



**COST 850  
BIOCONTROL  
SYMBIOSIS**



**MINUTES**

**MEETING OF WORKING GROUPS  
WG 3 Biotechnology  
WG 5 Socioeconomic aspects**

**INITIATION OF  
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL  
COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:**

**25 - 27 MAY 2001**

**PLACE:**

**Christian-Albrechts University Kiel  
Inst. for Phytopathologie,  
Dept. for Biotechnology and Biological Control,  
Klausdorfer Str. 28-36,  
24223 Raisdorf/Germany  
Tel.: 0049-4307-839833  
Fax.: 0049-4307-839834  
E-Mail: ehlers@biotec.uni-kiel.de**

Participants:

**1. Holger Philipsen**

The Royal Veterinary and  
Agricultural University  
Department of Ecology  
Zoology Section  
Thorvaldsenvej 40  
DK-1871 Frederiksberg C  
Phone : + 45 35 28 2687  
Fax : + 45 35 28 2670  
E-mail : [hp@kvl.dk](mailto:hp@kvl.dk)

**2. Vagn Olsen**

**3. Nadarajah Sriskandarajah**

Section for Learning  
and Interdisciplinary Methods  
Dept of Economics and Natural  
Resources  
Royal Veterinary and Agric  
University  
Rolighedsvej 23  
1958 Frederiksberg C/ Denmark  
+45 35 28 34 32 (phone)  
+45 35 28 37 09 (fax)  
email: [sri@kvl.dk](mailto:sri@kvl.dk)

**4. Giovanna Curto**

Servizio Fitosanitario Regione  
emilia-Romagna  
Via Corticella n° 133  
40129 Bologna  
Italy  
Phone : + 39 051 4159218  
Fax : + 39 051 4159250  
E-mail : [gcurto@regione.emilia-romagna.it](mailto:gcurto@regione.emilia-romagna.it)

**5. Manuele Ricci**

Biotechnologie B.T. S.r.l.  
Frazione Pantalla  
06050 Todi (Perugia)  
Italy  
Tel : 39 075 895091  
Fax : 39 075 888776  
E-Mail: [mricci.bt@parco3a.org](mailto:mricci.bt@parco3a.org)

**6. Ralf-Udo Ehlers**

**7. Olaf Strauch**

**8. Stefan Johnigk**

**9. Jesko Oestergaard**

Institute for Phytopathology  
Dept. Biotechnology & Biol.  
Control  
Klausdorfer Str. 28-36  
24223 Raisdorf  
Germany  
Tel.: ..49-4307-839833  
Fax.: ..49-4307-839834  
E-Mail: [ehlers@biotec.uni-kiel.de](mailto:ehlers@biotec.uni-kiel.de)

**10. Tillmann Frank**

**11. Arne Peters**

**12. Michael Barth**

E-Nema GmbH  
Klausdorfer Str. 28-36  
24223 Raisdorf  
Germany  
Tel.: ..49-4307-82950  
Fax.: ..49-4307-829514  
E-Mail: [info@e-nema.de](mailto:info@e-nema.de)

**13. Narayan Pokarel**

Thribhuvan University  
GPO Box 6728  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

**14. Danny Segal**

Dept. Biotechnology  
Tel Aviv University  
Tel Aviv 69978  
Israel  
Tel.: 00972-3-640-9835  
Fax.: 00972-3-640-9407  
E-Mail: [dsegal@ccsg.tau.ac.il](mailto:dsegal@ccsg.tau.ac.il)

**15. Itamar Glazer**

Department of Nematology  
Volcani Center  
P.O. Box 6  
Bet-Dagan, 50250  
I

Tel.: 00972-3-9683-334 + 298  
FAX.: 00972-3-9604-180 + 835  
E-Mail: [glazeri@netvision.net.il](mailto:glazeri@netvision.net.il)

## **Minutes of the first day of Meeting Saturday 26 May 2001**

Among the participants were representatives of academia, private sector and extension service. Dr Sriskandarajah (Sri) from KVL took the main responsibility for facilitating the two day meeting assisted by Vagn Olsen also from KVL.

