

Project sticking to schedule despite the impact of COVID

In the March/April 2021 issue of International Pest Control, we gave readers a detailed introduction to the project, and to the tasks and goals of the novIGrain Consortium funded by an EU Horizon 2020 award.

The team's ultimate goal is to develop and introduce a larvicide for harvested grain protection by an ULV application and also a novel, parallel, but separate spraying system of a larvicide together with an adulticide, but these are interchangeable and will be adapted as the project develops.

As the project is a European funded one, strict project management deadlines apply to our daily work. It should be mentioned that, thanks to the uptake of COVID vaccinations, it is sincerely hoped that within the near future personal contacts within the team can again be established.

Since our last information release on this international venture in March a lot has been achieved. Several panel meetings and Co-Creational workshops have been held.

We have had our first "expert panel meeting". Experts were present from Australia, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Italy: all well-known professionals of their fields. Their task is to advise and comment on our goals and the steps to achieve those. All agreed that in Europe the introduction of a larvicide would be counted as a novelty.

Three "Co-Creation Workshops" were held in Hungary, France and Germany. These were all on-line workshops due to COVID. The aim of these is to get the invited experts and professional end users informed about our novIGrain project so they know that a novel application together with a new class of grain protectant is on its way. In grain protection, larvicides have never been used in Europe before. The content of the novel insect growth regulator is also new as the carrier is an oil from renewable sources.

The first stage of the experimental phase is now over. Based on the analytical and physico-chemical test results, the



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best three candidates will be chosen and new laboratory batches will be created with validated active substance content. A preliminary, comparative efficacy study will be performed to test our best three candidates to choose the final formulation which shows the best efficacy against grain insects, among them resistant strains as well. Once these results are obtained the fine-tuning procedures will start.

Every report going to REA (European Research Agency) has been submitted on time and confirmed as satisfactory. Time management is an important part of the project. ■

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