

Scotland's Rural College

## The rise, fall and resurrection of chemical induced resistance agents

Yassin, M; Ton, J; Rolfe, S; Valentine, TA; Cromley, M; Holden, NH; Newton, A

*Published in:*  
Pest Management Science

*DOI:*  
[10.1002/ps.6370](https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.6370)

Print publication: 01/09/2021

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

### *Citation for published version (APA):*

Yassin, M., Ton, J., Rolfe, S., Valentine, T.A., Cromley, M., Holden, N.H., & Newton, A. (2021). The rise, fall and resurrection of chemical induced resistance agents. *Pest Management Science*, 77(9), 3900-3909. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.6370>

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

# The rise, fall and resurrection of chemical-induced resistance agents

Mustafa Yassin,<sup>a,b\*</sup>  Jurriaan Ton,<sup>a\*</sup>  Stephen A Rolfe,<sup>a</sup>   
 Tracy A Valentine,<sup>b</sup>  Matthew Cromey,<sup>c</sup>  Nicola Holden<sup>d</sup>  and  
 Adrian C Newton<sup>b\*</sup> 

## Abstract

Since the discovery that the plant immune system could be augmented for improved deployment against biotic stressors through the exogenous application of chemicals that lead to induced resistance (IR), many such IR-eliciting agents have been identified. Initially it was hoped that these chemical IR agents would be a benign alternative to traditional chemical biocides. However, owing to low efficacy and/or a realization that their benefits sometimes come at the cost of growth and yield penalties, chemical IR agents fell out of favour and were seldom used as crop protection products. Despite the lack of interest in agricultural use, researchers have continued to explore the efficacy and mechanisms of chemical IR. Moreover, as we move away from the approach of 'zero tolerance' toward plant pests and pathogens toward integrated pest management, chemical IR agents could have a place in the plant protection product list. In this review, we chart the rise and fall of chemical IR agents, and then explore a variety of strategies used to improve their efficacy and remediate their negative adverse effects.

© 2021 The Authors. *Pest Management Science* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of Society of Chemical Industry.

**Keywords:** induced resistance; priming; IPM; trade-offs; synergistic; biological control

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the philosophy behind the control of plant pests and pathogens has been driven by a 'zero tolerance' approach, where elimination of the causal agent is the unstated aim. As this has rarely, if ever, been achieved, the extreme selection pressure exerted on the surviving pest and pathogen populations presents obvious dangers, such as rendering genetic resistance ineffective or resulting in populations acquiring resistance to biocidal chemical agents. An alternative, however, is to take advantage of recent advances in our understanding of plant–microbe interactions and use alternative control strategies that leverage the plant immune system in a systems context, namely integrated pest (crop) management (IPM).

Plants possess a sophisticated innate immune system that provides the first line of defence against attackers. This is controlled by a complex network of interconnected signalling pathways that are directly activated upon recognition of microbe-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and/or damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs). The model of plant–pathogen interactions by Jones and Dangl (2006),<sup>1</sup> also referred to as the 'zig-zag' model, is perhaps the most popular model of the plant innate immune system which distinguishes three forms of disease resistance. Effector-triggered immunity (ETI) – commonly known as race-specific or vertical resistance – is a qualitative form of disease resistance that relies on the presence of single resistance genes (*R*). The associated *R* proteins enable direct or indirect recognition of susceptibility-inducing pathogen effectors and activate a rapid immune response, which is typically associated with

hypersensitive cell death. Accordingly, ETI provides high levels of protection against biotrophic pathogens.<sup>2</sup> However, because of its monogenic nature, ETI has a narrow range of taxonomic effectiveness and limited durability due to the evolutionary pressures on pathogens to evolve alternative effectors, thereby avoiding recognition by *R* proteins.<sup>3,4</sup> Pattern-triggered immunity (PTI) is a quantitative form of disease resistance, which provides high-level resistance against a broad range of attackers. PTI is triggered by a multitude of conserved molecular patterns that are produced during infestation or infection by pests and diseases, respectively, which activate a range of different pathways and defence mechanisms that become active at different stages of the interaction. However, PTI is not sufficiently effective against virulent pathogens,<sup>1,5</sup> which employ effector molecules that subvert PTI-

