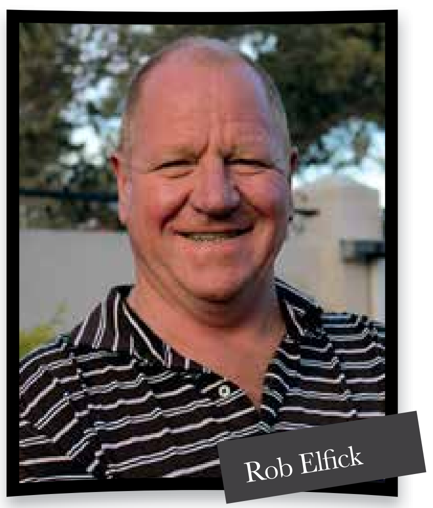
River Bioscience
GOES INTERNATIONAL

River Bioscience and Oro Agri Europe have signed a distribution and development agreement for a Novel NPV Baculovirus bio-protection product. By Rob Elfick


Rob Elfick

• The novel and patented product offers a ground-breaking option for growers in the management of tortricid pests, including codling moth, macadamia nut borer, litchi moth, false codling moth and oriental fruit moth.

• *Cryptophlebia peltastica nucleopolyhedrovirus* (CrpeNPV) sets itself apart from previous baculovirus based products used for codling moth management, as it overcomes all known types of resistance of codling moth to *Cydia pomonella granulovirus* (CpGv) based insecticides.

River Bioscience and Oro Agri Europe, a Rovensa company based in Lisbon, Portugal, signed an agreement for the development and exclusive distribution of River Bioscience's patented NPV product earlier this year.

Cryptophlebia peltastica nucleopolyhedrovirus (CrpeNPV) is effective against economically significant tortricids, including codling moth, Oriental fruit moth, false codling moth, macadamia nut borer and litchi moth.

The product is proprietary and patented, and was developed and produced by River Bioscience for effective control of tortricid pests, including *Cydia pomonella* (codling moth) in pome fruit and walnuts; and *Grapholita molesta* (Oriental fruit moth) in stone fruit.

The codling moth is an extremely destructive pest in pome fruit in almost every country where the fruits are grown. This pest can cause complete destruction of pome fruit if left unchecked, and may result in up to 80 - 100% fruit damage. Apart from pome fruit, it is also a pest of walnut, quince, and other stone fruits where it causes severe economic losses.

The CrpeNPV overcomes all known types of resistance of codling moth to CpGv-based insecticides, which represents an ideal fit for resistance management programmes with other sustainable crop protection inputs.

Eric van Innis, CEO of Rovensa said, "This agreement with River Bioscience and Oro Agri substantiates Rovensa's commitment to feeding the planet through sustainable agricultural inputs for a well-balanced agricultural system. With the addition of CrpeNPV, we supplement our existing portfolio and provide a programme approach to solve grower pest problems."

As part of the agreement, starting in Europe, River Bioscience will be the notifier of the active substance authorisation in Europe. Oro Agri will be responsible for the efficacy studies, implementation, and registration of the formulated product in Europe. For now, the framework agreement covers exclusive distribution in Europe, with the potential to expand to the USA, South America and various countries outside Sub-Saharan Africa.

The agreement with Oro Agri and further collaborations with Rovensa create a fantastic platform to launch River Bioscience as a major player in the baculovirus market. It also illustrates that African-based companies can play a major role in contributing to global agricultural sustainability, and assisting the EU with meeting their sustainability targets whilst managing resistance.

Oro Agri has been working with the development of the patented CrpeNPV baculovirus for the past 2 - 3 years and has found it to be the right tool to supplement its current IPM solutions. The first registration will be introduced in Europe, with a low-risk biological profile expected and will be used as a supplementary or alternative strategy to the CpGV products currently being used in the market. Alternating sprays between GV and NPV-based biopesticides will assist in combatting resistance concerns and ensure consistent efficacy.

River Bioscience remains committed to helping growers combat pests that could have a significant economic impact on their profit margins.

Strategic alliances paving the way forward

An agreement was also signed during a meeting earlier this year at the River Bioscience head office in Gqeberha, with Dudutech from Kenya, and their holding company Bioline Agrosciences from France. This agreement will see Dudutech distributing River Bioscience products in East and Southern Africa. It's another good example of a synergistic collaboration that will see farmers in the designated areas gaining access to comprehensive programs of sustainable products to manage key pests.

River Bioscience remains committed to bringing products to market to help maintain the viability of growers' enterprises, whilst they combat pests that could have a significant economic impact on their profit margins. With this, it is vital to form strategic alliances with like-minded companies to access various markets.