



# Regulation of Biological Control Agents Questions and Issues

Council Colloquium

Antalya

2017-9-28



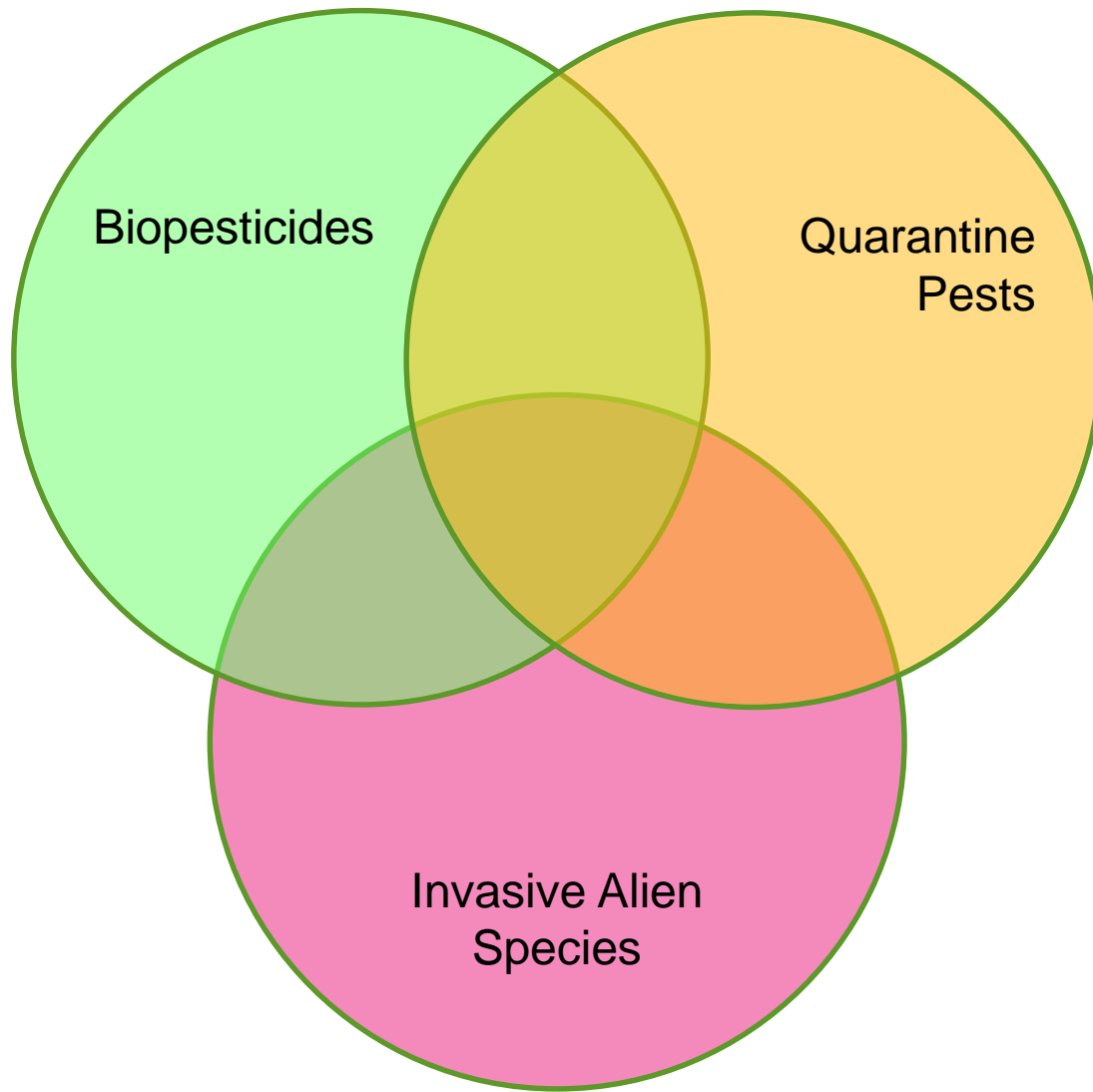
# Problems of terminology and distinctions

- macrobial / microbial
- classical / augmentative
- released / marketed
- non-indigenous / indigenous
- likely to establish / not likely to establish
- non-commercial / commercial



