

RIVER BIOSCIENCE IS GOING VIRAL

River Bioscience continues to invest in the agriculture sector through research and innovation. By Rob Elfick



Crop protection product development combats key pests that cause crop losses and hamper market access. Therefore, River Bioscience maintains a keen focus on research and innovation in this critical area.

Specialising in biological control methods, River Bioscience prides itself in the development and supply of various baculovirus products that target key pests like false codling moth (FCM), bollworm, codling moth, macadamia nut borer (MNB), and litchi moth (LM).

River Bioscience was the first company to produce, register and launch a granulovirus product for commercial pest control of false codling moth (FCM). The company was also first to register and commercialise a bollworm nucleopolyhedrovirus in SA. Focused investment in innovation and thorough scientific research ensures that River Bioscience plays its part in the long-term sustainability of the agriculture sector.

Why using a virus-based biopesticide is beneficial

- Specificity – virus sprays are pest-specific and do not target any other pest other than that specified on the product label.
- MRL management – All the River Bioscience viruses can be sprayed onto crops up until harvest time, as there are no MRL residues.
- Environmentally friendly – virus sprays are a much safer option in pest management and are better for the environment. It also



Rob Elfick

has no impact on beneficial insects, such as bees, and other life forms.

- IPM friendly – virus sprays are IPM friendly and can be incorporated into your integrated spray programme.
- Locally produced – River Bioscience proudly produces its viruses locally at its facility.

River Bioscience has an array of virus products for various pests and crops, and has recently added new products to the basket of goods.

Virus products available at River Bioscience:

MultiMax (L11365) A novel patented biopesticide, MultiMax is effective against tortricid larvae, including FCM, MNB and LM for use in tree nut crops and litchis. Using MultiMax contributes towards target pest population management, which reduces pest pressure and limits infestation as fruit and nuts become more susceptible to larvae of tortricid moths.

CodlMax (L11359) This is a novel patented biopesticide that is effective against codling moth larvae. It provides growers with an effective, virus-based biopesticide for population control, which reduces pest pressure and limits infestation as fruit becomes susceptible to codling moth larvae. The novel active ingredient in CodlMax provides growers with a fantastic resistance management tool to incorporate into their pest management programmes.

CryptoMax (L11248) River Bioscience has developed CryptoMax, a new insect pathogenic virus formulation, to target and kill FCM larvae on citrus before they infest fruit. Once the product is applied, newly hatched FCM larvae are exposed to CryptoMax on the surface of fruit. Larvae ingest the virus particles while attempting to penetrate the fruit and are subsequently killed.

HeliMax (L11133) A suspension concentrated biological insecticide (host-specific baculovirus), HeliMax enables integrated control of bollworm larvae on agricultural crops.

Cryptogran (L7598) This is a virus-based biopesticide that targets and kills FCM larvae. The virus particles are ingested by newly hatched FCM larvae on the surface of the fruit before fruit penetration occurs. Larvae ingest the virus while feeding on the surface of the fruit, and they die shortly thereafter.

Maintaining a low population of these pests throughout the season helps reduce the risk of infestation, heading up to key susceptible periods.



Citrus Academy short courses

As we conclude a busy season, the Citrus Academy is ready to announce the next short course schedule. By Sive Silo

The short courses are aimed at providing short, sharp insight into the essential components of the citrus production system.



Date	Workshop name	Location
OCTOBER 2023		
11 – 13	Citrus Production	Citrusdal
18 – 20	Citrus Quality Control	Hoedspruit
25 – 27	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Stellenbosch
NOVEMBER 2023		
8 – 10	Citrus Packing	Citrusdal
15 – 17	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Addo
22 – 24	Citrus Production	Hoedspruit
22 – 24	Citrus Quality Control	Fort Beaufort
JANUARY 2024		
17 – 19	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Nelspruit
24 – 26	Citrus Production	Stellenbosch
FEBRUARY 2024		
7 – 9	Citrus Quality Control	Kakamas
21 – 23	Citrus Production	Patensie
24 Feb – 1 Mar	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Letsitele
MARCH 2024		
13 – 15	Citrus Packing	Groblersdal
19 – 20	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Durban
26 – 27	Citrus Quality Control	Letsitele
APRIL 2024		
10 – 12	Citrus Packing	Pietermaritzburg
17 – 19	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Cape Town

Please visit www.citrusacademy.org.za for more information on the courses, and to register.



Sam Louw chatting to learners at the SRVM Career Fair

CAREER AND INDUSTRY AWARENESS

Pursuing for the cream of the crop

The Citrus Academy participates in various career fairs around the country to promote the Bursary Fund and its programmes. By Candice Burgin



Career fairs and exhibitions go a long way in attracting talented people from outside the fruit industry, informing them about opportunities for fostering long-term careers within the industry, and in the greater agriculture sector.

Earlier this year, the Citrus Academy participated in the Sundays River Valley Municipality (SRVM) Annual Career Expo in Kirkwood. The Expo hosted Grade 10 and 11 students and outlined various career opportunities in agriculture.

Recently, the team also took part in the UKZN College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Career Expo at the Pietermaritzburg campus. They enjoyed meeting some of the future graduates who are excited about their studies and eager to start their careers in agriculture.