D5.13. Demo tours on different locations

Demo tours on different locations	
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Dissemination Level	
X	**PU = Public**
	PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the EC)
	RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the EC)
	CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the EC)

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1 Introduction

The novIGRain project has three main directions of research in grain storage management: a new ultra-low-volume (ULV) product for stored grain protection, an application technology that allows the simultaneous application of multiple insecticides, and insect resistance research.

As part of the project's communication strategy, regional conferences and demonstration tours were planned to involve stakeholders and ensure that the project's results reached practitioners across Europe. Since both activities targeted the same stakeholders and had complementary objectives, the regional conferences under D5.14 and the demonstration tours under D5.13 were organised together as part of the same events. This combined format allowed participants to receive updates on the project's latest research results, discuss their relevance with the consortium, and see the developed application technology demonstrated in practice.

Regional events were initially planned in France, Belgium and Hungary to reach relevant actors in grain storage and pest management. This deliverable reports on the combined regional conferences and demonstration tours organised towards the end of the project to present the most up-to-date results, showcase the application technology and collect final feedback from participants. As D5.13 and D5.14 cover the same combined events, the two deliverables contain the same report but are presented under their respective deliverable titles.

1.1 Purpose of the regional conferences

The regional conferences were organised to present consolidated novIGRain results and to discuss them with stakeholders directly involved in grain storage and pest control. The events provided a platform to explain the developed product, showcase the application technology and present the latest findings from the pest resistance research.

The main purposes of the regional conferences were to:

- Share the latest results of the project in a clear and concise way
- Obtain feedback on the relevance and usability of the novIGRain innovations in different regional contexts
- Strengthen links between industry representatives and stakeholders in France, Belgium and Hungary, supporting future use of the project outcomes

1.2 Organisation

Initially, the regional conferences were planned in three locations: France, Belgium and Hungary. The novIGRain network was used extensively to reach policymakers, industry representatives, traders, pesticide distributors and researchers. After several weeks of sending invitations, the events in Belgium and Hungary proved to be popular, with a sufficient number of participants registering for the conferences.

However, the event in France did not attract enough participants, with only two registrations received. Therefore, the novIGRain team decided to cancel the event in France and invited the two registered participants to join the conference in Belgium instead.

2 Regional Conference in Belgium

The Belgian conference was organised at the premises of project partner ILVO and started with Frédéric Verwilghen introducing the participants to novIGRain and its current stage of progress. This was followed by a presentation from Václav Stejskal (CARC), focusing on the latest insights from the

pest resistance research, and a presentation by Anna Kósa Tass (Bábolna Bio) updating participants on the current state of the new insecticide development and the challenges related to preparing the regulatory dossier.

These presentations were followed by Egor Moshkin, who presented insights from the impact assessment of the novIGRain innovations. Afterwards, a panel session was held, including an interactive segment in which the audience was encouraged to respond to a set of live questions, which were then discussed in detail by the presenters. Participants raised concerns about the conflicting consumer demand for residue-free food and insect-free grain. Panellists noted that both the public and current regulatory frameworks often overlook pest resistance. Regulations tend to prioritise ecotoxicological profiles and rely on lab populations rather than real-world conditions, which highlights the need for the project's policy recommendations.

The panel then discussed the transition from curative to preventive pest management. Drawing on lessons from the Australian market, where mixing S-methoprene with adulticides caused resistance, the group examined the novIGRain dual application technology. This system allows operators to use a preventive treatment by default, adding adulticides only when incoming grain is infested. Audience polling indicated that 48% feel the European market is ready for this change. Changing existing farming practices and reducing reliance on older methods like phosphine (PH3) will require further education, although younger farmers appear more receptive to new methods.

The panel also covered international trade challenges, such as untracked PH3 residues and strict import tolerances for commodities like pasta and rice. Participants suggested integrating the project's social Life Cycle Assessment (sLCA) results into product profiles and engaging with food companies to encourage adoption. Attendees noted that protecting harvested grain is a food security priority, as climate change accelerates post-harvest infestations and disrupts logistics such as waterway transport. The panel session concluded by confirming that these new treatments can also be used on oily seeds like linseed and sorghum.

The event concluded with a demonstration tour by project partner SOJAM, showcasing how the novel dual-application technology works and its capabilities. The conference was held in English.

