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## **Bayer's Application Test Facility**

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### **The perfect link between innovative development and optimum application**

As the application of crop protection products requires the greatest possible care, supporting customers and partners in the proper and safe handling of its products is a priority for Product Stewardship at Bayer. The company specifically addresses farmers and dealers with numerous programs worldwide. Targeted workshops are aimed at effectively applying its products and ensuring the safety of operators, the environment and consumers. Bayer experts also work closely with machinery manufacturers, supporting them for example in the development of environmentally friendly spray technology. The team led by Dr. Reinhard Friessleben comprises 6 employees and includes a global network of experts in the Bayer country organizations.

### **Drift-reducing nozzles further reduce water rates**

The responsibility for good agricultural practice (GAP) lies principally with the operator in the field. It has its foundations in a sound understanding of the product, its application and associated risks. GAP is essential to protect both drinking water resources and natural resources. By investigating different jet and droplet sizes, Bayer aims to further reduce water application rates. Its Application Technology group is working with nozzle manufacturers to develop and evaluate drift-reducing nozzles. Bayer provides training programs, farm visits and field days, and diagnostics services which play an important role in reducing risk and thus protecting the environment.

### **easyFlow – the innovative, safe and convenient closed-transfer system**

To further reduce the risk of human exposure and spills when transferring liquid product from a standard-size container directly into the sprayer, Bayer is promoting the use of easyFlow, an innovative, closed-transfer system jointly developed by Bayer and agrotop, a German mid-sized company specializing in professional agricultural spray technology.

The system allows customized solutions for each cultivated plant and premium crop protection products. easyFlow can be retrofitted to existing units or adapted to new sprayers. It is safe, convenient and cost-effective for the operator, and environmentally friendly too. Another important benefit is the fact that easyFlow saves time by rinsing at the same time as dispensing. Furthermore, there is no need for the farmer to use other transfer devices because easyFlow is a manufacturer-independent solution; it can be adapted to most existing spray equipment and canister types for liquid formulations.

The major advantage of this system is its simple and compact design. easyFlow creates a good and safe connection between the container and the sprayer tank to avoid any product leakage. It ensures proper rinsing procedures, keeping the device clean. Finally, it is even usable with sealed canisters. Further designs of easyFlow for greater convenience and precision are under development.

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