

ENTOMOPATHOGENS: IMPACT EVALUATION OF THEIR PRODUCTION AND USE, AND ITS EFFECTS ON PUBLIC POLICIES.

Capalbo, D.M.F.; Moraes, I.O*; De Nardo, E.A.B. - EMBRAPA/CNPMA , CP 69 Jaguariúna/SP, Brazil *UNESP/SJRP, Deta, S.J. Rio Preto/SP, Brazil

Over the past ten years environmental concerns have led the agricultural sector to adopt alternative methods for pest control, like those ones based on microbial products (specially bacteria, fungi and baculoviruses).

The use of entomopathogens proved to be efficient, specific and economically feasible for many of them. For example, Bacillus thuringiensis-based products are expected to increase their sales from U\$100 million to U\$ 300 million per year by the end of this century. Even in countries where its utilization is restricted to some areas - public health, high-value commodities, etc. - local production is being studied and applied in order to overcome the problems of chemical pest control.

Although the number of successful projects on production and utilization of such products is increasing, the lack of specific legislation for their registration could affect the greater use of them. Some of the consequences are the lack of interest for the development and implementation of biocontrol programs, products without adequate quality control and without assured safety for human health and the environment.

In this way rules for registration of biocontrol agents are presently being prepared through a project on risk assessment conducted jointly by CNPMA, Universities, in cooperation with the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA).