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Technologies for pesticide applications in OSR/Canola

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PLENARY TALKS

Applying pesticides is a topic dealt with critically on numerous levels. To mitigate unwanted effects to the environment whilst keeping or ideally improving efficacy and efficiency of the application, the use of application technologies can have a significant impact. Therefore application technology evolves and creates new devices and accessories to enhance environmental as well as human safety by at the same time keeping the efficacy on a high level.

The Ag-Tech industry, sometimes together with the Ag-Chem industry, developed accessories. Such as the Dropleg technology, an alternative technique to carry out under-leaf applications in row and field crops. For OSR/Canola It is suited to spray fungicides/insecticides at flowering stage and reduce the amount of spray onto/into the open blooms and by that create a way that prevents e.g. bees from coming into contact with residues of the spray. Yet the utilization benefits not only beneficials, for OSR/Canola in particular pollinators, but also farmers and adjacent areas or bystanders because the crop protection products are applied within the crop, reducing the impact of wind and thus lowering drift losses significantly. Droplegs can be equipped with different nozzle types and nozzles can be adjusted at different spray angles in order to create a spray best suited for the spray target and its location. For OSR/Canola its predominantly use is the flowering treatment for which two nozzles per Dropleg are pointed sideways and downwards.

Within this presentation the focus is on the technical features generally recommended to be used by farmers to lower risks for themselves and others and for the environment. In order to reach a sufficient adoption rate, a technology needs to be safe and convenient to use but also to be able to deliver sufficient efficacy against which the products applied through such devices are intended to be. Both, safety aspects and biological effect, are underpinned with results from field trials.

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