



Applying a sprout inhibitor to the growing crop remains an option. The tubers in the right-hand box were treated with maleic hydrazide (Fazor).

'On top of that, they have to fulfil all the requirements for registration. Store managers of the future may have to combine CIPC with other suppressants. We need more options in the tool box so that we are not dependent on just one chemical.'

Jeff Beever insists that CIPC is still the most effective and cost-efficient suppressant and believes that every effort should be made to maintain its registration. 'A lot of good work has been done by the CIPC Stewardship Group in promoting and developing

best practice to reduce the amount of chemical applied, as well as fine-tuning application. Across the industry there is a lot of experience with this product and best practice usage is promoted widely through supply chains to ensure that growers adhere to regulatory guidelines.'

The industry is looking at alternatives, says Mr Beever, but he points out that there are challenges for processors because of warmer storage temperatures and very tight specifications on fry colour and taint.

MAJOR AIRFLOW STUDY LAUNCHED

A NEW two-year research project will harness technology used by the aeronautics industry to develop testing tools which could help growers to optimise the efficiency of stores. The £800,000 project is 70% funded by the Technology Strategy Board (Innovate UK) with Crop Systems Ltd as the lead industry partner.

Other participating companies are Branston, Stored Crop Conservation, Farm Energy Centre, Technology Research Centre Ltd and Aceto Agrochemicals Ltd. The scientific validation will be provided by Cranfield University and SBCSR.

Crop Systems' managing director Ray Andrews believes that Cranfield's involvement will be crucial to the outcome of the project because uneven airflow is the biggest reason for poor store performance. The development of a successful measurement tool would enable store managers to reduce energy use and wastage, while helping to ensure the

continued availability of CIPC. 'We know that more than half the country's potato stores are inefficient, but many owners are reluctant to make improvements unless they can be sure that their investment is going to earn rewards,' he explains.

'The efficiency of any store is largely governed by the ability to get an even airflow throughout a building but new research suggests that some 60% fail in this regard, leading to raised costs and increased losses due to problems such as shrinkage. Poor air distribution risks inefficient CIPC usage, which can lead to excess residues in some parts of the store, while in other parts the crop is at risk from insufficient coverage.'

'The project aims to develop a tool using detailed maps of airflow, heat transfer and CIPC deposition that will enable operators to take appropriate remedial action when uneven airflow is detected and so achieve optimum performance.'

...to Produce

Fungicide Applicators



Amistar

TriNiNo

noBacteren

Protection from Rhizoctonia, Silver Scurf, Black Scurf & Stem Canker.

Fertiliser Placement



PLACEMENT PRO-GR



PLACEMENT PRO LQ

- > CAT 2 mounted
- > Precise placement
- > Granular or liquid

Slug Pellet Application



OUTCAST V2

- > Spread slug pellets whilst spraying
- > Even spreading across 36m

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