BIOFILMS & FOOD PROCESSING Food Crops – The Good and the Bad



A single **teaspoon** of productive soil generally contains BILLION BACTERIA



This means that the soil covering the farmed area of the earth (50 million km²)contains

12.5 BILLION TONS OF BACTERIA WITH 2.6 X 10²⁹ BACTERIAL CELLS

> Bacterial biofilms are involved in **essential plant processes**. THEY COLONISE PLANT ROOTS, STIMULATE GROWTH, RECYCLE NUTRIENTS AND CONTROL PATHOGENS

Biofilms are therefore an integral part of the



\$10.4BN

WORLD'S \$3,700BN OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

Bacteria can also cause diseases of plants leading to the use of

ANTIBACTERIAL PRODUCTS IN AGRICULTURE

particularly fruit and vegetables and can be applied to foliage, the soil or even injected into trunks.

The global market for these materials is estimated to be