

Special Issue

Biological Control Strategies for Fungal Plant Pathogens

Message from the Guest Editors

Plant pathogens cause severe losses and damage to crops around the world, and thus significantly reduce the quality and quantity of agricultural products.

The biological control approaches for plant diseases include the reduction of the amount or effect of pathogens through different mechanisms of action, such as: competition, antibiosis, hyperparasitism, cross protection, resistance induction, and growth improvement. With the objective of a more effective control of diseases, it is agreed that improving the performance of selected antagonists is a main goal.

The natural enemy of the target pathogen is also known as a biological control agent (BCA). BCAs cause no harm to the environment, and new legislative registrations to restrict the use of existing commercial chemical pesticides are an incentive for the development and registration of new biopesticides. The fields of application are vast, from strictly agricultural environments to forest-ornamental ones, up to protected ones (greenhouses, tunnels) where, due to the very conformation of the environment, the best results are obtained.

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