



EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
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After 10 years what are the changes good and bad for biocontrol and ABIM?

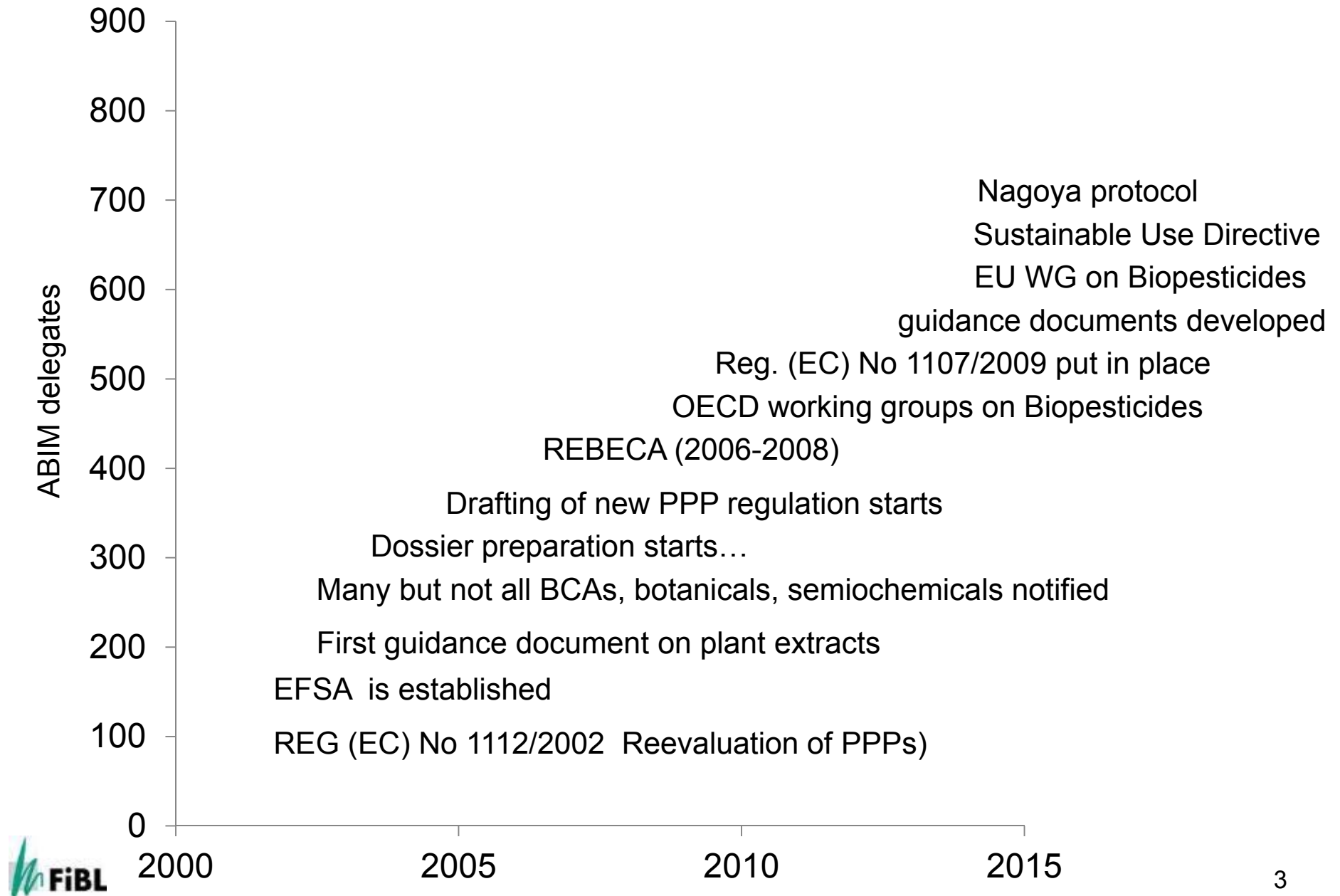
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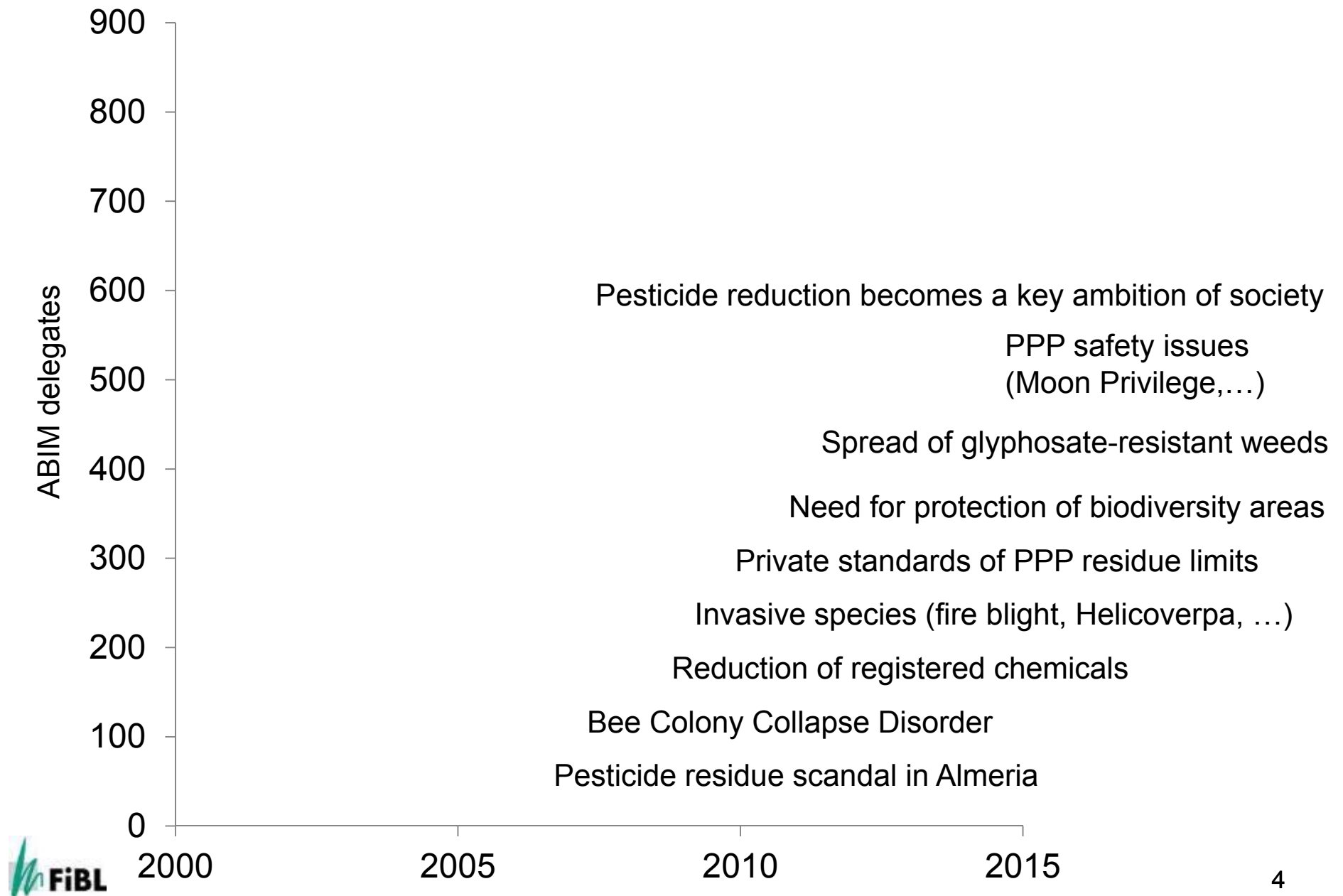
Developments in terms of...

