

News release

Issued 29/5/09



New alliance provides winning combination for OSR

A new solution to getting Oilseed Rape off to a slug and pigeon-beating start is being launched by three collaborating companies at Cereals 2009.

Sipcam, maker of microgranular fertilizer Umoplast ZN, has joined forces with agronomists from the Procain Group and specialist application farm machinery manufacturer Techneat to improve the establishment of OSR, especially when grown under challenging conditions.

Umoplast Super ZN is based on an ammonium N:P ratio of 1:5, nitrogen organic matrix and zinc. Fine, uniform granules can be used effectively at low rates and are formulated for application with the seed. This provides the seed with an optimum early supply of nutrients, helping the development of a large root mass and thus ensuring the plants get off to a good start.

Umoplast is proving popular for use with other crops, including maize, but in the UK it had not been possible to apply it accurately with OSR seed. Now, Techneat has resolved that problem with its Microcast unit, which utilises the electronic rate control system originally developed for the company's Terracast rape seeders. The Microcast enables seed and microgranular fertilizer to be placed simultaneously at different application rates.

The unit can be bolted onto stubble cultivators and used in conjunction with a Terracast V2 or other drills to create a simple, robust low-cost system. Flexible and easy to use, the Terracast V2/Microcast combination is available with 5-11 outlets to match all sub-soiler leg configurations. The electronic controller ensures an exact application rate at varying forward speeds and can even apply slug pellets at the required rate in the same operation.

Ian Jackson of Procam Agronomy said:

“Being able to place the microgranules with the seed ensures quicker uptake and faster seedling and root development. Umostart is 100% available and allows for reduced overall rates of N & P as it is not ‘locked up’ by the soil; the usual problem with conventional fertilizer.

“ The result is that the tap root develops rapidly in the autumn, allowing the plant to grow with improved vigour in the spring. This has been very helpful where pigeons have been grazing the crop during the winter.”

James Ward of Sipcam said:

“Umostart is well proven in other EU countries and in some crops in the UK. We are delighted with Techneat’s solution which is based on tried and tested technology and like Umostart is very easy to use. We are confident it is a winning combination for OSR growers.”

The Microcast is on display on the Techneat stand (No 215) at Cereals 2009.

Ends.

Press contact - for further details please contact:

John Foster 01473 652195 mediamatters@mac.com

Issued by Media Matters Home Farm Sproughton Ipswich IP8 3EL

On behalf Sipcam 3, The Barn, 27 Kneesworth Street Royston, Herts SG8 5AB