

## Fungicide options boost rhizoctonia control

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New fungicides and methods of delivery are being developed to help prevent yield losses to rhizoctonia, SARDI scientist Paul Bogacki told advisers at the recent GRDC Update in Adelaide.

Several fungicides are now registered for suppression of rhizoctonia and the seed treatments Vibrance and EverGol Prime have been shown to increase wheat and barley yields by an average of 5% in SA and WA trials.

However, these products will not eliminate the disease and need to be used as part of a holistic integrated management program to combat the disease, he said.

Management measures that can help reduce the impact of rhizoctonia include growing grass-free non-cereal crops, particularly canola and pulses, controlling summer and autumn weeds to prevent

build-up of the fungus ahead of seeding, early sowing, disturbance below the seed at sowing, increasing seeding rate to compensate for tiller loss due to the disease and ensuring good crop nutrition to maximise seedling vigour.

In SA trials the best fungicide results on rhizoctonia have been achieved by banding chemical below the seed and at the soil surface along the seed row, with the surface application protecting the crown roots and the band below the seed at the base of the furrow to protect the seminal roots, Dr Bogacki said.

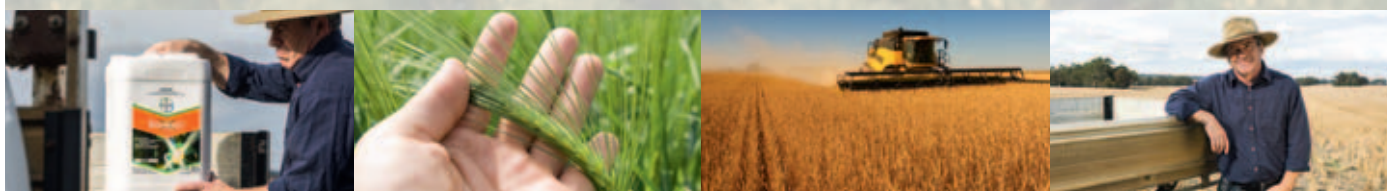
However, registration of this application method, which increased yields by about 500 kg/ha in trials using knife points and rippled coulters, is only now being considered by the APVMA.

If the use of banding is approved the earliest it could be registered would be 2015.



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