



Greetings Members of the Community of Agricultural Biostimulants!

The use of biostimulants in agriculture has grown dramatically over recent years and it is estimated that sales will reach \$2 billion by 2018 (Calvo et al., 2014). While the success of these materials suggests that growers have found value in their use, there is still much that needs to be learned about their mode of action so that the efficacy of these materials can be improved.

The 2nd World Congress on the use of Biostimulants in Agriculture held in Florence in November 2015 and attended by 1,200 participants and many leading scientists, contributed greatly to our understanding of these materials and highlighted the critical biological mechanisms underlying their function.

Scientific presentations at the Florence Congress, highlighted the extraordinary advances that have been made in understanding how plants detect and respond to their environment and how the application of biostimulants may interfere with these signaling processes to positively influence plant response. It was hypothesized that biostimulants may either directly interact with plant signaling or act through stimulation of the biological microbiome of plants to produce molecules of benefit to the plant.

While the Florence congress highlighted the great strides in determining the function of biostimulants, the great diversity of sources of these materials and the complexity of the resulting product, suggests that there is much more that needs to be learned about these promising materials.

The 3rd Biostimulants World Congress will be held in Miami in November 2017 and promises to continue the excellent contributions of previous congresses. A team of world-class scientists will be assembled to ensure that participants receive the most up to date and most current understanding of the biology behind biostimulants, presented in a manner that is highly approachable for agronomists, industry scientists and advanced growers. Scientific talks will be complimented with selected talks from leading industry scientists, agronomists and producers.

On behalf of the scientific and the organizing committees for the 3rd Biostimulants World Congress, I welcome you to Miami in November 2017.

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Prof Patrick Brown
Chairman of the Scientific Committee