

PUTTING INSECTS ON THE MAP

Crop protection advances with insect mapping, an innovative monitoring and analysis service that identifies and charts the progress of insects and pests.

Insects can be harmful to crops. Understanding specific populations, their development and numbers allow crop protection companies to better define insecticide supply strategies. Tailoring products and their deployment using carefully researched intelligence, makes pests and insect control far more effective, delivering the potential for better pest control, increased crop yields and improved margin.

MONITORING

Using a pheromone trap system, developed by SGS specifically for monitoring pest population density, the soil is excavated to assess overwinter larvae and imago.

Insect mapping projects comprise several key stages:

- Installation of pheromone traps at key locations, fixed by GPS. (Where the subject insect lives in the soil, traps will be buried as necessary).
- Regular periodic trap checking. Insect numbers and type are recorded, and agronomists photograph them.

To ensure that a full understanding of the field conditions is available, our team will provide details of previous crops, chemicals applied to the site and other relevant facts.

PEST PREDICTIONS

Insect mapping and the resulting analysis make predicting pest activity and potential harm a real possibility. With geographic details and historic weather conditions for the current year, it is possible to make informed predictions of the likely insect activity, with numbers and range of selected pests. This enables crop protection companies to:

- Improve supplies of targeted products across a country or region.

- Optimise the sale to insecticide treatments, as the sales strategy and distribution will be able to meet demand.
- Increase crop production for customers (farmers).

MAPPING IN ACTION

SGS has been developing insect maps for a variety of insect pests for several years. Building on our expertise in the agriculture and farming sectors, our agronomists deliver targeted mapping and analysis projects. Throughout the research and evaluation stage, clients are updated at every key stage leading a full monitoring report on completion.

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FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO KALININGRAD

Traditionally, it is common practice for seed companies to release trials on chemicals and seed varieties using in-house field stations. Across a country the size of Russia however, which encompasses multiple climate and soil zones, the scale of in-house trials ceases to be practical or affordable.

As an independent third party supplier, SGS Russia has built an extensive network of field stations across the country. Field trials for client products can be arranged at one, or more, of our field stations, allowing effective testing and analysis of results in all the relevant climate and soil zones.

Established in 2013, running single trials in Black Sea regions, we have met the industry's growing appetite for timely and effective trials, and extended our trials network into Russia's South, Central and Ural districts.

ALEXEY BESCHETNOV