

Review of Lubilosa – use of Metarhizium in Africa

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STRATEGIES TO GROW OUR BUSINESS

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this review is to provide information to the donors and participants in the Lubilosa project that will allow future projects to be funded and managed in a way that takes advantage of the lessons learned during the Lubilosa project. The review may also be seen as a final assessment of the success and impact of the Lubilosa project.

METHOD

The Lubilosa project chose two reviewers for this task.

One reviewer, Dr Steve Lisansky, has some historical and background knowledge of the commercial biopesticides field¹. He held discussions with the Lubilosa project manager and a trip was made to South Africa to meet and to review the project with a small selected group of individuals from the research, government and commercial sectors. Previously, the reviewer had attended several presentations of the scientific results of the Lubilosa project.

The other reviewer, Dr Abdoul-Aziz Sy has had extensive experience of the development of biological control within the public sector². He travelled within West Africa and met a number of individuals linked to the development of the Lubilosa project. Both reviewers went through the key paperwork from the project including the minutes of scientific and management meetings.

No visit was made to the central region in Africa but information about progress there was provided by project staff.

These actions allow the Lubilosa project and its results to be reviewed in the context of other biopesticide programmes, but do not, of course, allow for detailed comment on historical decisions made during the course of the project.

The reports of the two reviewers have been edited and combined by Dr Lisansky in this report. In doing this, he has tried to retain the essential elements of Dr Sy's contribution in as intact a form as possible.

¹ Dr Steve Lisansky has been involved in projects to develop and sell microbial biopesticides since 1977; he has knowledge of many of the various companies that have tried to make a business of this, as well as having had the experience of trying to make biological products effective in the field, and then registering and selling them.

² Dr Abdoul-Aziz Sy was in charge of the Biological control Working Group at the University of Toulouse from 1978 to 1990. From 1990, as Principal Plant Pathologist at the West African Rice Development Association he was in charge of the IPM-Task Force, the International Working Group on Rice Yellow Mottle Virus, the Plant Quarantine Project and the Bio-safety Focal Point for Central & West Africa. In 1997, he became the Regional Coordinator then Head of the Technology Testing and Transfer Unit at IITA. He has carried out consultancy for a number of international institutions and companies.