

P4**Cutting Edged Technology for Seed Treatment**

Thierry Sclapari

[Global Business Director, Agricultural Specialties, Rhodia Novocare]

Innovation in seeds is one of the major stakes of the upcoming years, with the pressing need to find new solutions to increase yield in order to supply enough food to the world's growing population. In addition to the selection of traits, seed coatings are adding new functions to the seeds, such as easy handling and sowing, dust reduction, protection against insects and fungi.

This is a very active area of research, and even more functionalities will be added in the next future to the treatments to allow the seeds to express fully their yield potential.

Rhodia is actively participating to those developments, through the design of a new additive, derived from a natural polymer, that controls better the transport of water around the seed, with a direct impact on the germination kinetics. We show examples of how the additive accelerates the germination of some major crop species. We also show how this "good start" can influence the early plant development, and biomass formation, in terms of canopy development, or in terms of root growth. To end with, examples (in the greenhouse) are also shown, where this seed treatment alleviates the negative effects of adverse a biotic stresses.