

STK MAKES FIRST SHIPMENTS OF REGEV 'HYBRID' FUNGICIDE TO USA

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Botanical-based crop protection and aquaculture company, **STK bio-ag technologies** has made its first shipments of its hybrid fungicide **REGEV** to the USA from its R&D and manufacturing site in Israel.

REGEV is STK's hybrid product that incorporates a **botanical extract** with a synthetic pesticide **difenoconazole** in a liquid formulation. The company says this fungicide serves as a 'bridge,' providing farmers an easy to use crop protection solution while enabling them to lower their chemical load.

REGEV was approved in the US by **EPA** on 29 April 2020, according to the issuance documentation.

The first shipment arrived mid-June. Talking to New Ag International, Shay Shaanan, STK Vice President Business Development and R&D, said this first shipment was sent by air freight so not to miss the application season, but the second shipment was sent by ship. Further volumes will follow and Shaanan said the expectations for REGEV were high in the USA, which he said was a mature market for biological-based products.

Shaanan confirmed that there had been good take-up of the product in 14 countries so far, including Latin America, East Asia, Serbia and Israel. STK announced in May 2020 that REGEV had been registered in Chile for the control of powdery mildew in tomatoes and apple scab in pome fruits.

The botanical extract in REGEV is tea tree oil, which is sourced from Australia. Shaanan said that the product also has a biostimulant effect that helps the plants to activate their immunity system quicker, thereby improving the yield and health of the plant. This botanical extract enhances the activity of difenoconazole, providing increased disease control while reducing chemical usage and having only one residue, according to Shaanan.

Mode of Action

REGEV's modes of action are across two FRAC groups – cell membrane disruption (46) and sterol biosynthesis in membranes (3). The multiple modes of action with REGEV present a very low probability for the development of resistance or cross resistance in plant pathogens, says the company.

In April 2019, STK announced that it had partnered with Summit Agro USA, and Summit Agro USA has become the exclusive distributor of STK products in the United States.

The STK Group is continuing to extend and develop worldwide partnerships with large local distributors. In February 2020, STK and ADAMA announced an exclusive agreement for the distribution of the botanical-based bio-fungicide TIMOREX GOLD and the 'hybrid' fungicide REGEV throughout Ecuador.

"We're planning a few other hybrids based on this botanical extract," confirmed Shaanan. These products will likely launch in LATAM first, owing to the quicker time for registrations, explained Shaanan. Any new products would be looking at a launch year of 2022.

REGEV is now in 15 countries worldwide, including in the Far East. In November 2019, STK bio-ag technologies announced that it had launched REGEV in the Philippines for use on rice to prevent sheath blight and rice blast, and for bananas to combat black Sigatoka.



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