

## ***Trichoderma* in Brazil: history, research, commercialization and perspectives**

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In 1987, thirty-seven years since the first publication on biocontrol of plant diseases by *Trichoderma* in Brazil (R.Forster, *Bragantia* 10(5):139-148, 1950), a pioneer product arrived in the market against *Phytophthora cactorum* in apple trees. At this time, the biocontrol agent (BCA) was supplied in polypropylene bags containing 24g of sorghum seeds colonized by *T. viride*. The first enterprise specialized in production and commercialization of *Trichoderma* started to operate in 1992. Since then, other products came out and nowadays there are more than ten commercial trademarks. In April, 2008 we did a survey to check the state-of-the-art of the use of *Trichoderma* in Brazil and verified: 1-main species in the market: *T. asperellum*, *T. harzianum*, *T. stromaticum*, *T. viride*; 2-pathogen target includes *Fusarium*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Macrophomina*, *Sclerotinia*, *Sclerotium*, *Botrytis*; *Crinipellis perniciosa*; 3-recommended crops: bean, soybean, cotton, tobacco, strawberry, tomato, onion, garlic, ornamentals, cacao; 4-*Trichoderma* are mostly produced by solid fermentation on rice or millet grains (approximately 550 ton/year); 5-formulations includes WP, WG, SC, EC, grain+spores, dry spores. The average cost of treatment, for example, against bean white-mold with *Trichoderma* is US\$ 54.00/ha while with fungicides is about US\$ 92.00/ha. The treated area with *Trichoderma* is highly increasing in the last three years. The recent organization of a Brazilian Biocontrol Association and the enhancement of the legislation for registration and commercialization of BCAs are boosting the market, particularly for *Trichoderma* that is in frankly expansion.