# **Problems of overlapping regulatory regimes ...**



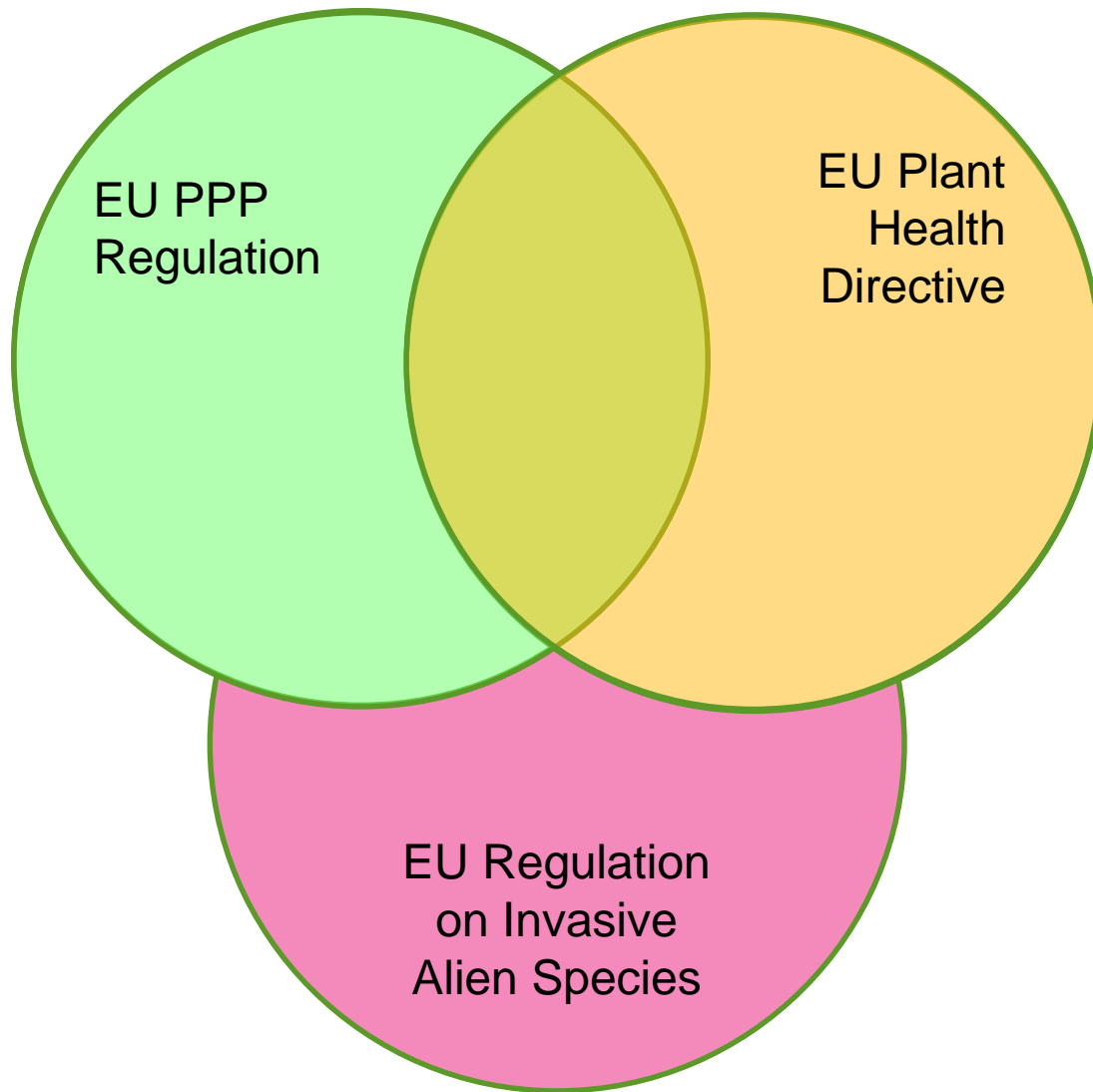


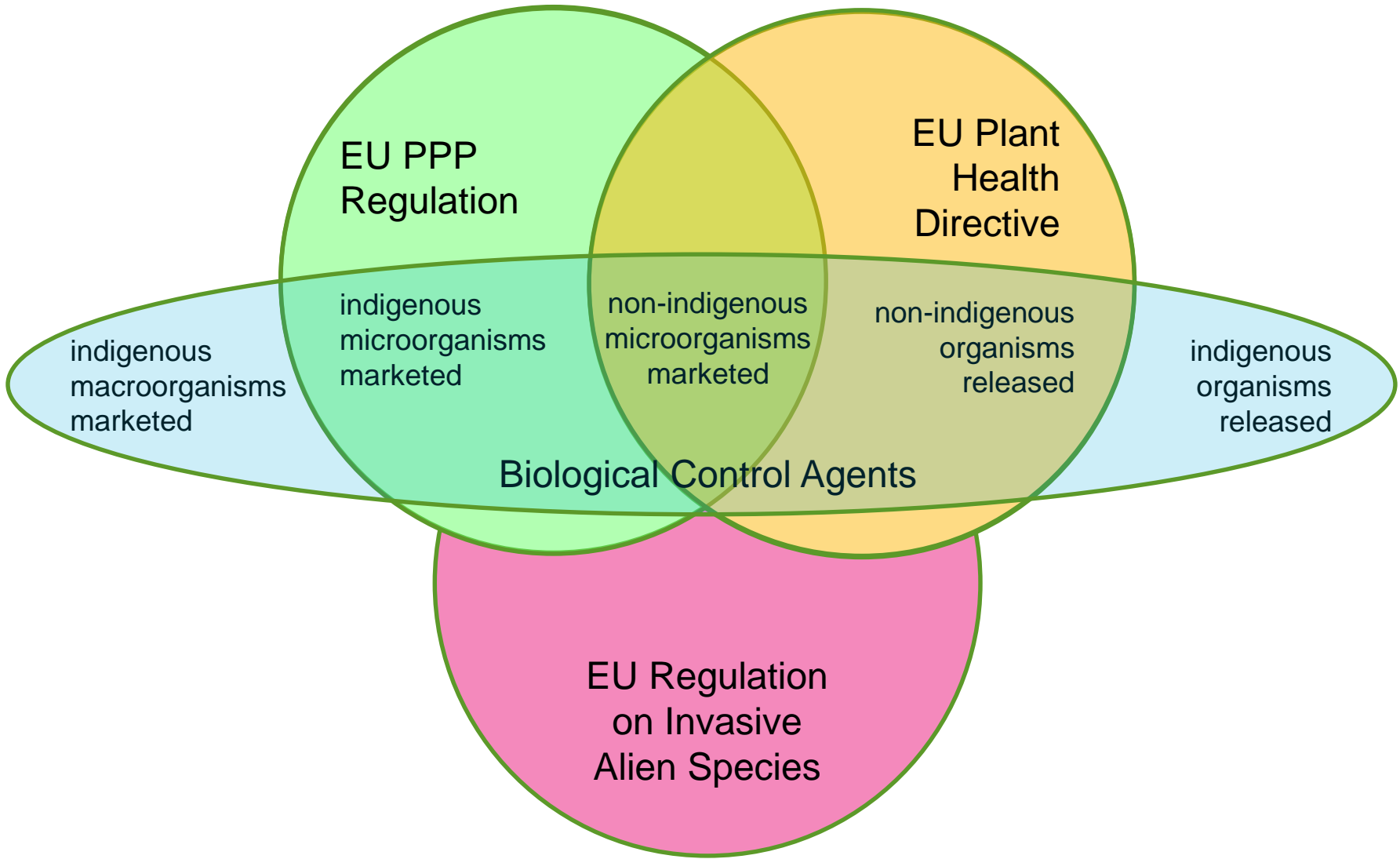
Biopesticides

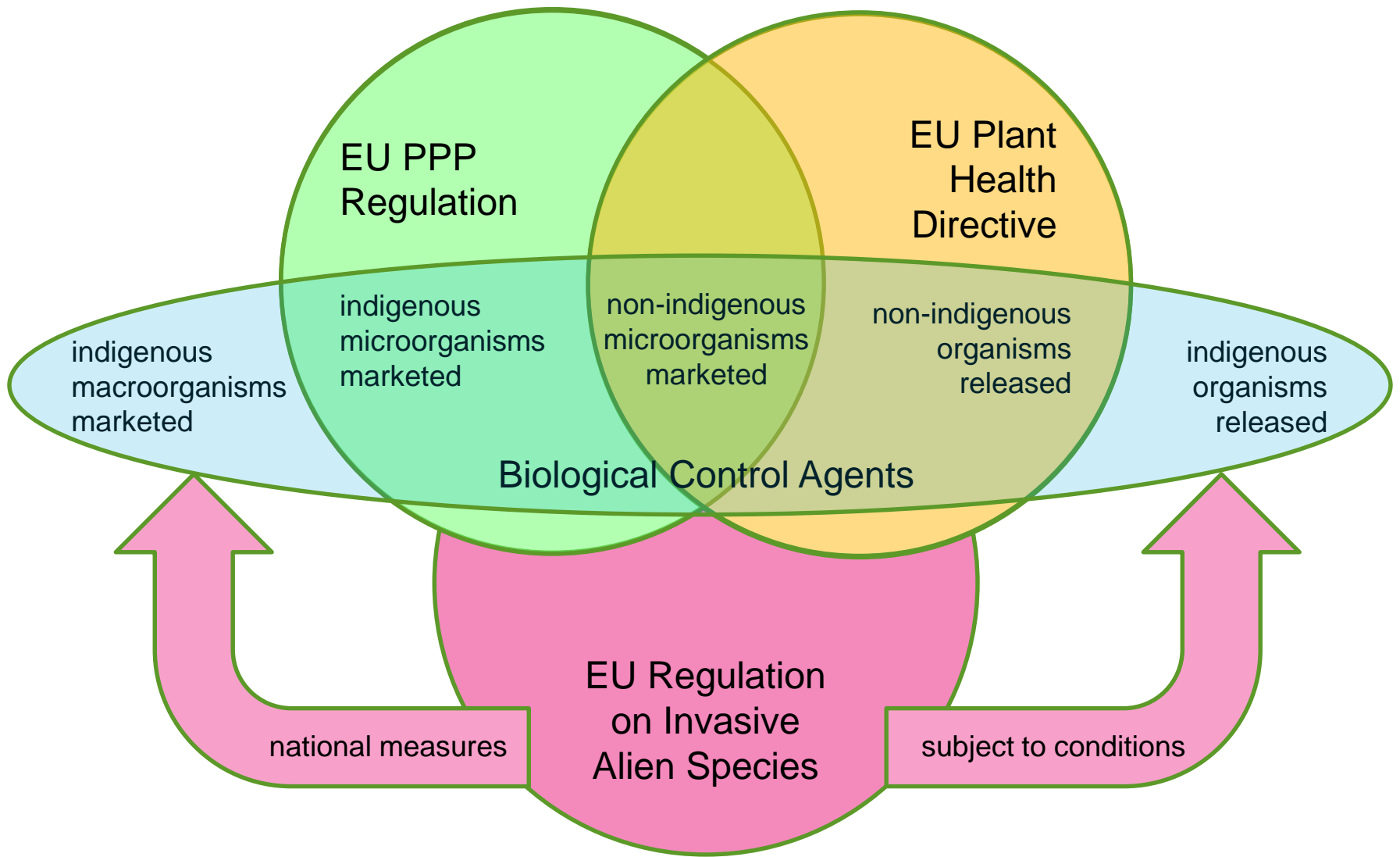
Quarantine  
Pests

Invasive Alien  
Species









# Conclusions of Workshop 2015-11

- Use of BCAs is subject to a wide range of different regulations
- Relevant regulations in EPPO region have been recently amended, but do not mostly include specific provisions for BCAs
- Implementation at national level varies considerably
- Inappropriate regulation may lead to plant health risks or, on the other hand, missed opportunities for effective biological control
- Evidence of real problems from use of properly authorised biological control agents is very limited
- Technically there is a strong case for an eco-regional approach
- EPPO and IBMA have previously decided against establishing a “First Release Expert Group” at EPPO or EU level
- There is scope for “soft harmonisation” through more guidance and establishment of an independent expert review mechanism



# Recommendations from Workshop 2015-11

- Guidance is needed on application of regulations
- Common definitions would be useful (e.g. „indigenous“)
- National authorities should establish effective co-ordinating mechanisms to ensure a coherent respond to requests
- Proposed releases of BCAs should be discussed early with regulators
- More harmonisation could be achieved by applying EPPO Standards
- Assessment and decision at European/EPPO level needed? Who could take this?
- Possible use of BCAs should be considered in contingency plans
- Euphresco has a role in collaborative research
- Regulation should take account of benefits as well as risks (needs evidence of efficacy)

# Next steps?

- i) gather information on national contact points for regulation of BCAs
- ii) facilitate exchange of information between these regulators on applications to release BCAs



# Conclusions

- Information exchange is important
- Co-operation with other institutes and bodies
- Common understanding of terms
- Targeted information for traders - they can play a key role
- A more harmonised approach for decisions on release
- Not all pest problems are on islands so we have to harmonise approaches between neighbouring countries
- Decisions must be by competent authorities
- NEED different solutions for improving IPM in Europe

