



Subject: Invitation letter to the IOBC PhD Symposium on Biological Control of arthropod pests and plant diseases

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we send you this invitation for the upcoming IOBC PhD Symposium on Biological Control of arthropod pests and plant diseases, scheduled from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of 2024 at the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) in Cabrils, Barcelona, Spain.

This symposium is an opportunity for PhD students to share their research and discuss it with their peers, benefiting from the advice and feedback of experienced researchers. This inaugural edition of the symposium will explore advancements in biological control, focusing on entomology, acarology and phytopathology. This gathering provides an opportunity for PhD students working in these fields to connect, collaborate, and learn from each other's experiences.

Agenda Overview:

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
April 22	- Welcome and introductions - Oral presentations (10 min + 15 min questions) of 6 PhD students	- Oral presentations of 5 PhD students - Visit of IRTA facilities - Dinner
April 23	Oral presentations of 6 PhD students	Excursion Sant Jordi Day (Barcelona)
April 24	Workshop 1: biological control practices, between theory and practice	- Workshop 2: Professional perspectives after the PhD - Closing and dinner

The PhD students interested in joining this symposium should submit a motivation letter (one A4 page, including the topic of their PhD) to Sophie Le Hesran ([sophie.lehesran@wur.nl](mailto:sophie.lehesran@wur.nl)) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. We will select a maximum of 17 PhD students and give a final decision on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The registration fee, set at 120 €, includes the cost of registering the selected PhD students as members of IOBC (for one year), contributing to their active engagement in our community. The coffee breaks, lunches and 2 dinners are also included in the registration fee.

We are available to answer any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Sophie Le Hesran (researcher at the Business Unit Greenhouse Horticulture, WUR, the Netherlands), on behalf of the organizing team