



Tip of the Month

January 2019

CAN ONE ADJUVANT DO IT ALL?

Multiple-purpose adjuvants have become very popular in South Africa for various reasons. Firstly, fewer adjuvant products are used on the farm. Secondly, the agent stocks less adjuvant products. Thirdly, there is a cost saving as all the components are formulated into a single product that negates the need for multiple adjuvant products.

Villa is not against the use of multiple-purpose adjuvants, but there are two very critical issues to consider.

Adjuvant rate

Each adjuvant group, namely surfactants, oils, buffers, salt adjuvants, stickers and deposition agents, have a critical rate where they perform optimally.

Sometimes this rate is quite high and it is important that the correct rate is applied to ensure optimal efficacy. If two adjuvant functions are required for a specific crop protection product (CPP), it is very simple to supply this when using two adjuvants. However, when using a multiple-purpose adjuvant product, it is important to ensure that the adjuvant contains enough of each component to satisfy both requirements of the CPP.

Therefore, the important question is whether one can build in enough of each component into the adjuvant formulation to satisfy the requirements of various CPP.

Unwanted or antagonistic properties

Different CPP have different adjuvant requirements. Certain CPP may require increased spreading of the spray

droplets, improved absorption properties and buffering of the spray solution. However, others may also require improved spreading and absorption properties, but they may be antagonized by a low pH.

When using a multiple-purpose adjuvant, please ensure that none of the components in the formulation contain any antagonistic properties. An adjuvant property that is synergistic to one CPP, may be antagonistic to another!

Villa's stance

Villa supports the use of more than one adjuvant product, if the CPP has more than one adjuvant requirement that cannot be fully supplied by a single product. In this way, one ensures that enough adjuvant properties are supplied to satisfy each requirement of the CPP. It also ensures that no unwanted or antagonistic adjuvant properties are supplied. In this way, the performance of the CPP is optimized.

Villa is not against the use of multiple-purpose adjuvant products. However, please ensure that enough adjuvant is supplied to satisfy each requirement of the CPP.

Furthermore, please make sure that no antagonistic component is supplied via the multiple-purpose adjuvant product.

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