Niab Plant Science into Practice

Productive and Profitable Cropping

Resource Use Efficiency

TESTING THE PERFORMANCE OF BIOFUNGICIDES IN WINTER WHEAT

Niab, in partnership with SRUC and ADAS, is delivering a two-year AHDB-funded pilot project to evaluate the performance of biofungicides against *Septoria tritici* in winter wheat. As interest grows in biological alternatives to conventional fungicides, these trials provide independent, field-scale evidence for levy payers on how biofungicides perform under commercial conditions and how they can complement existing programmes.

A consistent trial protocol across all partners

Trials are being run across three sites (Midlothian (SRUC), Herefordshire (ADAS) and Hampshire (Niab) using a single, standardised protocol followed by all partners. Each site includes two replicated trials: one trial using a septoria-susceptible variety and one using a moderately resistant variety.

Seven biofungicides are being assessed, applied either alone or alongside a half-rate fungicide programme to determine whether biologicals can enhance disease control or support reduced fungicide inputs. All products are foliar applied during the normal spray window, following manufacturer recommendations.

Across all sites, partners are carrying out:

- In-season disease assessments
- NDVI canopy measurements
- Yield and grain nitrogen analysis.

Together, these data will create robust evidence on where biofungicides deliver benefit and how they fit within Integrated Disease Management strategies.

Sharing results

Initial findings will be shared at the AHDB Agronomy Conference in December 2026, with the full dataset available at the end of the project.

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Septoria tritici in winter wheat

Biofungicide trials are being run across three sites (Midlothian (SRUC), Herefordshire (ADAS) and Hampshire (Niab)

To assess efficacy, biofungicides will be applied on their own and in combination with a base fungicide programme