\* Correspondence to: M Yassin or J Ton, *Plant Production and Protection Institute and Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK*, E-mail: mayassin1@sheffield.ac.uk or j.ton@sheffield.ac.uk; or AC Newton, *James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD25DA, UK*, E-mail: adrian.newton@hutton.ac.uk

a *Plant Production and Protection Institute and Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK*

b *James Hutton Institute, Dundee, UK*

c *Department of Plant Health, Royal Horticultural Society, Woking, UK*

d *Scotland's Rural Colleges, Craibstone Estate, Aberdeen, UK*

controlling pathways, a process commonly referred to as effector-triggered susceptibility (ETS).<sup>1,6</sup> In addition to PTI-suppressing effectors, ETS by biotrophic pathogens also involves 2nd level effectors that suppress ETI-related signalling and hypersensitive cell death-response.<sup>1,7,8</sup> Within the framework of the zig-zag model by Jones and Dangl (2006),<sup>1</sup> the residual level of resistance after ETS-mediated repression of PTI and ETI is referred to as basal resistance (BR).<sup>1</sup> Since its inception, the zig-zag model has been interpreted as a co-evolutionary arm's race, during which pathogens evolved ETS to suppress PRR-dependent PTI and plants counter-evolved R-proteins to recognize effector activity and activate ETI.

Although proven exceedingly useful for the conceptual interpretation of plant innate immunity and evolution, the zig-zag model is not without limitations.<sup>9</sup> Foremost among them is that the model only represents plant innate immunity against biotrophic pathogens. Furthermore, while it is acceptable to portray ETI, PTI and BR as different types of resistance within an evolutionary context, they are remarkably similar from a mechanistic point. All three types of resistance share similar signalling pathways and defence mechanisms that become active during different stages of the interaction with avirulent, nonhost and virulent pathogens, respectively.<sup>10,11</sup> These pathways and mechanisms include relatively early-acting local defences, such as the accumulation of reactive oxygen species and cell-wall reinforcements.<sup>12–15</sup> Also, there are later-acting defences that are controlled by *de novo* produced defence hormones, such as salicylic acid (SA), jasmonic acid (JA), ethylene (ET) and abscisic acid (ABA),<sup>16,17</sup> which all interact with each other to prioritize and fine-tune an appropriate immune response.<sup>18,19</sup> Hence, from a mechanistic point of view, there is no clear partition between ETI, PTI and BR.

Although the plant innate immune system protects against the majority of potentially hostile microbes, it cannot prevent infection and damage by virulent pathogens. To minimize damage by these attackers, plants have evolved the ability to augment the level of innate immunity by forming a memory of previous pathogen encounters, resulting in a faster and/or stronger deployment of inducible plant defence mechanisms upon subsequent encounters. This so-called defence priming results in induced resistance (IR), which is a form of phenotypic plasticity and can thus be regarded as plant-acquired immunity.<sup>20</sup> IR often is systemically expressed and has the benefits of being durable with broad-spectrum effectiveness, while also providing protection that is stronger than BR.<sup>21</sup> Given the ability to augment plant resistance, many natural and synthetic IR-eliciting agents have been identified and characterized in detail. However, to date, these products are not widely employed in crop protection schemes. In this review, we assess the rise of IR agents, initially seen by some as silver bullet solutions for benign crop protection, and their subsequent fall out of favour, owing to low efficacy and/or a realization that their benefits sometimes come at the cost of growth and yield penalties. Finally, we explore how we can use our increased understanding of host–microbe interactions to facilitate a resurrection of IR agents as tailored components of plant protection methods that are implemented in a systems context, namely within IPM.

## 2 THE RISE AND FALL OF CHEMICAL IR AGENTS

Six decades ago, Ross (1961)<sup>22</sup> observed that localized infection of tobacco plants with tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) leads to