To start the meeting Sri asked us to describe our impression of the image used for WG 5 Socioeconomics. Many of the objectives of the WG seem to be represented in the model as recognised by the participants. Sri presented the text for the COST 850 leaflet and elaborated the model represented by the picture.

Four levels represented in the model show:

The social systems > Farming system > Technology > Science from top (holistic approach) to bottom (reductionist approach).

When applied to our work these levels also correspond to:

Society > Biota > Technology > Biology

Farming systems are a way of seeing agricultural and other enterprises as people manipulating nature. In other words, farming systems and specially the socio economic aspects of these can be seen to be situated where 1- Natural Systems and 2- Social Systems overlap.

The objective of WG 5 is described by the following steps in the conventional sense of technology transfer, where knowledge generated by research is supposed to reach the end users as a one-way flow:

Research → Generation of Knowledge → Transfer → Adoption → Diffusion

However, WG5 is interested in knowledge flow as a two way process.

Major objective of the meeting was defined as: How to get the bigger group working and bring the results of COST Action 850 to the end users most effectively?

Participants were asked to put their ideas and issues about the meeting on paper. These were discussed and later grouped under the following headings:

1. Baseline Data about targets, users and their needs
2. Develop guidelines

3. Organising workplan for WG 5 on the organisation level
4. Organising workplan for WG 5 on the technical level
5. Cooperation with other WGs and COST Actions
6. Communication within WG5
7. Communication outside (Lobbying and education)

We finally split into two groups to discuss the above themes after grouping the seven headings into two themes:

- A. Subjects 1 and 7
- B. Subjects 2-6

Each theme was analysed in terms of what needs to happen, why, how it can be achieved, by whom and also wherever possible, by when.

Outcome of group work:

### **Group A:**

Subject 1 needs the following actions:

Obtain data in different countries on

- i. crops
- ii. pests
- iii. economics / cost effectiveness

Source of data: users, extension services, distributors.

Target: collect data for lobbying / information / teaching / identify obstacles.  
This can be done by a specialised company and / or students in the first six months.

Subject 7 needs the following actions:

In order to provoke interest, information must be given to:

- Users
- Public
- Politicians

Why: To be visible and to increase acceptance and the use of biological control, information must be defined and ordered, a catalogue of methods should be developed.

How: - users can achieve this in training programmes for extension services  
- public teachers at schools and universities, lessons for teachers and journalists  
- politics lobbying network, focus on economics and environment

This can be done by people who are involved in the educational process / exhibitions / companies; training material, national teams, translators.

When: Immediately; identifying people, defining projects, brainstorming.

## **Group B**

We grouped all ideas under four main subjects:

Internal communication, data base and internet page, external communication and extension services

### **Internal communication in COST 850**

Major target should be a joint activity to produce and establish an Internet related interactive database as part of an Internet site which provides information about the whole COST Action 850. This database should represent the actual knowledge about the possible use of EPN in Europe. The database will focus the knowledge of the COST action participants and will be a link for any external communication. The structure and the content of this Internet site should be defined within a special meeting of the working groups 3 (biotechnology), 4 (interaction with field biota) and 5 (social economics) and Internet specialists. We decided to ask specialists in the control of the targets for their participation to create the Internet information. It should be driven by targets for EPN use.

Preliminary structure of the Internet site:

[www.cost850.com](http://www.cost850.com)

- \* Information about the working groups and participants
- \* Database
- \* Targets
  - Slugs
  - *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*
  - *Themnorrhinus mendicus* and other curculionids on sugar beet
  - Sciarids in ornamentals
  - Sciarids in mushrooms
  - Vegetable flies
  - Noctuids in vegetable
  - Chessnut weevil *Curculio elephans*
  - Boring insect in orchards (*Cossus* + *Zeuzera*)
  - *Capnodes tenebriones*
  - *Saperda charcharias*
  - Thrips
  - Leaf Miners
- \* Field results
- \* Biology and crop
- \* Specialists
- \* Recommendation for users
- \* Producers and distributors

- \* [Scientific methods and quality control](#)
- \* [Safety, risks and benefits, Legislation, List of natural hosts](#)
- \* [Links to other sites](#)

### **External communication in COST 850**

Based on the information provided by the database, we will be able to connect science with extension services, organic growers, biocontrol companies and scientists. Extension services in the different European regions can be linked to our internet page. We will organize meetings concentrating on one target and invite extension people to participate in these meetings. The knowledge about the possible use of or need for biocontrol agents like EPN are not well distributed so far. The reason for that is mainly a lack on linkages between the potential users and providers of this knowledge.

