



Second announcement

Dear Colleagues,

we are pleased to invite you to join and support us for the upcoming **13th meeting** of the **IOBC-WPRS Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms”** under the theme:

“A NEW CHAPTER: Pesticides, Beneficials, and the Path Forward”

The workshop will take place at the **Julius Kühn Institute (JKI)**, Berlin, Germany, from **March 25–26, 2026**.

The workshop represents an important step in **strengthening and relaunching the Working Group**, following the clear and strong support expressed through the international survey conducted in 2024. It will bring together scientists, regulators and industry experts in a focused setting of maximum 40 participants. Through structured discussion, the workshop will address current challenges and future directions in pesticide selectivity, risk assessment for non-target organisms, and their alignment with beneficial organisms within integrated pest management (IPM). A **central objective is to jointly define priorities and shape the future activities and strategic direction** of the Working Group.

The **invited keynote speakers** will provide complementary perspectives. **Mark Miles (Bayer AG, UK)** will open the discussion by addressing ongoing changes in plant protection and emerging challenges for pesticide selectivity assessment in light of new active substances, biopesticides and evolving regulatory requirements. **Ryszard Laskowski (Jagiellonian University, Poland)** will focus on aligning ecotoxicological data with risk assessment for beneficial organisms, including the selection of relevant test species, multi-tier approaches (laboratory to field), and the consideration of multiple stressors. **Jörg Romeis (Agroscope, Switzerland)** will present how experience from environmental risk assessment of GM crops can inform the evaluation of novel insecticidal technologies (e.g. RNAi, microbial products, systemic insecticides), with particular emphasis on regulatory harmonisation and future guidance.

Overall, the workshop aims to renew and modernise the work of the IOBC-WPRS Working Group, advance the development and standardisation of methods for assessing side effects of plant protection products on beneficial organisms, strengthen the selectivity database, and reinforce the link between science, regulation and practice within IPM.

During the meeting, a new Convenor and Deputy Convenor will be elected. Detailed information on the **nomination procedure and eligibility criteria** is available on the meeting website.

Although the abstract submission deadline has closed, **registration without an abstract remains open**, and we warmly encourage interested colleagues to join the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

IOBC-WPRS Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms”

Local organizer: Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, Institute for Ecological Chemistry, Plant Analysis and Stored Product Protection, Königin-Luise-Straße 19, 14195 Berlin, Germany

Programme

Day 1, March 25, 2026 – Rebuilding the Core

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Arrival, Registration & Poster hanging |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Andrea Krähmer , Head of the JKI Institute – Welcome and Opening Remarks Peggy Marx , Local Host at the JKI Institute – Workshop Overview and Meeting Objectives Helena Viric Gasparic , Convenor (<i>ad interim</i>) and Co-organiser – WG Introduction |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Structured Introduction* |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Coffee Break & Poster Session (poster 1, 2 and 3) |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | Bruno Gobin , Liaison Officer, Viverda Ltd., Belgium <i>IOBC-WPRS Perspective on the Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms”</i> |
| 12:15 – 13:00 | Plenary Helena Viric Gasparic , University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture; GREENER Ltd., Croatia <i>Building on a 50-Year Legacy: A New Chapter for Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch & Networking |
| 14:00 – 15:40 | Keynote Mark Miles , Bayer Crop Sciences Ltd., United Kingdom <i>From Inventory to Action: Modernising the IOBC to Support IPM</i> Workshop I Proposal of priorities for future work and outline of steps to rebuild a coordinated programme, ensuring that side-effect assessment remains fit for purpose in a rapidly evolving agricultural and regulatory landscape, including the industry perspective. |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | Coffee Break & Poster Session (poster 4 and 5) |
| 16:30 – 17:40 | Keynote Ryszard Laskowski et al. , Jagiellonian University, Institute of Environmental Sciences, Poland <i>From Lab to Landscape: Aligning Non-Target Ecotoxicology with IOBC-WPRS Strategic Goals 2026–2028</i> Workshop II Outline the strategic directions of the renewed Working Group, with emphasis on integrating ecotoxicological data into risk assessment frameworks for beneficial organisms from an ecological perspective. The aim is to strengthen system-level understanding of effects within agroecosystems. Particular attention will be given to identifying which existing tasks remain priorities and which new activities should be incorporated into the future programme. |
| 19:30 | Social Dinner at Golden Brown Berlin |

