

REPORTS

Chirality and agrochemicals

Alan Williams
130 pages. £795.

This is a comprehensive review of the way in which chirality is impacting on strategic developments in the agrochemical industry. It contains chapters on the nature of chirality, the synthetic pyrethroids, other chiral insecticides, chiral herbicides, chiral fungicides and chiral plant growth regulators. The commercial importance is compared with their non-chiral counterparts. In other chapters, the report investigates the process development and manufacturing aspects of chirality and the strategic implications of chiral techniques as a method of product differentiation and of intellectual property management. It is essential reading for all those interested in chirality including strategic planners, marketing managers, raw materials and intermediates suppliers and academic researchers.

Myth and Reality

A new report which aims to counter the myths spread by the opponents of organic food and farming. Published by the Soil Association. In particular the report examines and refutes the claims that:

- Organic foods are no healthier than non-organic foods
- Organic farming increases the risk of food poisoning
- Organic farming uses pesticides that damage the environment
- Consumers are paying too much for organic food
- Organic food cannot feed a hungry world
- Organic farming is unkind to animals

The report costs £10 from the Soil Association, Bristol House, 40–56 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6BY. Tel. 0117 929 0661; Fax 0117 925 2504.

LEAFLET

The Crop Protection Association (CPA), working with UKASTA and the Fertiliser Manufacturers Association, has produced a new leaflet on agricultural packaging waste. It gives advice on pesticide containers,

fertiliser bags, feed and seed bags, animal health product packaging, pallets and cardboard waste. It highlights the hierarchy of on-farm waste management:

- REDUCE the amount of waste packaging coming on to the farm
- REUSE the packaging if appropriate
- RECYCLE it, again if appropriate
- DISPOSE of all packaging in a safe and legal way

The leaflet also gives a useful list of “dos and don’ts” for the different types of packaging.

Copies from Sue Thompson, Crop Protection Association, Peterborough, UK (Tel. 01733 349225)

BOOK

Malaria and the DDT story

Richard Tren and Roger Bate
Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB.
ISBN 0 255 36499 7. 106 pp. £10

This small paperback gives a very readable account of the contribution that DDT has made to control of malaria – a disease which still kills millions of people every year and which leaves hundreds of millions more suffering chronic illness. The authors argue that real economic problems would be caused in countries like Mozambique by a worldwide ban on DDT, the most effective agent available to combat malaria. They claim that such a ban would increase the relative gulf between rich and poor nations, and argue that DDT should remain available for focused and controlled use to help nations where malaria remains.

CD-ROM

IdentiPest CD

British Crop Protection Council (BCPC). Available from BCPC Publications Sales, Bear Farm, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 5QE, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 118 934 2727 Fax: +44 (0) 118 934 1998. Email: publications@bcpc.org. Secure orders can also be placed on-line from the BCPC website on <http://www.bcpc.org/bookshop/ref/>. £35 + VAT (student price £30 inc. VAT)

This is a fully searchable, practical and highly pictorial guide to UK arable and

field crop pests, containing over a 1000 pictures and concise information on a wide range of pests, diseases and weeds found on 34 UK arable and field crops. The custom-built software offers users a choice of four easy ways to access information and identify pests, weeds and diseases, either by a picture search, a weed key, a keyword search or by selecting from a pest list. Each Pest Fact Sheet provides data and pictures on the selected species and has links to other Pest Facts Sheets on similar problems, glossary definitions and web pages. Pictures, which can be enlarged, show pests and weeds at various stages of their life cycle as well as the resulting plant damage.

IdentiPest is an essential tool for farmers, growers, crop consultants, advisers, students and lecturers who need to identify pests and the problems they cause.

ONLINE SYSTEM

The Central Science Laboratory (CSL), York, UK, have launched RAPPOR, an online knowledge system to allow users to identify and prioritise pesticide analysis requirements rapidly. It is a powerful problem-solving management tool which provides a framework for targeted residue analysis whilst incorporating the traditional multi-residue approach.

RAPPOR will:

- Provide an intelligent assessment and rationale of the priority in which pesticides should be sought, to substantiate your due diligence programme.
- Provide an assessment at any stage of crop production with or without the full treatment history.
- Identify pesticides for which the legal status of uses or residues will change within the foreseeable future.
- Provide a cost effective approach to residues testing whilst securing supply contracts and maximising consumer safety.
- Identify pesticides that pose a risk to your business through non-approved use and detection as residues.

For further details contact Steven Brewer at CSL. RAPPOR is updated daily and incorporates the 2002 proposed pesticide monitoring programme.