

2024 Dublin Fertiliser Symposium
19th September 2024



9:00h-13:00h Dublin

10:00h-14:00h Central European Time

Online Symposium organised by Kerona Scientific Ltd

Dublin Fertiliser Symposium

Thursday 19th September 2024

Times UTC+1 Dublin, please add one hour for Central European Summertime

09:00-09:10	Welcome and Introductions Dr Irene McGrath Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd, Ireland
09:10-09:35	Module D1 Projects and Audits with Special CMCs Dr Ildikó Varga Biostimulant Specialist, CerTrust Inspection and Certification Ltd, Hungary
09:35-09:40	<i>Question and answer session</i>
09:40-10:05	Experience with CE Marking of Plant Biostimulants under the FPR Rebeka Kurucz Biostimulant Specialist, CerTrust Inspection and Certification Ltd, Hungary
10:05-10:10	<i>Question and answer session</i>
10:10-10:35	National Irish Perspective on Fertilising Products Colin Murtagh and Maria Destefanis Feedingstuff, Fertiliser, Grain and Poultry Division, PRCD, Ireland
10:35-10:40	<i>Question and answer session</i>
10:40-11:05	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:05-11:30	Plant Biostimulants: National Routes and Mutual Recognition Evelyne Güsken sciBASICS, Belgium
11:30-11:35	<i>Question and answer session</i>
11:35-12:00	DG GROW - A European Viewpoint on the FPR Dr Theodora Nikolakopoulou Policy Officer for Fertilising Products, DG GROW, Belgium
12:00-12:05	<i>Question and answer session</i>
12:05-12:30	Industry Perspective of CE Marking of Fertilising Products David Hiltz Director of Global Regulatory Affairs, Acadian Plant Health, Canada
12:35 - 12:40	<i>Question and answer session</i>
12:40 - 13:00	Additional time for Q&A (if needed) and closing remarks Dr Irene McGrath Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd, Ireland



Dr Irene McGrath

Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd

Irene studied Analytical Science and obtained a PhD in Chemistry at Dublin City University before working in a variety of senior regulatory roles in the plant protection industry. Irene founded Kerona Scientific in 2014 and manages the regulatory team of consultants, working with clients worldwide. She has spent over 30 years leading regulatory teams focusing on plant protection products, biocides, plant biostimulants and fertilisers in the EU.



Dr Ildikó Varga

Expert (Biostimulant Specialist) and Auditor, CerTrust Notified Body 2806

Ildikó studied plant protection and agricultural microbiology before obtaining her PhD in Agricultural Sciences in 2013. In her early career Ildikó participated in different biopesticide development projects as an agricultural microbiological researcher. She managed open-field trials as well as microbiological and in vitro laboratory tests while developing microbial and other natural-originated biostimulants. In 2022 Ildikó joined CerTrust where her work is focused not only on the conformity assessment procedure for plant biostimulants, but also on EU fertilisers, like biogas residues and compost, to which D1 Module applies.



Rebeka Kurucz

Expert, CerTrust Notified Body 2806

Rebeka studied agronomical sciences and obtained a master's degree as an agriculture engineer. During her studies, she attended crop and seed production activities and open field experiments. In 2022, she joined CerTrust and has been involved in the conformity assessment procedures. Rebeka has also worked on the evaluation of many biostimulant products and has gained significant experience in the open-field evaluations. As an agricultural engineer, Rebeka is driven by a passion for innovation and a commitment to sustainable practices. She is working on the evaluation of products under the D1 module as a future lead auditor.



Colin Murtagh

Feedingstuff, Fertiliser, Grain and Poultry Division, PRCD

Having graduated from University College Dublin with a degree in Agri-Environmental Science (BAgrSc), Colin spent a number of years working in the private agricultural sector and joined the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2019. Colin has worked in a broad range of areas including waste water treatment, environmental schemes, derogation planning and Plant Health Import Controls. Colin is currently working in the fertiliser division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as an Assistant Agricultural Inspector with a focus on fertiliser regulation on a national and European level.



Evelyne Gsken

sciBASICS

Evelyne has a background in human medicine and biological sciences. Her career journey led her to the world of scientific and regulatory consultancy in 1998, where she primarily focused on plant protection products. In 2004, she founded sciBASICS and over the years, her expertise has expanded to include other significant areas such as biostimulants, demonstrating her passion for contributing to the advancement of agricultural science and technology. Since then, her commitment is to guide clients through the complexities of the European market for biopesticides and biostimulants. With over 15 years of experience, sciBASICS remains dedicated to delivering valuable support for the success of these products.



Dr Theodora Nikolakopoulou

Policy Officer for Fertilising Products

DG GROW Unit F2 Bioeconomy, Chemicals, Cosmetics

Dora studied Biology in the University of Athens and obtained a PhD in Biological Sciences. Working as a researcher for 15 years, Dora was involved in projects focusing on the study of the occurrence and transfer of antibiotic resistance in different bacterial communities in natural environments. Dora joined DG GROW in 2018 and is responsible for the implementation and the development of the Fertilising Products Regulation, including standardisation. Dora also follows the development of other legislative acts relevant to the fertilising products, such as the Animal By-Products Regulation, waste legislations, the REACH restrictions for microplastics, Sewage Sludge Directive, SAIO (Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output).



David Hiltz
Acadian Plant Health

David is the Director of Global Regulatory Affairs at Acadian Plant Health, an algal biotechnology company with headquarters in Nova Scotia, Canada. Holding a Master's degree in plant biochemistry, David has spent the last 27 years in numerous Technology roles at Acadian, focused on advancing the knowledge of marine algae and its uses in agriculture. He currently leads a team of five regulatory scientists responsible for navigating the registration requirements of plant biostimulants in more than 80 countries. David's knowledge of the Global biostimulant industry has led to industry leadership roles including Director-at-Large for the European Biostimulants Industry Council (EBIC), Co-Chair of the Biostimulant Innovation Committee of the Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA), and Executive Committee Member of The Fertilizer Institute's Biostimulant Council (TFI-BC).

Previous Attendees Include:

Adama Agricultural Solutions	UPL	Verdesian Life Sciences
IntraCrop	Mitsui & Co.	Neudorff
Sani Crop Protection	Olmix	SBM Company
Sumitomo Chemical	Albaugh	Barclay Crop Protection
Diachem	De Sangosse	Gowan Company
Compo	Nutra Mara	Roam Technology
Clayton Plant Protection	Hygeia	Arysta LifeScience
Janssen PMP	L. Gobbi	