

Glyphosate resistance in the US

Resistance to the herbicide glyphosate has had a marked impact on soya bean production in the US, and the number of hectares planted to Roundup Ready (RR) soya bean cultivars had begun to drop.

A total of 41% of cropland in the US was planted to soya beans, Prof Stevan Knezevic, weed scientist at the University of Nebraska said, speaking at the soya bean symposium

in Bothaville. Some 97% of soya land had been planted to RR cultivars up to 2013. "The number of hectares planted to RR cultivars declined markedly over the last three to five years because of an explosion of glyphosate resistance in the US," he said.

Growing resistance could be ascribed to years of continuous use of a very limited list of herbicides, based mainly on glyphosate,

according to him. Producers were moving toward conventional cultivars in combination with soil-applied herbicides. Some 120 million acres (49 million ha) in the US were sprayed with glyphosate up to three times a year.

Glyphosate is a non-selective systemic herbicide that is applied directly to plant foliage.

— *Annelie Coleman*