- › **legal framework...**
- › **external drivers...**
- › **drivers in favor of Biocontrol...**
- › **public perception of biocontrol...**
- › **emerging threats and opportunities**

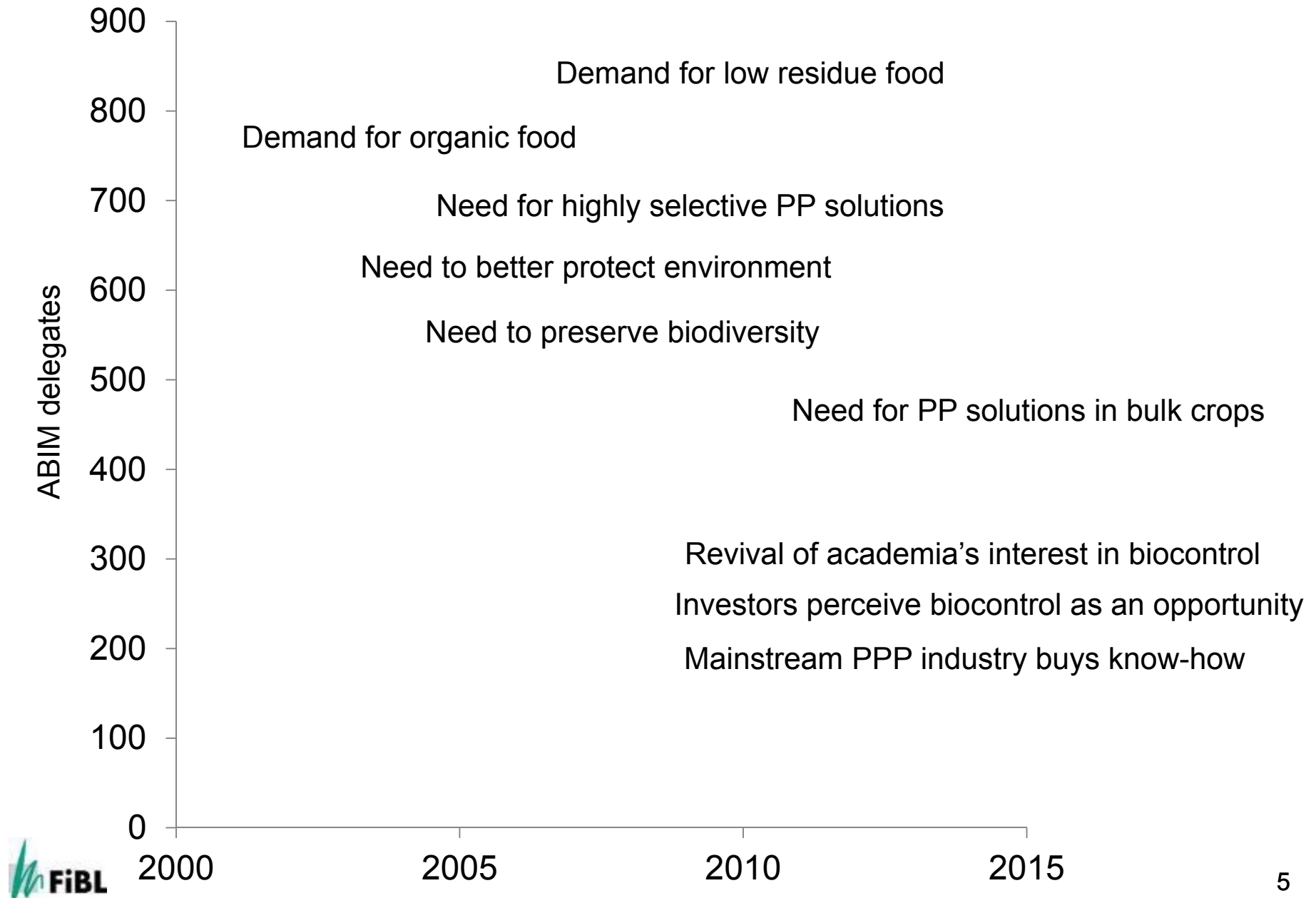
ABIM development and the legal framework



External drivers creating opportunities



Positive drivers for Biocontrol



Reasons for the positive image of BCAs

- › **BCAs help reducing use of chemicals**
- › **No history of scandals**
- › **BCAs predominantly used in advanced (IPM/organic) farming systems conveying a positive image**
- › **Biocontrol is perceived as elegant and easy to communicate to the public**
- › **Historically strong links between biocontrol industry and academia (IOBC!)**
- › **Leading manufacturers are/were SMEs and family businesses.**
- › **Highly motivated and skilled staff.**

Risks to the Biocontrol industry

- › **Regulatory framework not sufficiently adapted to the specific needs of BCA's.**
- › **With new products and up-scaled uses: Unwanted and unpredicted side-effects more likely.**
- › **Borderline technologies affect overall image.**
- › **No quick money to be made: Industry can't satisfy the investors' expectations.**
- › **BCA's are increasingly implemented to perpetuate unsustainable production systems (market interest vs. image).**

Conclusions

- **Over the past decade, biocontrol met obstacles that had the potential to stall its development.**
- **Biocontrol techniques offer smart solutions plant protection problems, especially in complex environmental/social contexts.**
- **The positive image of biocontrol is well deserved until now.**
- **The industry and academia have a high responsibility: Biocontrol is one of the rare examples in agriculture where society has a very positive attitude towards a technology.**