



Villa Adjuvant Tip of the Month

NO DATA, NO REGISTRATION, NO CLAIM!

Adjuvants should be registered under Act 36 of 1947 and claims on labels substantiated with the required data. Unfortunately, we have heard of numerous outrageous claims about adjuvants in these times when crop protection product (CPP) prices are high and product shortages occur. This is very disturbing because adjuvants should never be used as silver bullets to reduce rates or to make unregistered applications. If an adjuvant has not been tested and registered, it is highly irresponsible to make unfounded claims. Unfortunately, these unregistered recommendations give the whole CPP industry a bad name. It is not surprising that some growers believe that adjuvants are just an unnecessary cost factor. This perception is unfortunate because if adjuvants are recommended responsibly and used correctly, they will increase efficacy significantly.

Unregistered products

We have heard of many instances in this past season where unregistered adjuvants have been recommended with glyphosate and other herbicides. These products do not have an L-number, so they have probably never been tested in statistical trials. If they had been tested, the question arises why they were never registered. However, they are marketed as silver bullets to increase efficacy and enable the use of lower CPP rates. If one is so convinced that the product is such an effective adjuvant, why not go through the registration process? Agents and growers must be aware of products without an L-number. We would never trust an unregistered CPP, so why would we trust an unregistered adjuvant? Be cautious of outrageous claims of unregistered adjuvants, especially if you can reduce the CPP rate to below registered levels. Only use adjuvants with an L-number. Remember the old saying: If it

sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Unregistered claims

Unregistered claims are just as irresponsible as unregistered products. Even when an adjuvant has an L-number, it is not acceptable to recommend it for a use that is not registered. We would be highly suspicious if someone recommends a fungicide for weed control, so we should be just as wary of unregistered adjuvant claims. It is highly irresponsible to have an adjuvant registration and make claims for uses without testing them. We have recently heard various reports of oil adjuvants claiming to have deposition agent properties. Just because an adjuvant has certain active ingredients doesn't mean that it has deposition properties. You cannot make claims saying a product is a deposition agent if there is no registration in this regard. If we do not act responsibly with adjuvant claims, we cannot expect growers to believe in these products.

Villa's stance

Villa always recommended using quality adjuvants to increase and stabilise control of various CPP. We have witnessed the value of adjuvants on numerous occasions, and they can be the difference between unacceptable and acceptable control. However, first register adjuvants and get an L-number before making any claims. Furthermore, only recommend adjuvants for a specific use if they tested it for this use. Avoid using adjuvants that do not have an L-number or that have not been tested for a specific recommendation.

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