A total of 24 participants joined the event. As a result, many valuable conversations took place, and the interactive nature of the panel session provided a platform for semi-structured discussions involving both participants and project partners. For the photos as well as the responses of the participants to interactive in the panel session, refer to the following sections.

List of Attendees:

- Alexander Stock Douglas — BLG BVBA
- Anna Tass — Babolna Bio
- Arnaud Poyelle — Sojam
- Astrid Croes — United Experts
- Daniel Bajomi — Babolna Bio
- David Nuyttens — ILVO
- Stein De Meulmeester — Envu
- Donald Dekeyser — ILVO
- Dionisio Bagarollo — NEWPHARM S.R.L.
- Dominique Tournel — Sojam
- Dries Vanlommel — United Experts
- Egor Moshkin — United Experts

- Enrico Bagarollo — NEWPHARM S.R.L.
- Frederic Verwilghen — Maxiline
- Johan Declercq — ILVO
- Marine Cabacos — Arvalis
- Mathijs Hast — Praktijkpunt Landbouw Vlaams-Brabant
- Pierre Samain — ARMOSA
- Reindert Heuts — ILVO
- Tanguy Van de Wege — Fegra
- Vaclav Stejskal — CARC
- Veerle Van Linden — ILVO
- Vincent Ergen — Hyptis Consult SRL
- Nicolas Lenaerts – Armosa

3 Regional Conference in Hungary

The programmes for the Belgian and Hungarian events were similar, with minor adjustments to ensure feasibility and an appropriate timeline for each event. The Hungarian conference was organised at the historic premises of the Bábolna National Stud Farm (Bábolna Nemzeti Ménesbirtok).

To ensure relevance for local practitioners, the event was held in Hungarian, with live interpretation provided to translate the presentations of English-speaking partners. In order to accommodate the longer duration of interpreted presentations, the panel session was removed, and additional time was allocated to the topics of pest resistance and product development, which participants indicated as being of particular interest.

Following the presentations, participants took part in an extended visit to the Bábolna Bio facilities. This included a demonstration of the application technology on test silos, with live grain being loaded during the demonstration.

The event was attended by representatives from pest control companies, agricultural businesses, research and academic institutions, and industry stakeholders from Hungary.

List of Attendees:

- Csordás Csaba — Csordás Csaba e.v., Hungary
- Vranesics Csaba László — Antipest-Környezethigiéniai Kft., Baranya
- Dr. Stefánia Cserépi-Szűcs — Bábolna Bio Ltd., Hungary
- Dr. Ildikó Vashegyi — Bábolna Bio PLC, Hungary
- Juhász Péter — Bunge Zrt., Hungary
- Papp György — Bábolna Bio Kártevőirtó Szolgáltató Kft., Hungary
- Reisinger Mátyás — Rovért Kft.
- Labos Ádám — Rovért Kft.
- Sipos Tamás — Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Sípos József — Sípos József e.v.
- Faragó Szilárd — Faragó Szilárd e.v.
- Csaba Baranyai — Bábolna Bio Plc., Hungary
- Juhász Péter — RONIX Kft., Hungary
- Bránát Attila — RONIX Kft., Hungary
- Böszörményi Balázs — Baromfi-Coop Kft., Hungary
- Molnár Róbert — Entrepreneur, Hungary

- Attila Kanyok — Start 2003 Bt., Hungary
- Flóra Berta — Bunge Zrt., Hungary
- Kalmár Norbert — Kártevőmester Kft., Hungary
- Nagy Gábor István — Nagyné Varga Éva e.v., Hungary
- Bajomi Balázs — Bábolna Bio PLC
- Bajomi Gergely — Bábolna Bio PLC
- Dr. Bajomi Dániel — Bábolna Bio PLC
- Anna Tass — Bábolna Bio PLC
- Vaclav Stejskal — CARC
- Egor Moshkin — United Experts