Day 2, March 26, 2026 – Co-Creating the Future

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|--|
| | Oral presentations |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | Priyanka Solanki et al. , Julius Kühn Institute; Germany <i>Side Effects of Plant Protection Products on the Natural Regulation of Vectors of Grapevine Leafroll Disease</i> |
| 09:20 – 09:40 | Fabrizio Lisi et al. , University of Catania, Italy <i>Comparative target and non-target toxicity of synthetic acaricides in citrus</i> |
| 09:40 – 10:00 | Stefan Kroder et al. , Adama Deutschland GmbH, Germany <i>Two New Oral Toxicity Test Methods for Herbivorous Insects, <i>Locusta migratoria</i> and <i>Spodoptera littoralis</i></i> |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10:30 – 12:10 | <p>Keynote Jörg Romeis, Agroscope, Switzerland <i>Advancing Non-Target Risk Assessment Frameworks for Novel Insecticidal Technologies</i></p> <p>Workshop III Focus on new technologies and their evaluation within existing regulatory frameworks. It will examine how risk assessment procedures can be adapted on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific properties of the substance, its intended use, application method, and ecological context. The session will define priority tasks for the Working Group over the next two years.</p> |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | Coffee Break |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | Election Session |
| 12:45 – 13:00 | Overall wrap-up & Feedback |
| 13:00 – onward | Light Lunch / Informal Networking & Departure |

| No. | Activity |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Poster presentations | |
| 01 | <p>Helena Viric Gasparic et al., University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture; GREENER Ltd. Croatia <i>Exposure and bioaccumulation patterns of phenolic acids in carabid beetles and the ragweed leaf beetle</i></p> |
| 02 | <p>Zhiqiang Cheng et al., University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA <i>Chemical and biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle (<i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i>) in Hawaii</i></p> |
| 03 | <p>Serena Giorgia Chiesa et al., Fondazione Edmund Mach, Center of Technology Transfer, Italy <i>Laboratory and semi-field tests to study the effects of pesticides on parasitoids</i></p> |
| 04 | <p>Amriddin Nasriddinov et al., Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Hungary <i>Risk Profiles of Plant Protection Products for Lepidopteran Pest Control in European Maize: Implications of Fall Armyworm Arrival</i></p> |
| 05 | <p>Medea Burjanadze et al., Agricultural University of Georgia, Georgia <i>Use of Pheromones for Pest Monitoring in Blueberry Orchards in Georgia</i></p> |

* Structured Introduction

To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves within the available time in the program, we will follow a structured and time-controlled format.

Each participant will have **exactly 60 seconds**.

During your introduction, please include the following three elements:

- 1. Name, institution, and country**
- 2. One sentence describing your work in relation to pesticides and beneficial organisms**
- 3. One key question, challenge, or expectation you would like this Working Group to address**

Please keep your intervention concise and focused. A visible stopwatch will be used to ensure equal timing for all speakers. You will be asked to conclude at 60 seconds.



Instructions for Authors

Oral presentations:

Each presentation is allocated 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for discussion. Please ensure that your talk fits within presentation time.

Poster presentations:

Posters should be prepared in a maximum A0 format, portrait orientation.

Authors are asked to prepare a brief 3–5 minute presentation to be delivered during the coffee break session. Please remain at your poster at the time indicated in the programme.

Registration

The abstract submission deadline has closed, but registration without an abstract remains open. Participants are invited to register for the focused workshop of the IOBC Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms” by **Friday, 13 March 2026**, via the registration form on our website <https://forms.gle/sUc5db9GQKc4W3vv8>. Registration will close once capacity is reached.

| Registration fees | Early | Standard |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Before September 24, 2025 | After September 24, 2025 |
| IOBC-WPRS members | 180,00 € | 230,00 € |
| Non-members | 300,00 €* [*] | 350,00 €* [*] |
| Students | 180,00 € | 210,00 € |

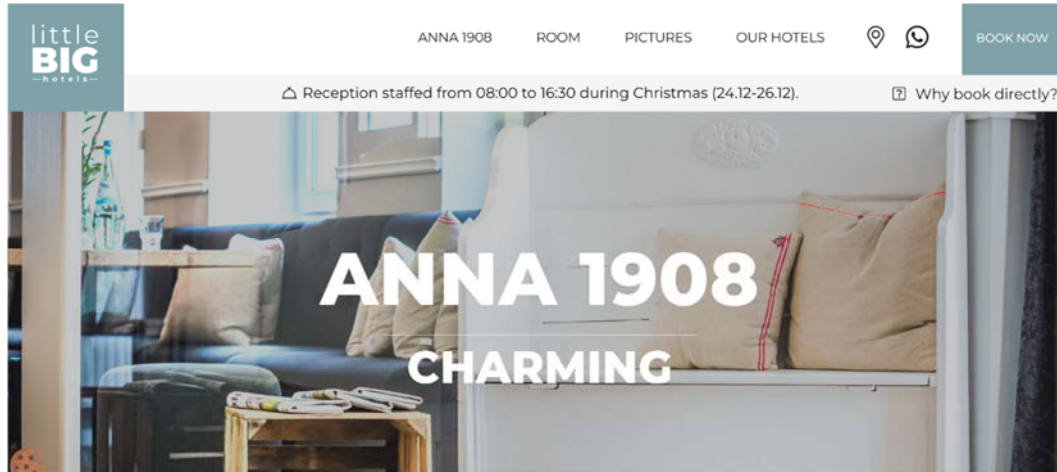
* Includes 90,00 € for the fee of an one-year membership in IOBC-WPRS (<https://iobc-wprs.org/product/individual-membership-2023/>)