The most important link between these groups are the extension services. A list of all extension services in Europe should be collected in order to provide them with information (internet database).

Representatives of extension services from each European country should be invited to become members of the COST action. Meetings will be appointed which concentrate on the use of biocontrol in special crops together with the related extension services scientists and companies.

### **Final discussion on first day**

We should try to integrate extension people and the private sector into our Action. If the private sector will benefit from our activities the companies will be willing to provide funds for necessary activities which we cannot cover from COST funds (e.g. professional help with internet page). We should try to get professionals participate on a voluntary basis.

Make our action public through motivating others to actively participate. Get the “outside” into our Action. If we are the interface between science and extension the information will be provided to the users through the extension services.

Actions to be taken were summarized as follows:

Internal:	Produce Website
External:	Trigger participation of extension people and the private sector ( <b>PULL</b> )
	Link to public and politicians ( <b>PUSH</b> )

## **Agenda for second day of Meeting Sunday 27 May 2001**

1. Suggestions to concrete research projects covering co-work between researchers extension service, producers and end users.
2. How does WG 5 see the relevance of their work in relation to other groups?  
  
Could WG 5 be visualized in a model covering all working groups?
3. As a reflection on discussion during the first day, suggestions are wanted on how to reach the end users.
4. Evaluation

### **Minutes**

1. Suggestions to concrete research projects covering co-work between researchers extension service, producers and end users. Results of the group work:

This topic was discussed in the form of an exercise, where the facilitator, Sri, proposed a scenario. The scenario was that he as the person responsible for allocation of research funds came to the WG 5 gathered here and asked them to give him all their ideas for innovative research and action in the areas of their interest. Money or other resources should not be seen as limiting in any way, only the ideas were wanted. Participants worked on this exercise in four groups.

#### **Group 1:**

- a) Arrange workshops on application in field crops
- b) Working group meetings  
Indoor pests, boring insects, Internet page, private sector
- c) Cropping systems approach  
Analyse possible solutions using nematodes
- d) General discussion on alternative paradigms for EU agricultural economy

#### **Group 2:**

- a) Evaluate methods of knowledge transfer.  
Increase the knowledge on biocontrol eg. reduce fear for BC. Provide more information  
Projects on risk assessment  
**Who:** Teachers, journalists, investors, make a contests on ideas on spread of information
- b) More direct contacts between researchers and end users

