



## Book on biological control encourages advances in sustainability of tropical agriculture

As a result of an extensive two-year investigation carried out by the editors, the book **"Controle Biológico de Pragas da Agricultura" (Biological Pest Control in Agriculture)** recently launched by Embrapa, has a wide content to support inclusion of sustainable practices in agricultural production.

Already available in a free digital version, the work gathers information from experts in a comprehensive discussion on the subject, demonstrating how natural enemies, whether pathogens, predators, parasites, herbivores or antagonists, can be used in our favor.

Different biological agents are extensively described throughout the work, as well as ecological relationships among them in a variety of agroecosystems. The text also offers a broad overview of new technologies such as gene silencing in plants and insects, use of drones and, also, nanotechnology for manufacturing bio-inputs.

Another issue addressed in detail is regulation of research and product registration, an important growing demand for organic farming systems.

Following the global market trend for safer and chemical-free foods, practices and products related to biological control have been increasing their share in agriculture year after year. Among biofertilizers, biostimulants and biopesticides, global market projections for biobased agents point to an annual growth of 12.7% until 2022, estimated to reach USD 11.35 billion, according to the experts authoring the book.

If there are doubts about benefits of applying biological control, this book shows that besides reducing costs from 20% to 70% compared to chemicals, bio-inputs support diversity, with high selectivity and low toxicity to humans. For these and other features, products for biological control expand their market share every year.

For the editors Eliana Fontes and Maria Cléria Valadares Inglis, who launch the book through Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology in partnership with other research institutions, the target audience is the Latin American market which, according to the them, is expected to grow between 15 and 20% in the coming years.

Students and scientists involved in the subject can access this reference work since April through a digital version. A printed version will be commercially available in the coming weeks.

### Where to find:

The free version of the book "Controle biológico de pragas na Agricultura" is available at [tiny.cc/livrocontrolebio](https://tiny.cc/livrocontrolebio)