- A limited number of registration discounts may be offered to invited keynote speakers, depending on the available budget.
- Registration includes participation in all workshops and elections, lunches, coffee breaks, and the Social Dinner.
- After registering online, participants will receive payment instructions from the local organizer.

Hotel Booking Information

please find below recommended accommodation options for the upcoming workshop:

[Hotel Anna 1908 Berlin](#)



When you book directly on the hotel's website using the **booking code "JKI"**, they provide an **additional 5% discount**.

Alternative accommodations

If Hotel Anna 1908 Berlin is fully booked, we recommend the following hotels, which are located near the venue or are easily accessible:

- <https://www.seminaris.de/hotels/tagungshotel-berlin-dahlem/>
- <https://www.carolinenhof-berlin.de>

Please note that the **Berlin city tax (7.5%)** is not included in the listed prices at most hotels.



Directions to the venue of the Workshop

The workshop will be held at the Julius Kühn Institute in Berlin-Dahlem.

Address:

Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants
Institute for Ecological Chemistry, Plant Analysis and Stored Product Protection
Königin-Luise-Straße 19
14195 Berlin, Germany

By car

- Take A115 (AVUS Autobahn), exit **Hüttenweg** toward Dahlem.
- At the junction with **Clayallee**, turn left.
- After approx. 500 m, turn right onto **Königin-Luise-Straße**.

By train

- From **Berlin Hauptbahnhof**, go to the top level and take S-Bahn **S7 (direction Potsdam)** or **S75 (direction S Westkreuz)**.
- Get off at **Zoologischer Garten**.
- Transfer to U-Bahn **U9 (direction Rathaus Steglitz, terminal stop)**.
- Change to **Bus X83 (direction Königin-Luise-Str./Clayallee)** and exit at **Animallee** (JKI main entrance).
- Total travel time: approx. **35 minutes**.

By plane

From BER Berlin-Schönefeld Airport:

- Take S-Bahn **S45 (direction S+U Bundesplatz)**.
- Get off at **Schöneberg**.
- Transfer to S-Bahn **S1 (direction Wannsee)**.
- Get off at **Rathaus Steglitz**.
- Take **Bus X83 (direction Königin-Luise-Str./Clayallee)** and exit at **Animallee** (JKI main entrance).
- Total travel time: approx. **50 minutes**.

Social dinner Venue

Restaurant GOLDEN BROWN Berlin

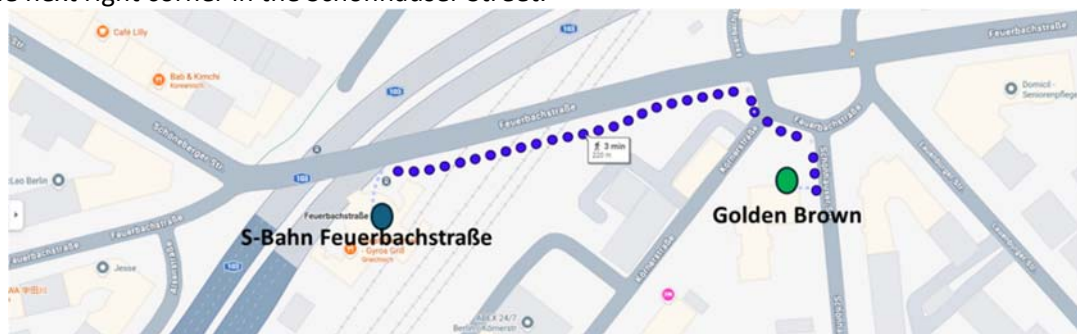


Address:

Golden Brown Berlin, Schönhauser Str. 1, 12157 Berlin

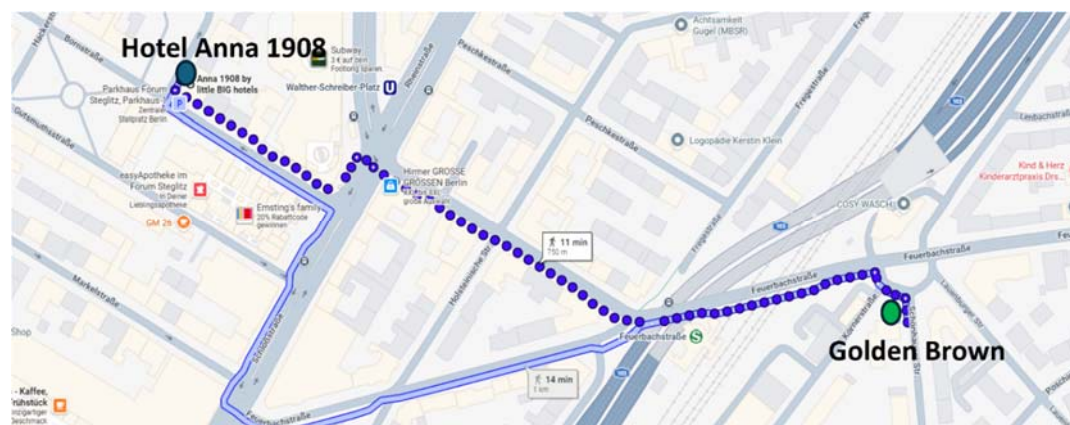
By train

Take the S-Bahn to Feuerbachstraße station. After leaving the station, turn right and walk along Feuerbachstraße. Turn right at the next intersection, cross the Körnerstreet. The restaurant is situated on the next right corner in the Schönhauser Street.



Direction to the Venue from Hotel Anna 1908

10-minute walk



IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms"

Local organizer: Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, Institute for Ecological Chemistry, Plant Analysis and Stored Product Protection, Königin-Luise-Straße 19, 14195 Berlin, Germany



Organizing Committee

Peggy Marx, Ph.D., Julius Kühn Institute, Berlin, Germany

Helena Viric Gasparic, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Croatia

Bruno Gobin, Ph.D., Viaverda, Destelbergen, Belgium

Local organizer

Peggy Marx, Ph.D., Julius Kühn Institute, Berlin, Germany

Co-organizer

Helena Viric Gasparic, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture; GREENER Ltd., Croatia

Scientific Committee

Bruno Gobin, Ph.D., Viaverda, Destelbergen, Belgium

Helena Viric Gasparic, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Croatia

Assoc. Prof. Darija Lemic, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Croatia

Assoc. Prof. Ivana Pajač Živković, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Croatia

Peggy Marx, Ph.D., Julius Kühn Institute, Berlin, Germany

Marlen Heinz, Ph.D., Julius Kühn Institute, Berlin, Germany

Torsten Meiners, Ph.D., Julius Kühn Institute, Berlin, Germany



<https://wissen.julius-kuehn.de/JKI-PHP/beneficials/web/>
<https://iobc-wprs.org/meeting/iobc-wprs-wg-pbo-ws-2026/>
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Topics relevant to the IOBC-WPRS Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms” will address scientific, methodological, and regulatory advances in assessing the impacts of pesticides on beneficial arthropods and other non-target organisms. The proposed topics (but not limited to) span laboratory and field-level risk assessment, development of test guidelines, and innovative approaches to safeguarding ecosystem services within integrated pest management (IPM) systems. Drawing on the 2024 questionnaire results, the list below reflects both the continuation of core priorities and new thematic suggestions from respondents, further enriched by emerging trends in IPM, biological control, and regulatory science.



Testing & Method Development

- Development and refinement of species-specific test methods
- Adaptation of test protocols for microbial pesticides and biostimulants
- Use of sentinel species and surrogate organisms in risk assessment
- Standardization of semifield and field methodologies
- Harmonization of side-effect testing protocols across regions



Non-target Effects & Ecosystem Services

- Sublethal, behavioural, and multi-generational effects
- Effects on non-target organisms: natural enemies, pollinators, decomposers
- Influence of the insect microbiome (e.g. pesticide-detoxifying bacteria)
- Beneficial organism recovery and resilience post exposure
- Biovectoring and the role of beneficials in pathogen spread
- GMOs and their potential impact on beneficial fauna



Data, Modeling & Risk Assessment Frameworks

- Improvement of risk assessment frameworks from lab to field scale
- Use of modeling approaches for assessing pesticide side-effects
- Regional comparisons of risk assessment, Western vs. Eastern Europe, Global South
- Strategies for data sharing, transparency, and collaborative field testing
- Use of meta-analyses and systematic reviews to synthesize existing data



Outreach, Policy & Integration

- Integration of beneficial organism protection in IPM strategies
- Exchange and development of know-how (including cross-group collaboration)