

its high selectivity to many beneficial insects and predatory mites as well as a short PHI of 7 days for forage and hay uses and for sorghum, excellent control of aphids in continued, including for the sugarcane aphid which has been found in high populations in recent years.

■ For more information on Sivanto insecticide, visit the Sivanto Product Page on the Bayer CropScience website, follow Bayer on Twitter @Bayer4CropsUS or contact your local sales representative for product information. To learn more about Bayer CropScience, visit www.bayercropscience.us.



In citrus, Sivanto provides an effective alternative to citricola scale management and can be used to help manage citrus thrips, additionally studies show that there are extremely fast feeding cessation effects on Asian citrus psyllid (ACP).

Wageningen and Koppert play BINGO

Can you use natural genetic variation of indigenous natural enemies to improve the efficiency of biological control is the query that project BINGO, a Wageningen University initiative, aims to answer. Standing for 'Breeding Invertebrates for Next Generation biocontrol', the project aims to improve the production and performance of indigenous natural enemies through selective breeding. This entails selecting and cross-breeding natural enemies with specific, desired characteristics to create species that are more efficient. It will ultimately reduce the dependence on chemical crop protection products and contribute towards food safety.

Selective breeding which has been used in both crop production and stock farming for centuries, is still in its infancy when it comes to the natural enemies of agricultural pests. The research will contribute towards the biological control of new pests by ensuring that the agricultural sector is less dependent on exotic enemies which might threaten the local biodiversity. Besides selective breeding and the use of genetic information in natural enemy production, BINGO is expected to develop state-of-the-art genomic techniques to refine the production of natural enemies and speed up this process.

Koppert is the biggest producer of natural enemies and a pioneer when it comes to biological crop protection. This makes its participation in BINGO a logical step. An international doctoral student will be starting a four-year research project on Spidex, the spider mite, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*; which happens to be the first natural enemy the company produced.

The programme will train 13 young researchers from various uni-

versities, non-profit organisations and businesses from nine European countries, including: the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, Greece and Portugal. BINGO has a budget of €3.3 million. It has been financed by the EU Horizon 2020 programme for research into innovation and the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN).

Phytoseiulus persimilis was the first natural enemy Koppert produced