4 Summary Interactive Responses

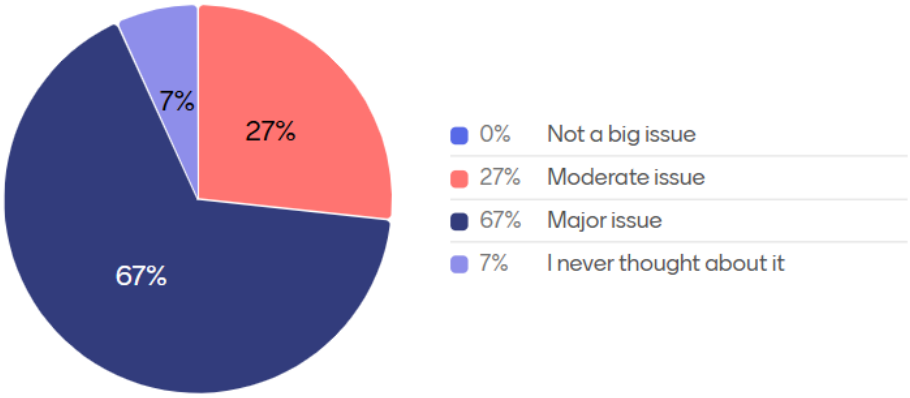
In one word - How would you describe your professional role?



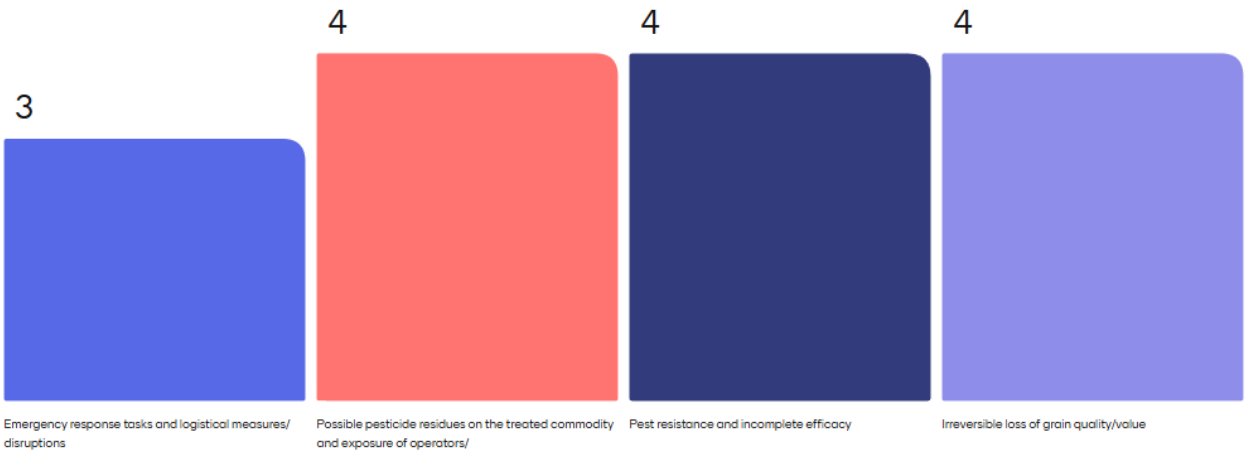
In one word - What concerns you most about how food/grain is stored?



How serious are pest problems in stored grain in Europe?

