

AgraQuest introduces solutions for agriculture with low chemical profile, without reducing pest control and productivity

FreshPlaza interviewed [AgraQuest](#), specializing in innovative crop protection solutions with low environmental impact, at Fruit Logistica 2010 (Berlin, 3-5 February).



Environmental sustainability

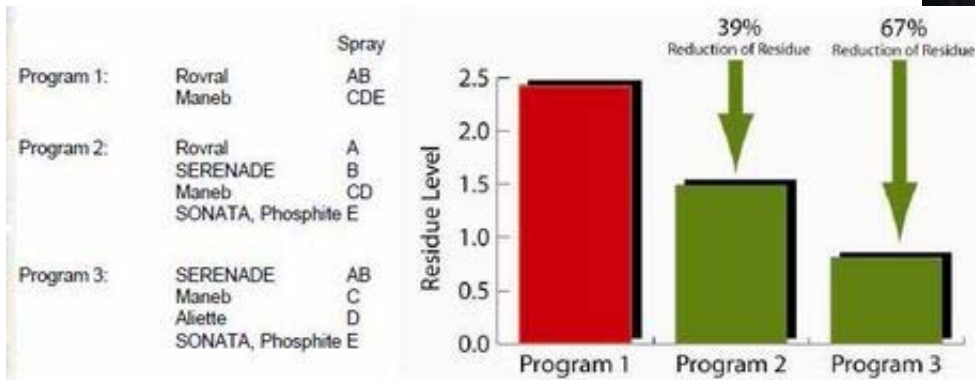
Agricultural production is, as never in the past, impacted both by legislative decisions and public opinion, which are pushing for more sustainable agricultural techniques and protect the environment. With an ever-increasing population, these demands must be balanced by technologies which enable adequate food production.

From this point of view, AgraQuest has defined a unique place in the crop protection market based on "low chemical" inputs. AgraQuest estimates this market will earn 10 billion dollars in the next 10 years.

Low Chem program

The reduction of chemical residues in agriculture can happen by integrating innovative bio pesticides with traditional agrochemical products. - without reducing grower productivity or profit, but improving it!

Marcus Meadows-Smith, CEO of AgraQuest detailed the opportunity during a presentation at Fruit Logistica: "Even only substituting one of the synthetic pesticide treatments in a growing season with a bio pesticide will result in reduced chemical residue levels".



Substituting even one chemical treatment with a bio pesticide allows to significantly lowering residues level. Test made on Iceberg lettuce.

A good example of this synergy between traditional synthetic agrochemicals and bio pesticides is testified by the fungicide Serenade ([see also previous article](#)). The combination of Serenade with standard chemical products allows growers to reduce their chemical residues and still achieve the needed disease control levels.



AgraQuest

AgraQuest Inc. is headquartered in California. Research and Development is also based at the HQ and draws on the skills of 40 different scientific professionals in various sciences including Entomology, Phytopathology, Microbiology, Chemistry and Genomics. AgraQuest operates a high quality production facility, bought in 2000 from Abbot Pharmaceutical, in Mexico.

A vertically integrated organization allows AgraQuest to manage the processes of biopesticide development from discovery to distribution of new patented products, commercialized by AgraQuest or its partners around the world.

Since its founding in 1995, Agraquest has invested 130 million dollars for research, development and marketing. The company employs 220 people and it is present in 25 countries.

Recently AgraQuest has started strategic partnerships with BASF, Bayer and Alpharma.

Contacts:

Sarah Reiter
 Director of Global Marketing
AgraQuest Inc.
 1530 Drew Avenue
 Davis, CA 95618
 Office: 530-750-0150
 Email: sreiter@agraquest.com
 Web: www.agraquest.com

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 Author: Rossella Gigli
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