

## My experience of the Water Retainer

I am Lajos Izsó, an agricultural engineer. In my capacity of managing director and production manager, I have been running the Biocsárda Kft. since 2003. Our company cultivates a land area of 514 hectares and we exclusively pursue organic farming. Our main agricultural crops are spelt and rice but we also produce sweet corn, sunflowers, oil pumpkins, linseeds and millet. We are also engaged in sowing-seed production, such as fodder radish, field mustard, alfalfa, autumn peas and hybrid-maize.

Over the years we have tested several formulations to increase production, such as soil improvers, foliar fertilisers and crop enhancing substances. The Water Retainer came to my attention four years ago and at the time it seemed rather strange to me since it could not really be listed among the aforementioned products as it provided us, the producers, with an absolutely new possibility. I first tested it in 2016 in the production of oil radish sowing-seed. By means of the Water Retainer I was hoping to achieve good results in germination. Spring brought dry weather that year. In the germination period we had a total amount of 8-10 mm of rains, still we had a sufficiently good crop yield. Although germination was a little slow as we farm on black soil and in spring it is difficult to prepare seedbeds for tiny seeds. I am sure the Water Retainer contributed a lot to the development of good production result.

On the basis of the first year's experience, I decided to use it also the next year. In 2017 we applied the Water Retainer on sweet corn field and this time I was also pleased. Germination was fine and steady. After germination irrigation, the crop stock lasted long and we managed to get away with irrigating only on two occasions.

For this season I ordered the necessary Water Retainer for the autumn season already in 2017. I used it on an area even larger than it was in the previous years, since the product is beginning to become an integral part of the list of technologies used so far. This year we have treated hybrid maize cultures by means of the Water Retainer. In the germination period (the middle of may) we had scarce rains. Nevertheless, germination was proper for both plants. In the history of our company we first reached a record yield in both cultures. The effectiveness of the Water Retainer was particular spectacular in the production of sweet corn, since the commencement of irrigation rested in the balance but the crop stock endured and fortunately the arrival of rains was of help, too. The corn field had some rains several times, the sparing use of which by the stock was made possible by the Water Retainer. We managed to finish off the season without irrigation in either culture, though it is true to say that this year was rich in rains both in the period of flowering and in that of fertilization.

I have found one disadvantage of the product during the past 3 years, which is constituted by its applicability. Near the time of its expiry it happened that due to clogs in the filters not every sprayer was capable of spraying out the material. According to the manufacturer's information, clogging can be avoided by thorough mixing of the material before filling in.

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