

# Don't walk on the wild side *WITH INPUTS*

Taking a risk by trying out untested input resources or purchasing inputs from unknown distributors are traps that producers easily fall into every season. Here are some good tips on how to go about when purchasing inputs.

## Very important suggestions for purchasing and using inputs:

- Make sure that the input provider is a recognised company with a proven record.
- Ensure as far as possible that all recommendations are provided in writing and store them safely.
- Try to keep a record of all purchases.
- Check the quality of the input resource.
- Seed treatment should be done by the seed company itself or with certified seed treatment equipment.

**As a rule, use small control sites to test new input resources before using them on a large scale.**

## Rhizobia bacteria

- It is important to only use registered (L registration in terms of Act no. 36 of 1947) products.
- The product concerned must also preferably be recommended by the company whose seed is being planted.
- Do not use new products on a large scale.

## When purchasing agrochemicals:

- Make sure that the chemical is registered for the purpose for which it is being used.
- Make sure that the owner of the chemical is a member of CropLife.
- Make sure that the distribution company is a member of CropLife and that the agent is qualified.

## Tips for purchasing soil amendments, foliar nutrition and organic substances

Producers should note that some of these input resources have not been properly tested or registered in terms of Act no. 36 of 1947.

## Negotiating prices

- Make sure that you pay the best market-oriented price.
- Obtain as many as possible quotations and do not simply accept the first and best price.
- Find out from your neighbour what he/she paid for the input.
- Try to buy more inputs as a collective.
- Members are free to contact Grain SA with respect to input price trends.

## When considering using such an input resource, you should note the following:

- Make sure it has been registered in terms of Act no. 36 of 1947.
- Insist on long-term statistical and preferably independent local test results.
- Never use such an input resource on a large scale immediately.
- Rather use small-scale strip trials that can be evaluated statistically.
- Determine whether it is cost effective to use the input resource.

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