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TK47 Boosts Crop Protection in Independent Agricultural Tests

Verde Potash (TSX: “NPK”) ("Verde” or the “Company”) is pleased to announce positive results from tests using TK47 on rice crops. The results showed that TK47 reduced the occurrence of rice blast, a plant-pathogenic fungus, by approximately 44%. Losses due to plant pathogens put a significant constraint on global food production. It is estimated that each year, rice blast disease alone destroys enough rice to feed 60 million people[1].

“These positive results solidify TK47 as an efficient product for crop protection. In Brazil, the crop protection market is worth over US$12B, about four times greater than the local potash market. Highly toxic chemical products account for the majority of the market. TK47 is approved for organic agriculture and can have a major impact in increasing sustainability for 21st century agriculture,” commented President & CEO, Cristiano Veloso.

Rice crop is vulnerable to attacks by many plant pathogens such as fungi, viruses, bacteria and nematodes, which can harm the productivity and quality of the harvested grain. For example, when environmental conditions are favourable to the pathogen, the damage caused by rice blast can compromise up to 100% of production.

TK47 has a high concentration of plant available silicon, an element which induces plants natural resistance against pests and diseases. Silicon supports plant tissues by strengthening the cell walls and leaves thereby reducing the need for fungicides and insecticides.

Results

The test, conducted by an independent consulting firm in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, evaluated the agronomic efficiency of TK47 on irrigated rice. The test assessed the nutritional quality of the crop and the incidence of diseases, specifically rice blast. For comparison purposes, two sources of potassium (K_2O) was applied, TK47 and potassium chloride (KCl). Four different doses of TK47 were applied 60 days

[1] Talbot, Nick. “Rice blast disease: hopes for control.” *Medium.* A Medium Corporation, 21 Oct 2014. Web. 18 Mar. 2016. (https://medium.com/@plantvillage/rice-blast-disease-hopes-for-control-910655049d10#.uvjor2yqq)

before planting (Table 1).

The cultivar used was GURI INTA CL, which stands out for its grain quality and productivity. It is a medium maturity cultivar, fully blooming in 94 days and maturing in 125 days.

The results demonstrate that TK47 is effective in controlling rice blast. In the area where a commercial dose (100%) of K_2O from TK47 was applied, the incidence of rice blast was 43.64% lower than in the area treated with the same dose of K_2O from KCl. The disease incidence was also lower when 75% and 25% of K_2O from TK47 was applied.

Table 1 - Treatments and rice blast incidence

Treatment	% of K_2O	Rice blast incidence (pl/m²)
Control	-	13.50
KCl	100%	13.75
TK47	100%	7.75
TK47	75%	10.75
TK47	50%	13.75
TK47	25%	11.75

About Verde Potash

Verde Potash is an agri-tech company promoting sustainable and profitable agriculture through the development of its Cerrado Verde Project. Cerrado Verde, located in the heart of Brazil's largest agricultural market, is the source of a potassium-rich deposit from which the Company intends to produce solutions for crop nutrition, crop protection, soil improvement and increased sustainability. The Company's portfolio includes TK47™, Super Greensand™ and Alpha.

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