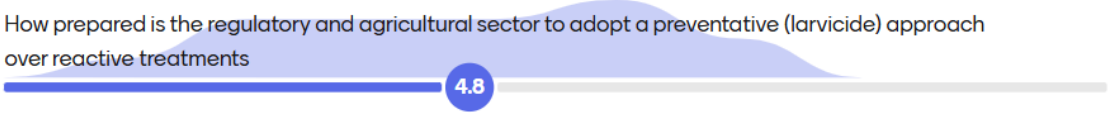


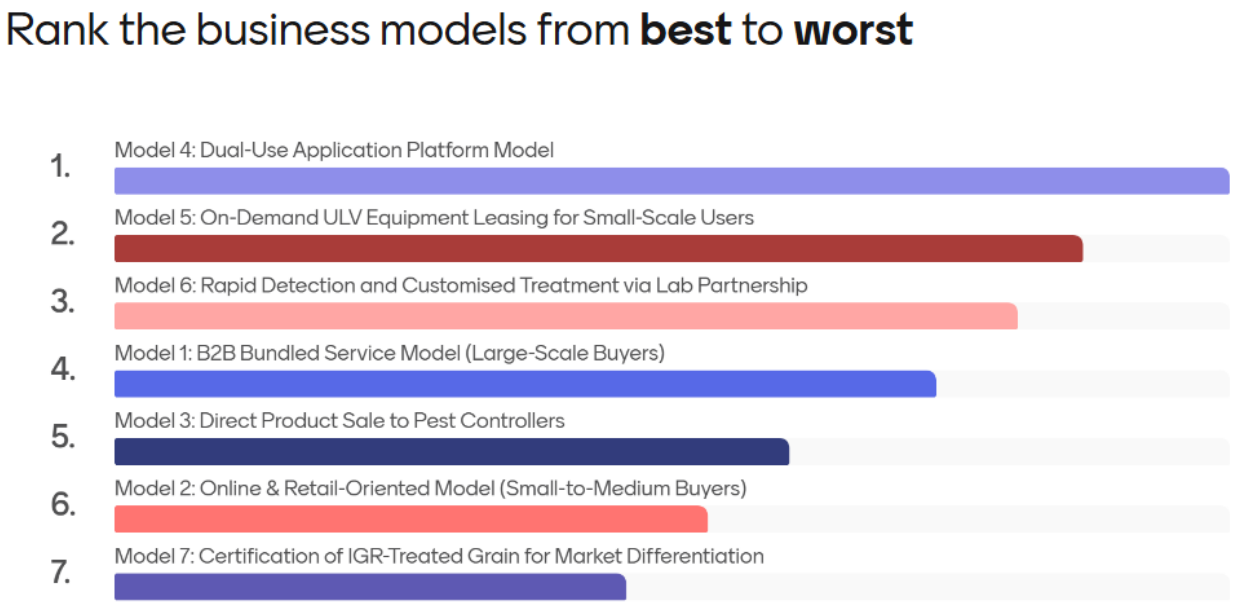
When reacting to an active grain infestation today, what do you think is the most significant issue?



Let us know you opinion

How prepared is the regulatory and agricultural sector to adopt a preventative (larvicide) approach over reactive treatments





Mention in what strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats you see for the new larvicide developed in NovIGRain



5 Confidentiality / GDPR

During the regional conferences no sensitive or company specific data was shared, only general comments.

6 Attachments

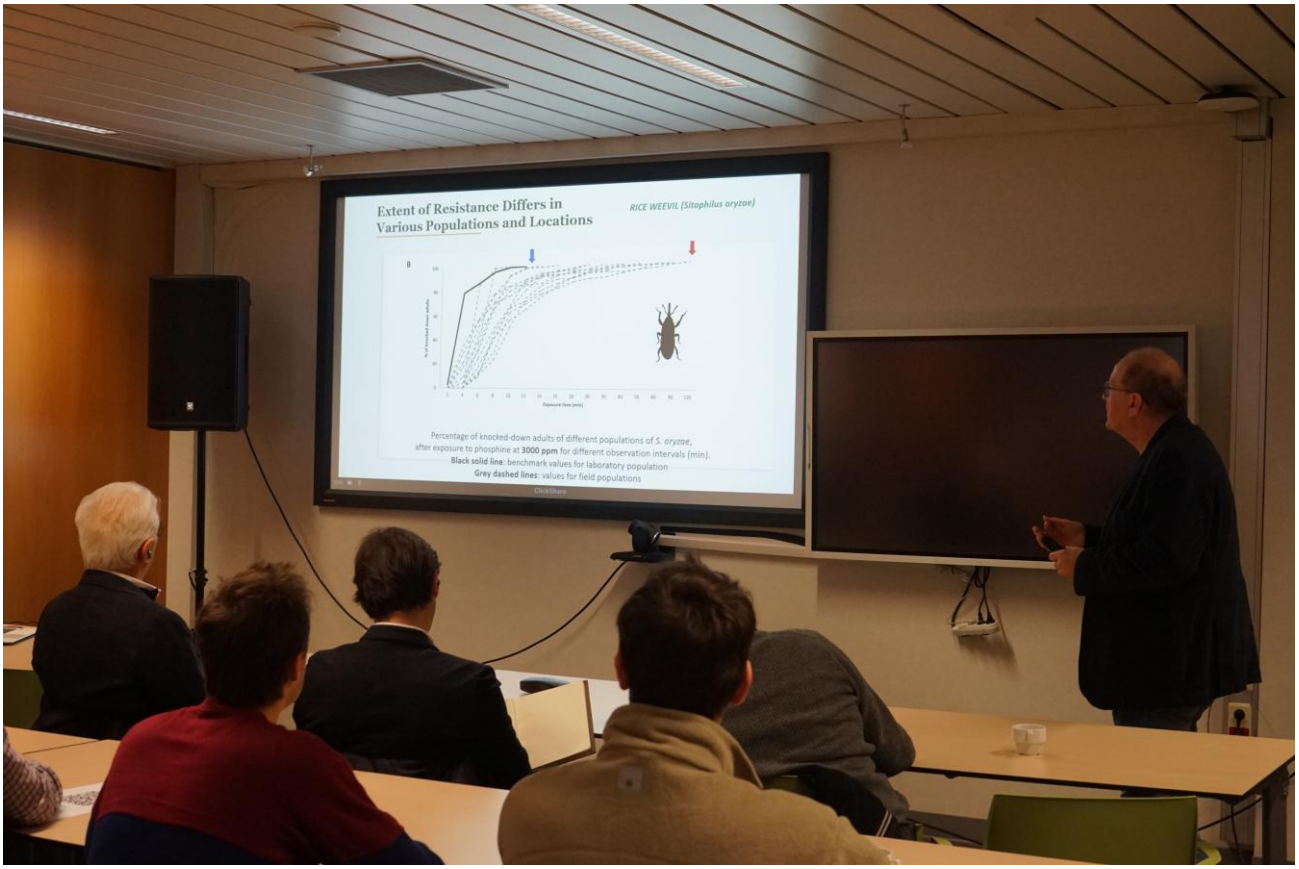
- Photos from regional conferences
- Presentations

