POSTER SUMMARY

NEMATICIDE SCREENING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

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Abstract

The withdrawal of Temik from the world market in 2011 left many South African sugarcane growers without their preferred chemical nematicide. The South African Sugarcane Research Institute has been proactively involved in plans to replace Temik. The aim of this project was to screen a wide range of nematicides in order to identify new products suitable for the sugar industry. The first screening stage was conducted using pot trials. Fifteen candidate products were tested, including chemical and biological products, liquids and granules, and registered and unregistered products. Results from the pot trials informed future decisions on product testing in the field. In 2012, one plant crop trial and two ratoon field trials were treated using four chemical products identified in the pot trials. Based on nematode control and yield results from these field trials, two products were identified as potential nematicides to replace Temik. Registration trials were completed in 2014 for one product and a field trial contributing to registration of the second product was planted in November 2014. Four biological products shown to be effective in the initial pot trials were advanced to field trial assessment. The trial was planted in September 2014 and is being sampled periodically for nematodes. The large scale nematicide screening that began in 2012 has yielded many positive results thus far. To ensure that a wide variety of products are always available in the sugar industry, new nematicides will continue to be screened as and when they become available.

Keywords: nematicide screening, nematodes, Temik, biological products