### Regulation of macro-organisms in biological control and pollination in Finland

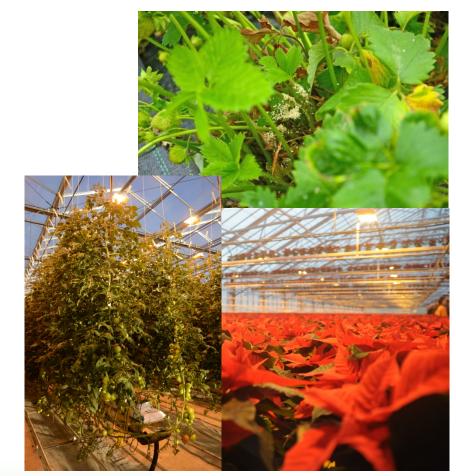
Aino-Maija Alanko, Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira

EPPO/COST Workshop on Evaluation And Regulation of Biological Control Agents 23.11.2015



# **Biological control in Finland**

- Mainly used in greenhouses
  - Common in vegetable production
  - Increasing in ornamental flower production
- Open field
  - Used in polytunnel cultivation



Photos: A-M Alanko



# **Legislation of BCAs in Finland**

- Macro-organisms:
  - Plant health legislation
  - Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira
- Micro-organisms:
  - Plant protection product legislation
  - Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)





### **Plant health legislation change in Finland**

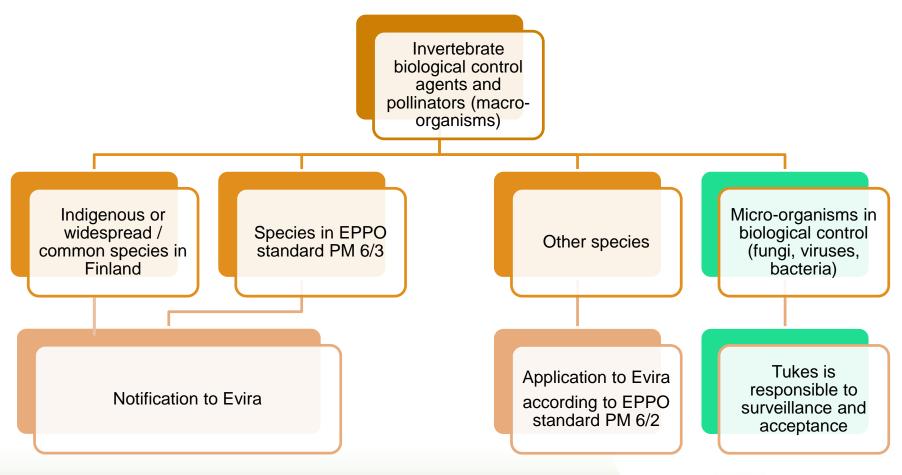
- Macro-organisms (and pollinators) were added in plant health legislation 1.1.2013
  - Surveillance of use, import and marketing by Evira
  - All products containing BCAs used in Finland, have to be accepted by Evira
- The use can be restricted or banned by Evira, if there is a risk to plant health
- Ministry of the Environment can set restrictions, if it is necessary, by nature conservation act. (in 2016 national IAS legislation)
- Evira maintains a list of accepted BCA products
- No specific requirements to import of BCAs, only pollinators



Photo: A-M Alanko



# Notification / application process of BCA products





### **Notification process**

- Indigenous or widespread species
- EPPO standard PM 6/3 species
- Two weeks before intended use or marketing
- Form at Evira's website

# Notification form sent to Evira

# Accepted BCA product

- Assessment of plant health risks
- Scientific references

#### • Update to Evira website

- Confirmation to sender of the notification form
- Operators or farmers can check accepted products and species

#### Acceptance



### **Application process**

- Non-indigenous species or
- Not in EPPO standard PM 6/3
- 3 months before first use or marketing
- Form at Evira's website

Application sent to Evira

# Result of assessment

- Risk assesment
  - Risks to plant health
  - Risks to environment
    - Notification to Ministry of Environment
- According to EPPO Standard PM 6/2

- Update in Evira website
- Decision sent to applicant
- Application is billed
- One application per product
- Application is valid until further notice

### Acceptance



## Product list at Evira's website

- All accepted products
  - Notified: 158 products
  - Applied and accepted: 8 products
    - Amblyseius montdorensis ( 2 products)
      Pollinators: Bombus terrestris ( 6 products)
- Maintained when new products are accepted
- Operators and farmers can check
  - Accepted products
  - Information on targets of use
  - Possible restriction

http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/plants/cultivation+and+ production/biological+control+and+pollination/accep ted+macro-organisms/biological+control/

# **Surveillance and inspections**

- BCA products used in Finland before legislation change
  - Evaluated for plant health risks by 31.12.2013
  - Operators sent notifications or applications of their products
- Inspections at greenhouses or fields
  - Performed with normal plant health inspections
    - Which products are used by farmers
    - Are those products accepted by Evira
    - Possible damage to crop plants

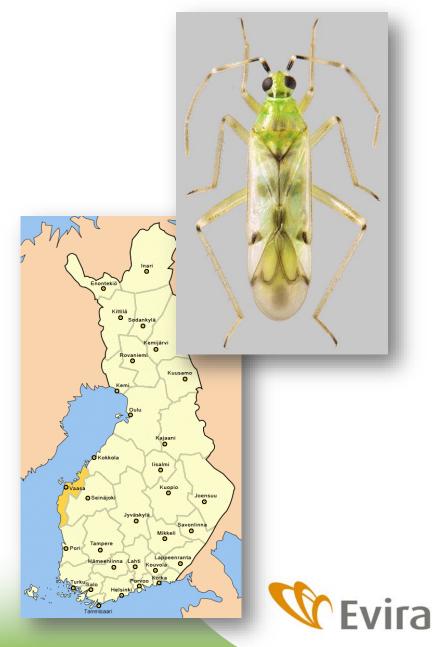
### Marketing surveillance

- 9 operators in Finland
- Random samples of 5 % of products in Evira's list yearly
  - 2 samples / product
  - Possible contaminations



## Nesidiocoris tenuis

- BCA in Southern Europe
- Found from tomato greenhouses in 2008
- Significant economic loss for farmers
  - Population increased in winter
  - Severe damage to tomato plants
- Maybe contaminated *Macrolophus*-products
- Last case in 2014
- Main driver for the legislation change



### Thank you for your attention! Questions?



