

Agrochemicals

In The Sugar Industry



WARNINGS AGAINST THE UNREGISTERED USE OF AGROCHEMICALS

For agrochemicals to be legally used in the sugar industry they must be registered in terms of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947. The Act states:

“No person shall for reward or in the course of any industry, trade or business use, or recommend the use of, any agricultural remedy or stock remedy for a purpose or in a manner other than that specified on the label on a container thereof or described on such container.”

It is thus illegal for a product to be used in any way other than what is specified on the label.

While a product may well be registered in terms of the Act, unless its use on sugarcane is specified on the label, it cannot be used on sugarcane.

When using a registered product, the end user has confidence in knowing that the product has been shown to be able to do what it says on the label, and the product will have the backing of the company that produced it. For more information on understanding Herbicide labels, please refer to SASRI's Information Sheet 10.6 “Understanding the label on herbicide containers.”

SUSFARMS® CAN ASSIST IN PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR AGROCHEMICAL USE

More information about the legal requirements associated with agrochemical storage, application and disposal of containers can be obtained from SUSFARMS® - the SA sugar industry's farm management system. While the legal requirements are stated in SUSFARMS®, the manual also describes the factors that influence the efficacy of a product such as application rate, correct placement, timing and weather and soil conditions. All of these factors not only increase efficacy, but can also ensure the safety of operators.

Legal requirements for sugarcane production have been summarised in a small, practical, user-friendly handbook called “Getting to grips with legal requirements in sugarcane agriculture” available from the South African Sugar Association's External Affairs Department or from SASRI Extension Specialists.



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