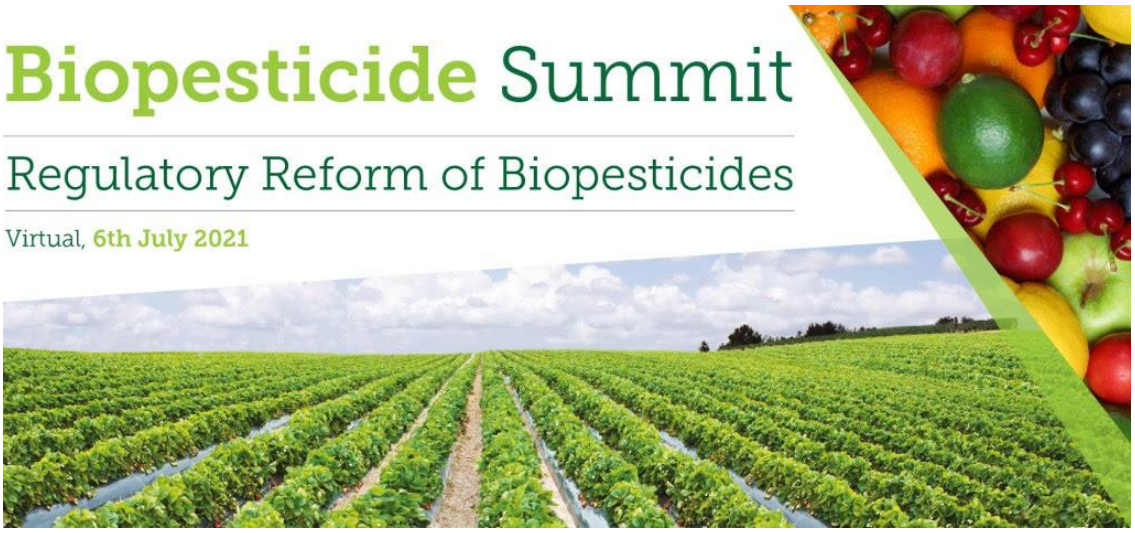
In ***May***, WBF launched its campaign for Regulatory Reform for biopesticides in the UK, which went on to form a key theme of the Biopesticide Summit later in the year. Our position statement on regulatory reform can be read here



The second annual *Biopesticide Summit* took place online on ***6 July 2021*** and was attended by more than 200 delegates. The Summit focussed on regulatory challenges and called for reform to create a regulatory environment that nurtures and supports the BioProtection (formerly known as Biopesticide) industry.

In July, WBF hosted an *Emergency Summit for the Control of Leatherjackets using Insect Pest Management*. The Summit focussed on the use of cultural, physical and mechanical techniques, bioprotectants and chemicals, to manage leatherjacket infestations in the golf/sports turf and amenity sector. Further reading is available here: Integrated Pest Management Helps Turf Industry Battle Leatherjackets – The World BioProtection Forum.

In **October**, our seminar on *Use of Adjuvants with Biologicals and Soil Health Management in Agriculture* brought together over 170 delegates to consider how the protection sector can work together to address the serious deterioration in soil health. It was concluded that part of the

solution must involve the advancement of sustainable biological solutions – such as biopesticides and biostimulants – which will enhance global food security without damaging the soils on which our crops depend. These sentiments were captured in an article published in *Agro Pages*.

Also in **October**, we announced the return of the *WBF Annual World Bioprotection Summit & Awards (formerly the Biopesticide Summit)*. The 2022 event will be held at theNEC in Birmingham, UK from 23-25 May. As well as attending the event, biotech companies can get involved by nominating themselves for awards, participating in our innovative *InvestorReady* sessions, or sponsoring or exhibiting at the event. Further details are available here

In **November**, Dr Minshad Ansari published two blogs via the WBF website, focussing on the issues arising from overuse of chemical pesticides and considering a range of natural alternatives Blog – The World BioProtection Forum. Look out for more blogs from WBF Advisory Board members in 2022.

Also in **November**, WBF President *Professor Shashi Sharma published an article in AgroPages*, arguing that the preparation of an annual ecology budget should be mandatory for governments worldwide. Read more here

The *third meeting of the WBF Advisory Board* took place on **7th December 2021** with all 15 board members present via videoconference. The board came together to discuss the key priorities that WBF will focus on in 2022. To be part of the conversation, become a member of WBF: Member Benefits – The World BioProtection Forum.

Also in **December**, we welcomed a *new President of our India Chapter* – Dr M.J. Khan – who will be supported by the *incoming Vice-President, Mr Deepak Singhal*. Read more **here**

Nominations for the Annual World BioProtection Awards

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Join our Investor Ready Sessions to fast-track your innovation!

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