Photos

Regional Conference in Belgium

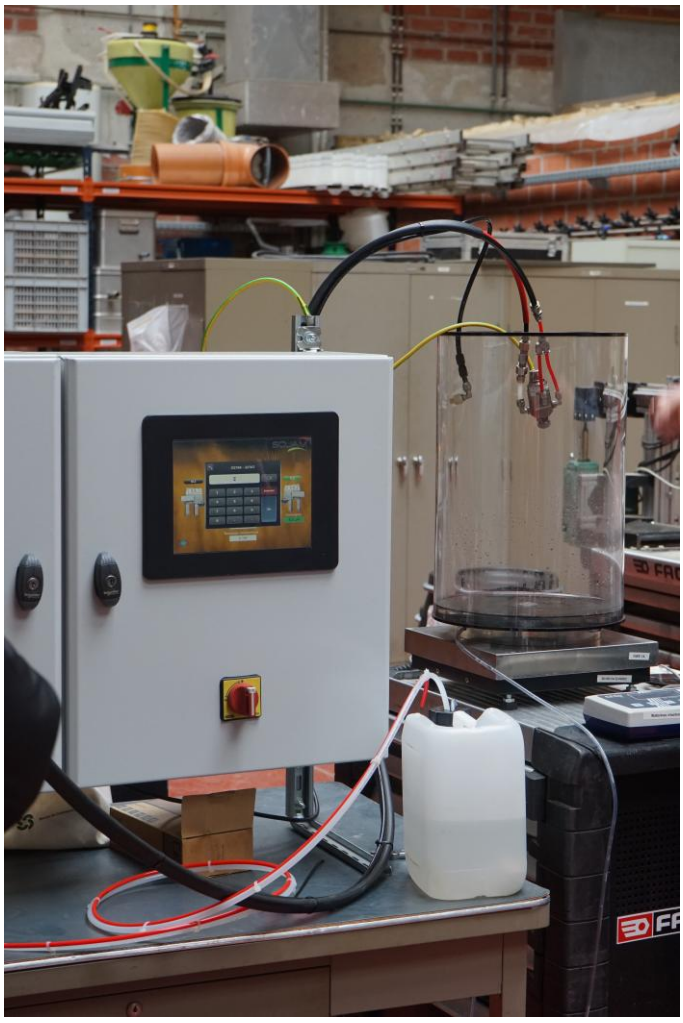





Extent of Resistance Differs in Various Populations and Locations
RICE WEEVIL (Sitophilus oryzae)
B
Percentage of knocked-down adults of different populations of S. oryzae, after exposure to phosphine at 3000 ppm for different observation intervals (min).
Black solid line: benchmark values for laboratory population
Grey dashed lines: values for field populations







Regional Conference in Hungary






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