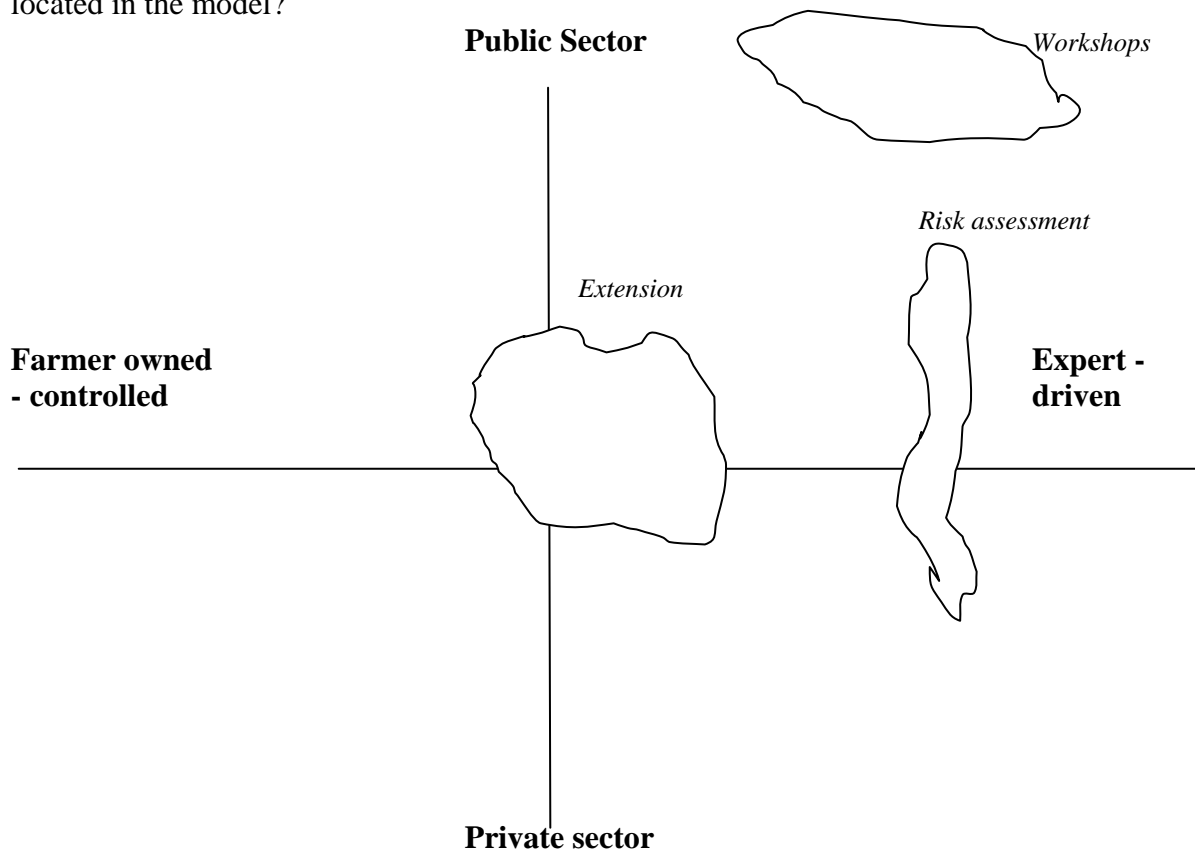
**Group 3:** Actual problem-based analyses of needs as a starting point of a concrete project and as a result knowledge on research time needed

**Group 4:** Extended use of EPN is fundamental  
Reduce prices of EPN's  
Studies of rational EPN use

The above ideas were presented to the whole group. Sri asked three of the participants to give him their selection of three project ideas from the list which stood out as innovative and relevant to the work of this WG 5. Based on the ranking by the three 'invited' panelists, the following projects were seen as significant:

1. Workshops on application in field crops
2. Cropping system approach for development of integrated biological pest management
3. Increasing knowledge on Biocontrol
4. Evaluate methods of knowledge transfer –networks
5. Extend use of EPN

A model was presented showing agricultural research as being governed by two dimensions – one according to whether research was performed by public sector or private sector, and the other according to whether it was expert (specialist) driven or initiated, owned and controlled by farmers. These two dimensions were shown to provide a framework as follows and the group was asked to consider their projects in this framework.. Where are the chosen projects located in the model?

