

## Seed and Nutritional Technology Development PGP Programme

### Quarterly Report October – December 2013

The PGP programme is on track and we are making good progress towards the desired outcomes.

Preliminary data from our Biological Seed Additive (BSA) spring sown trials has been collected from the various trial site locations. We have seen up to 40% increase in yield at first cut where disease pressure has been present, however the results are more variable where disease pressure is low.

We have continued to make good progress in prioritising our candidate endophytes based on improved bioactivity and transmission results. The endophyte levels after storage are also high in our best candidate. Agronomic trials continue as normal, with data summary expected by mid-2014 to finalise which candidate endophytes to progress.

We have identified 127 new endophytes and inoculated the first group of these into perennial ryegrass to screen for new bioactivity.

The new brassica trial to measure the improvement in water use efficiency has been successfully established and water uptake measures are being recorded weekly over summer 2013/14.



Testing the bioactivity of ryegrass/endophyte associations for their effects on root aphid (above) and on Argentine stem weevil (below).

