

Industry News

Industry Acts in Response to Fungicide Resistance. Charles J. Delp, Agricultural Chemicals Department, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., Wilmington, DE

The exclusive and excessive use of a fungicide can have strong temporary rewards at the cash register. But fungicide resistance due to abuse of one product may not only inactivate that product but also make other related products ineffective because of cross-resistance. Therefore, industry--agricultural companies committed to the discovery, development, and sale of fungicides--has organized in response to fungicide resistance problems.

In an attempt to prolong the effectiveness of fungicides liable to encounter resistance problems, industry has organized a Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) and working groups. FRAC guides and facilitates the activities of the working groups, which focus on resistance among related fungicides. Currently, there are active working groups for the acylalanines, benzimidazoles, dicarboximides, and sterol inhibitors (SI).

It isn't easy to establish trust among the scientists of traditionally competitive companies. It is also difficult for them to select mutually acceptable monitoring or evaluation methods when personal commitments and reputations are at stake. And the acceptance of technically sound strategies that inhibit or complicate marketing may take a miracle. But there is an increasing number of situations where the effectiveness of all related products will be lost if acceptance, agreement, and action are not possible. In those cases, everyone loses.

FRAC meets periodically to review the activities of the working groups, encourage continued action, and resolve problems. The members are: I. F. Brown, Eli Lilly, Greenfield, IN, Chairman SI Working Group, U.S.A.; C. J. Delp, Du Pont, Wilmington, DE, Chairman FRAC, Chairman Benzimidazole Working Group; T. Kato, Sumitomo, Hyogo, Japan; F. Löcher, BASF, Limbergerhof, West Germany, Chairman Dicarboximide Working Group; W. G. Rathmell, ICI, Jealott's Hill, U.K.; H. Scheinpflug, Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany, Chairman SI Working Group; S. Shibuya, Kumiai, Tokyo, Japan; P. Urech, Ciba-Geigy, Basel, Switzerland, Chairman Acylalanine Working Group; and M. Wade, Shell, Sittingbourne, U.K., Secretary FRAC.

The real action takes place as a consequence of the working groups.

Ciba-Geigy has taken a leadership role in identifying and verifying resistance problems with the acylalanines. Now, manufacturers of five acylalanine products are working together on monitoring studies and have agreed to sell these products for foliar fungicide use only as prepacked mixtures with residual fungicides.

The Benzimidazole Working Group has focused attention on emerging problems associated with Pseudocercospora herpotrichoides, the cereal eyespot pathogen in Europe. Most companies are supporting monitoring and field studies to determine the risks in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Representatives from 12 dicarboximide manufacturers/marketers are working to establish a technical understanding for management of resistant Botrytis. The number of treatments with a dicarboximide has been limited in some areas of Europe.

The SI Working Group has tremendous responsibility to anticipate resistance problems, avoid abusive uses, and implement preventive strategies, because there are so many SI fungicides with laboratory cross-resistance. The group has verified field resistance in cucurbit powdery mildew and is focusing attention on monitoring studies to identify resistance risks associated with use of SI fungicides for cereal disease control.

The GIFAP Bulletin and the ISPP Chemical Control Newsletter report on FRAC activities. GIFAP, the international trade association for manufacturers of agrochemicals, Avenue Hamoir 12, 1180 Brussels, Belgium, sponsors FRAC and publishes minutes and announcements in its bulletin; the April 1982 issue contains a description of FRAC. Information on the ISPP newsletter is available from R. J. W. Byrde, Long Ashton Research Station (University of Bristol), Long Ashton, Bristol BS189AF, U.K.

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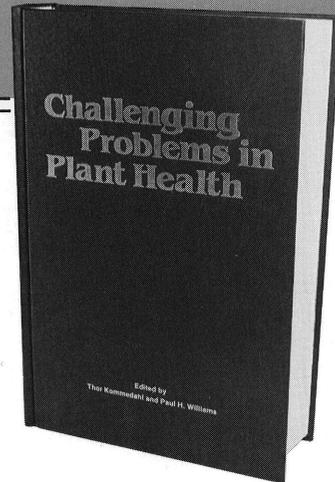
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