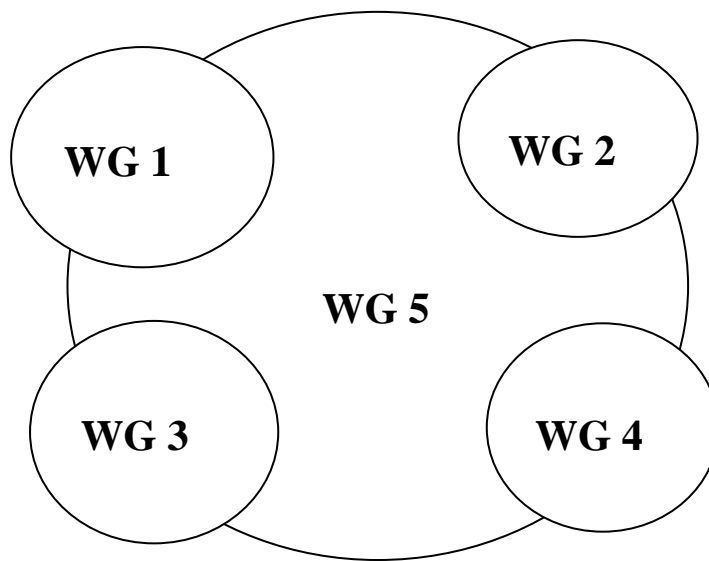


In the case of EPN research, the level of specialization in the knowledge area makes involvement of the farmers difficult.

2. How does WG 5 see the relevance of their work in relation to other groups?

Could WG 5 be visualized in a model covering all working groups?

Two ways of seeing the place of WG 5 in relation to the other groups emerged during discussion.



The above model take into account the following questions:

Relevance of WG 5 to the other working groups

Why do we need to talk about Socio economics in this COST action?

The coherence between research and society in the context of EPN research is not necessarily evident in the way socio economics has been defined or described. The need to take the research findings back to society (farmers as well as other people) and incorporating the ideas of society in the way we formulate research (the PULL and PUSH) has to be seen not simply as of interest to WG 5 but indeed connected to the work of all groups.

WG 5 has an internal significance to get the different groups to co-operate about socio economic questions and also to be the link between the working groups and the society.

## **Final discussion on second day:**

It was agreed that WG 5 is to arrange a meeting with all the working groups. Agenda for that meeting:

- Define the goal for COST action 850
- What do the different working groups expect from COST 850
- What do the different working groups expect from WG 5

Background for suggestion COST 850 meeting:

The goal of WG 5.

New people, new aspects

Combine internally/externally

Communication

Change the “mechanisms” of COST concerning co-work between researchers

Create real WORKING GROUPS, not just research groups for information sharing

Develop a better way of communication with external participants (initiate processes)

## **New decisions for further action:**

- **New ways of co-operating in all working groups (methods and processes)**
- **Discussion of the function of WG 5 in COST 850 meeting**
- **Suggest workshops with extension people**
- **Teambuilding within COST 850**

## **Reflective Comments and suggestions for follow-up action from the Facilitators**

At the end of the working group meeting, an opening was made participants to give their evaluation of the meeting. On the whole, participants expressed their satisfaction about the process used to run the meeting, about the time made available for discussion and freer exchange of ideas. They also expressed the comparative benefits of this form of meeting against the usual format when a series of papers are presented with much emphasis on presentation and less on discussion.

One of the comments was that it was interesting to discuss the basic question of why we needed COST actions. A further comment was about the need for more time to work out the ideas discussed here and to put them into action.

Some participants also expressed the feeling that they expected the working group to have gone further during the Kiel meeting.

The facilitators found an interest in the subjects that were brought up and discussed. They also appreciated the enthusiasm and efforts of the participants.

Concerning the outcome, especially the feeling of some of the participants of not having gone very far, our comment is that the group could progress with further work, if the whole spectrum of the COST 850 is represented in the next meeting. With the presence of a cross section of interests and the use of an appropriate meeting process and facilitation, some of the questions raised in the Kiel meeting (but not addressed adequately) can be taken up. A likely set of outcomes from such a meeting will include more exchange of ideas, bringing out of more creative activities, mutual inspiration and new angles to the subject. In addition, a more clear understanding of viewpoints of other stakeholders, politicians, users and scientists will be achieved, particularly from a socio-economic perspective.

We believe that such a scenario can be established in a COST 850 meeting with attendance from all WG's, as suggested by the participants of the Kiel meeting.

At the concluding session, possible venues for such a meeting were discussed and Copenhagen and Bologna were suggested. The possibility of incorporating the participation of a significant number of people working in extension within EPN was considered as an added attraction to such a meeting if held in one of these locations.

We propose the above ideas for consideration by the management committee. We also thank WG 5 for the opportunity given to us to be involved with this activity as facilitators.