

NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST SEED TREATMENT EXPERIENCE WITH BSN The Microscope on an Encouraging and Exciting Future

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Corn growing contractor Bernard Cranswick, of Cranswick Farming Gisborne, on New Zealand's North Island is one of NZ's first users of BSN Seed Primer (**BSN**). As a result there is much interest in the outcome, and the microscope has been applied to this crop as it slowly but surely makes its way to harvest.

Bernard's first comments were as follows :

"We recognised that early phosphorous application at germination was the key to great crop establishment and higher yield set. We had tried some powder based options but have found the **BSN** to provide the most available and effective high-P treatment. Early results were so good we have applied a much larger area this season of **BSN**".

Encouragingly, some of the main features noted so far have been :

1. Germination was faster – 5-7 days for **BSN** v 6-9 days for the untreated seed.
2. Germination (*by visual assessment*) was considered to be the same between **BSN** and the untreated seed.....
3.BUT, significant development showed of shallow 'feeder' roots in the **BSN** seedlings, which were totally absent in the untreated seedlings.
4. Longer primary roots, and a lot more fine root mass in the **BSN** plants, but in the untreated plant you can simply see strong primary roots.



After recording these observations with the plants shown in the above photograph Bernard said :

"these observations really intrigued us as the plants have very active roots. We look forward to seeing the final yield result advantages of **BSN** Seed Priming when we harvest in late March 2015".

Bernard's latest posting (end of January 2015) goes on to say :

"Latest visual observation – we have been really dry here with no significant rain since October 2014. I have been surprised with the lack of moisture stress showing in the plants. Now I can't attribute this to my seed preparation, but normally I would have seen more stress, particularly in the light volcanic pumice soil. Harvest, just 3 months away and I can't wait to see some numbers".

So, under the microscope indeed !

But the indicators are already there – an encouraging and exciting future for **BSN** Seed Priming in New Zealand.

Thank you Bernard for allowing RLF to be part of this 'first-for-NZ' experience – we will release the sequel following harvest.



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