

Bio-Blog

March 2023

Keeping all RBX Group Stakeholders Informed

Note from the Managing Director

We are now in the last month of our financial year and like everyone else in our industry, and almost everyone around the world, this has been a tough year with results nowhere near what we had planned for. While this is never easy to accept, after everyone's hard work and dedication, it is mostly due to global factors that we have no control over.

These difficult times must not distract us from concentrating on our everyday activities to the best of our abilities while doing everything possible to find the correct way forward for not only our companies but each of our products and our potential future products.

APIS Bloom is one new product mentioned below but there is also the expected registration of our NPV virus offering into Macadamia's, Litchis and Apples hopefully coming very soon. These items will not have a huge immediate effect but we need to keep building for the future.



We're **buzzing** with excitement about our new venture!

A significant number of crops rely on effective pollination to produce desired yields and quality. In most cases, fruit and nut producers will use the services of a pollination company who brings bees onto the farm for the flowering period. However, crops often flower at the same time as indigenous plants and a monoculture is often not as desirable to bees. This results in them not always focusing their efforts on collecting pollen in the targeted area, but rather focusing on the surrounding pollen sources. In some crops, flowers are not easily pollinated, and a bee may need to visit the flower several times to get the job done.

River Bioscience's USA partner, ISCA Tech, has developed APIS Bloom which releases semiochemicals like those bees produce when they find an area favourable for foraging.

This allows a grower to apply this product to the desired crop and can result in improved bee foraging within the treated area. APIS Bloom is widely used in the Almond and Berry industry in the USA with great success.

River Bioscience has partnered up with Bee-Tech Group, a pollination service provider and technology developer, to understand how APIS Bloom can be used to focus bee foraging activity more on the desired crop. Our Product Development & Innovation team has been working with Kiwi growers in the Western Cape over the last six months and initial results indicate that APIS Bloom could play a major role in increasing the value growers derive when using bee services for pollination. Early indications are that bees visited more flowers and collected more pollen in orchards treated with APIS Bloom than in untreated orchards.



APISBLOOM®



Whilst it is still early days, APIS Bloom looks like it could be an exciting product for growers who rely on bee foraging as part of their production system!



Offering a helping hand

River Bioscience was delighted to assist Nomathamsanqa Educare Centre in Addo with some much-needed grocery items for the kids.

We are proud to give back to the communities we operate in.



March Birthdays

Karen Basson, Danrich Basson, Shunell Botha, Anrich Dars, Nigray Douries, Eldunique Fortuin, Marvin Fransman, Erenst Hugo, Adriaan Ludick, Alida Mentoor, Carel Mouton, Nomalizo Ngomane, Marshall Pieterse, Charlene Scott, Anorelle Slinger, Mochelle Snyers, Mzukisi Solani, Maria Swart, Nicolaas Syster, Izak Theron, Franquina Titus, Johan Vorster

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