

## Isagro agrees FMC and Sumi Agro Europe licensing deals

BY ROBERT BIRKETT

Italian agrochemical company Isagro (Milan) has agreed licensing deals with FMC and Sumitomo Corporation's subsidiary, Sumi Agro Europe (SAE). They are part of Isagro's strategy of a larger exploitation of its intellectual property (IP) through agreements with third parties, the company says. The deals are worth some €7 million (\$7.7 million), Isagro says. The agreements bring the value of such deals to €19 million (\$20.8 million) for Isagro over the 2013-15 period.

The deal with SAE is for a long term, exclusive licence for the fungicide, Yamato (thiophanate-methyl + tetraconazole). The formulation technology developed by Isagro for Yamato will be utilised by SAE to expand manufacturing capacity at its formulation facility in Romania, supporting further growth of the product in Europe. Yamato has been registered by SAE in a number of countries in Europe for control of a wide spectrum of diseases in cereals, oilseed rape and sugar beets.

Isagro has in its pipeline one new broad spectrum fungicide belonging to the succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI) class, which is being co-developed with FMC, and a fumigant that has already been registered in the US at national level as a biofumigant. The deals emphasise that the value of Isagro's IP is only partially reflected in its book values of existing and new products, while the company's market cap is equal to only around 50% of its equity book value, the company says. Isagro notes that it will miss annual growth targets of its business plan due to tough conditions in the key markets of Brazil, India and the US, but the above deals would aid earnings targets being hit.

## US EPA urges court to vacate Enlist Duo approval

BY J R PEGG

The US EPA is calling on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to grant the Agency's request to vacate and remand its registration of Dow AgroSciences' herbicide, Enlist Duo (2,4-D choline + glyphosate), arguing that the move is well within the Court's authority. In a new Court filing, the EPA says that Dow has failed to identify "any disruptive consequences" of vacating the registration and contends that there is little reason for the Court to deny the Agency's motion.

The EPA granted registration in October 2014 for the herbicide, which is intended for use on Dow's genetically modified herbicide-tolerant Enlist maize and soybeans. The Agency defended the registration in filings with the Court, but changed course in November after finding information within a patent application by Dow that claimed Enlist Duo had "synergistic weed control" properties.

The EPA contends that it did not know about the claim and says that it is no longer certain its registration complies with federal pesticide law. That would remain the case until it has reviewed new data on the possible synergistic effects of Enlist Duo. Of specific concern to the EPA is whether a 30ft (9.1 m) downwind in-field buffer is adequate for protecting endangered plant species and other non-target organisms.

Dow says that it has no problem with the EPA's request that the Court remand the registration back to the Agency, but argues "there is no basis in law or logic" to vacate it. The company contends that the EPA is trying to "short circuit" the regulatory process for vacating a registration.

The EPA argues that because the issue is before the Court, it makes sense for the panel to render its decision. The Agency also says that vacating the registration would be "more protective" of the environment while the Agency evaluates the new information. "Regardless of the Agency's authority to pursue administrative action that would affect the registration during judicial review, this Court has authority to fashion a remedy once a deficiency has been identified," the Agency says in its December 16th filing with the Court.

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