

Description

Fertilisation optimisation



Description 2

ACTION B5. OPTIMISATION OF FIELD APPLICATION OF SLURRY

APPLICATION MACHINERY: TRAILING HOSES, CONDUCTIVITY METER AND FLOWMETER

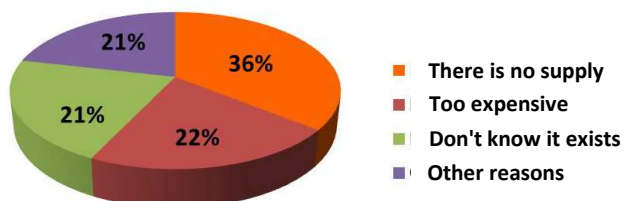
1. Introduction in the area of systems that improve slurry application

As one of the goals defined in this action is to increase use of this technology in the study area, a media campaign was developed to create an awareness of the equipment available and, by this means, increase impact on farmers, livestock breeders and engineers. These promotional actions do not target solely the farmers taking part in the project but seek to reach all possible users. Over a two-year period, a total of 630 people have been reached.

Surveys performed at project commencement have confirmed the absence of this type of machinery in the area and even a total lack of knowledge of their existence on the part of the participating farmers.

In early 2014, there was not a single piece of application equipment that had hoses, conductivity meter or flowmeter. In fact, only one farmer had ever used this technology on some of his plots.

Why isn't this type of machinery being used?



Reasons why this type of machinery is not being used in the area

These surveys have revealed that the main reasons for not using this type of applicator are: lack of availability (36%) and high purchase price (22%). It is also worth noting that almost a quarter of the farmers did not even know that it was possible to apply slurry using this type of system, let alone the advantages it offers.

2. Dissemination proposal

Given the existing lack of information, it was decided to launch a communication campaign in the area so that farmers would buy new tanks that were already equipped with one or other of the technologies described here.

This campaign includes demonstrations of the machinery on cereal plots to enable people to see for themselves the improvements that this technology offers. Some of the demonstrations include slurry application using the conventional splash plate system and trailing hose systems simultaneously to enable comparisons to be made and encourage conversation and comments among the spectators.

The demonstrations entail hiring equipment that is already fitted with these improvements. Accordingly, the opportunity is taken to personalise the demonstrations, applying the slurry on nearby plots owned by the most interested participating farmers with the goal of convincing them of the improvements offered by this equipment.

4. Communication actions performed during the first two years of the project

Presentation of machinery	2013	2014	2015
1. Indoor events	- Lleida (126)	- Mollerussa (33) - Lleida (72) - Algerri (19)	- Algerri (21)
2. Field demonstrations with machinery		- Torelló (76) - Sta. Coloma de Queralt (37) - Algerri (29)	- Castelló de Farfanya (19) - Ivars d'Urgell (68) - Malla (130)

Place where the event was held and, in brackets, the number of attendees



6. Results by mid-2015

Two years into the project, both the livestock breeders and the farmers in the study area, and adjoining areas, are fully aware of the new equipment available on the market that improve application of livestock waste on the crops.

A total of 630 people have attended the 11 technical events organised within the framework of the project to communicate the advantages and the possibility of incorporating these tools on their farm, either through outright purchase or service rental.

Some participating farmers and event attendees are considering buying machines fitted with this equipment; others, while not including the equipment, are buying new adapted tanks so that it would be possible to add hoses at a later date.

Furthermore, there are difficulties in purchasing flowmeters, as this technology is still relatively rare in slurry application systems. At present, there are no companies that include

this equipment in their product catalogue. Accordingly, as part of the project, a company has been located that renders services to third parties and has a tank with hose applicator and conductivity meter, and is interested in improving the quality of the work it offers its customers. This company has installed a flowmeter and it is expected that this equipment will be operational during the second year of the project in order to show the improvements it offers in new machinery demonstrations.



Number of units in the area	2013	2014	2015
1. Hoses	0	1	1 adaptable
2. Conductivity meter	0	0	0
3. Flowmeter	0	0	1

