

Technological solutions and new proposals for increasing productivity in rapeseed cultivation

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Date: 05.07.2017 *Issue:* 7/2017



Rapeseed has long established its place as one of the main field crops in the crop rotation in Bulgaria. The production of rapeseed, as with other field crops, is associated with a number of challenges and specific features, some of which are surmountable and others unpredictable, but good preparation and the correct approach in production largely resolve the main problems. Integrated solutions in rapeseed cultivation are of exceptional importance for achieving high yields. The formula for success lies in the timely application of the respective technology. Over the years, growers have become convinced of the benefits of applying a comprehensive and sustainable approach to rapeseed production. Many companies offer on the Bulgarian market rapeseed hybrids or plant protection products in this crop in order to facilitate growers and optimize their

costs. Only Syngenta provides Bulgarian growers with a complete technology combining high-yielding rapeseed hybrids and an effective plant protection program including: herbicides such as the soil-applied TERIDOX and the post-emergence FUSILADE FORTE; the fungicide and growth regulator TOPREX; the insecticide KARATE ZEON and foliar fertilizers VUXAL Sulphur. Thanks to many years of experience and systematic trials in different regions of the country, Syngenta provides growers in Bulgaria with a synchronized production technology adapted to the specific characteristics of the different agro-meteorological conditions in the country. Syngenta's technology aims to provide integrated solutions for sustainable and profitable agriculture. One of the main factors for increasing income is the high yield per decare, to which contribute hybrids with yield potential exceeding the national standards, and this year Syngenta is launching on the market two new hybrids with such yield parameters: BLUESTAR and SY HARNESS. Over the past two years, SY VESUVIO from the company's new breeding line has shown excellent results and growers have been able to achieve good profit by relying on this hybrid in their production. SY VESUVIO has a high and stable yield potential over the years and good tolerance to high temperatures and drought. The low plant habit makes it easy to apply plant protection practices and to harvest. Its good branching potential forms a rosette that allows sunlight to reach all flowers, as a result of which the hybrid has uniform flowering and simultaneous ripening. SY VESUVIO is a top achievement of Syngenta's breeders. Having once found the right direction in breeding, Syngenta's experts continue to create new-generation hybrids, namely BLUESTAR and SY HARNESS. What distinguishes the new Syngenta hybrids? In addition to its very high yield potential, BLUESTAR also has tolerance to broomrape in rapeseed, which makes it particularly suitable for the regions of Southern Bulgaria. Its good adaptability to different soil types allows it to be sown throughout the country. A hybrid that ensures a head start already at the very moment of its selection by growers. SY HARNESS, a hybrid that requires little but gives a lot, has good yield potential and is also suitable for cultivation on light soils. SY HARNESS is a low, compact hybrid with good winter hardiness. The hybrid is easy to manage and harvest.

The complete technology for cultivation of the crop covers crop rotation, soil tillage, plant protection, base fertilization, foliar feeding and everything else that must be taken into account up to harvest. The proper implementation of the complete technology ensures a good start for rapeseed and excellent stand density. For carrying out uncompromising control against the occurrence of resistant weeds, Syngenta provides its solution on the Bulgarian market – the soil herbicide TERIDOX.

The established practice in Bulgaria in crop rotation is to use herbicides with a similar mode of action. The so-called ALS inhibitors are among the most commonly used herbicides in sunflower, maize, cereal crops and, more recently, in rapeseed. This practice promotes the emergence of resistant species. That is precisely why the Syngenta program recommends the use of the herbicide TERIDOX, which has a different mode of action and

reduces the risk of development of weed resistance and of compromising weed control in the other crops. TERIDOX has excellent efficacy against the main grass and broadleaf weeds and guarantees crop emergence without competition from weeds, allowing optimal development until the onset of winter. The soil herbicide TERIDOX is applied after sowing and before crop emergence and destroys weeds before they emerge, ensuring good crop development until the onset of winter dormancy.

The highly effective systemic post-emergence herbicide FUSILADE FORTE is the leading herbicide against grass weeds after crop emergence. It moves within the root system and reliably destroys the weed plant.

Protecting rapeseed from winterkill during the winter period is a key factor for achieving good yields. The growth regulator and fungicide TOPREX, established over the years, ensures reliable overwintering of rapeseed stands. Applied in autumn, TOPREX limits stem growth, thereby stimulating root formation and improving the cold tolerance of the plants. In spring, TOPREX stimulates the formation of more branches on the main stem and the primary branches, thus increasing yield. TOPREX is a product that combines two active substances – a growth regulator and a fungicide, thanks to which it successfully protects rapeseed from the main diseases – phoma stem canker, alternaria, powdery mildew, etc. TOPREX ensures a crop healthy from diseases with preserved yield potential.

With Syngenta's complete technology and more cost-effective package offers, the company provides Bulgarian farmers with a formula for higher yields with better quality.