

University Data Suggests Hybrid Rice Carbon Footprint Reducer

No Fungicide, Less Nitrogen, More Yield

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Dr. Brian Ottis, RiceTec Marketing and Client Support Manager, spoke recently about the proactive approach RiceTec is employing to serve the hybrid rice industry. Ottis says RiceTec wants millers and processors to tell them what works so that RiceTec breeders can understand which products work in particular situations. "We're trying to take a more proactive approach in order to learn as much about our hybrids as we can before we release hybrids commercially."

Ottis said he hopes to help millers, "we have so many different hybrids and varieties it is really tough on the mills to keep track of everything out there. They can help direct us where we need to go. We want the feedback."

Ottis also talked about sustainability. "We've got lots of third party data. It shows that sustainability comes down to biomass and yields. We're winning the fight because of the disease resistance. We can reduce our footprint because we don't require the fungicide applications. Typically, we can make higher yields with lower nitrogen. For every unit of nitrogen you are producing more bushels of rice with hybrids. That is a huge carbon footprint reducer."

Another benefit from growing hybrid rice is a shorter growing season. "The less time you have to have a flooded environment the more you will reduce your methane emissions," said Ottis.

"We feel like, whenever the government decides; it's coming, it's a matter of time before the government starts regulating or there is a market where

folks can trade carbon credits. We're going to be in a good position, because we've got the most sustainable product out there. We want to make growers aware that by growing hybrids you're making a good decision for your farm and the environment."

"The most environmentally friendly product out there is hybrid rice. We've got the data to prove it. It is third party data; university data," stated Ottis. Δ

REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower

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Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