immunity in distal noninfected leaves. This so-called systemic acquired resistance (SAR) is a form of IR and is dependent on the plant defence hormone SA and the defence regulatory protein NPR1.<sup>23</sup> Activation of this pathway results in direct activation and priming of a wide range of different basal defence mechanisms, including the production of pathogenesis related (PR) proteins. The priming associated with SAR can provide long-lasting protection against a broad spectrum of (hemi-)biotrophic pathogens.<sup>20, 22–24</sup> In subsequent studies, it became clear that there are additional IR responses, which are controlled by partially different signalling pathways. For instance, induced systemic resistance (ISR), which is triggered by root colonization with beneficial soil microorganisms, such as plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR), endophytic plant growth-promoting fungi (PGPF) and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), is under control by a signalling pathway partially different from SAR. In *Arabidopsis*, ISR is dependent on the defence regulatory protein NPR1 but operates independently of SA;<sup>25</sup> instead, ISR typically is based on a priming of JA- and ET-dependent signalling pathways.<sup>26,27</sup> Based on prior discovery of JA as a wound-responsive defence hormone in plants,<sup>28</sup> JA and its methylated derivative methyl-jasmonic acid (MeJA) often have been used as chemical IR agents against herbivores and necrotrophic pathogens.<sup>29,30</sup> Moreover, although SAR is predominantly effective against biotrophic pathogens, ISR is more effective against necrotrophic pathogens.<sup>31,32</sup> Further evidence for the existence of alternative forms of IR came from the characterization of  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid-induced resistance (BABA-IR). BABA is a nonprotein amino acid that is produced in low concentrations by stressed plant tissues.<sup>33</sup> Perception of BABA is dependent on the IBL1 receptor gene, which encodes an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase and controls BABA-IR against downy mildew and necrotrophic fungi.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, the underlying signalling pathways of BABA-IR vary according to the challenging pathogen and can either be SA-dependent or SA-independent,<sup>35,36</sup> providing broad-range protection against biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens.<sup>37</sup> The three classic examples of SAR, ISR and BABA-IR illustrate how IR is controlled by a variety of different defence signalling pathways, depending on the eliciting agent, plant species and challenging pathogen. Despite this diversity, all IR responses share the common characteristic that they augment the effectiveness of BR through either a direct upregulation or a priming of basal defence mechanisms.<sup>20</sup>

In order to maximize the benefits of SAR, White, (1979)<sup>38</sup> showed that injections of SA, aspirin and benzoic acid, each elicited SAR against TMV in tobacco. This pioneering experiment showed that SAR can be triggered without having to infect plants with pathogens and heralded an era of research into chemical IR agents. Research throughout the 1980s and 1990s led to the development of several functional SA analogues that act as potent SAR inducers, of which the best known are 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid (INA) and its derivative Acibenzolar-S-methyl (ASM). INA was shown to provide a high level of protection in different crops including barley, cucumber and rice.<sup>39–41</sup> Likewise, ASM showed high resistance-inducing efficacy in a range of different crop pathosystems.<sup>42–45</sup> Based on these results, Syngenta launched Actigard®/Bion® as the first commercial IR agent, which includes ASM as the active ingredient. Other IR agents, such as BABA<sup>33,37</sup> and Chitosan, a polymeric derivative of chitin,<sup>46</sup> yielded similarly high levels of crop protection against economically devastating plant diseases. Accordingly, IR agents emerged as an appealing alternative to fungicides, because they show little or no direct toxicity towards the pathogen or

environment, while providing broad-spectrum protection through augmentation of durable BR.<sup>47</sup>

However, the initial ambition to employ chemical IR agents as main-stream crop protection products never materialized, largely as a consequence of undesirable nontarget effects on plant growth and seed. This was first highlighted by Heil *et al.* (2000),<sup>48</sup> who showed that wheat plants treated with ASM had lower biomass, developed fewer shoots and produced fewer seeds compared with untreated plants and this was particularly pronounced in plants grown with a limited nitrogen supply. Although a direct upregulation of basal defence mechanisms could achieve high levels of protection, the associated costs made these agents less attractive for commercial exploitation as crop protection products. It was argued that the deployment of IR agents is beneficial only under conditions of high disease pressure, where the associated costs are outweighed by the benefits of disease protection.<sup>48–51</sup> Besides being metabolically costly, IR activators also could be phytotoxic. INA and its derivatives were deemed too toxic for agricultural use.<sup>52</sup> Likewise, BABA was found to cause toxicity via inhibition of AsPRS enzyme activity.<sup>34</sup> A third obstacle associated with chemical IR agents is that their efficacy can be highly variable between plant genotypes. In both cucumber<sup>40</sup> and soybean<sup>53</sup> INA efficacy varied by genotype. Efficacy also may be affected by the pathogen strain. In tomato, disease protection by BABA not only varied by host genotype but also by *Phytophthora infestans* isolate.<sup>54</sup> Additionally, there is compelling evidence that environmental conditions affect the outcome of chemically induced IR.<sup>55,56</sup> Furthermore, chemically induced IR is generally transient lasting at most weeks<sup>57–60</sup> which necessitates multiple applications. This complex interplay of variables affecting IR efficacy has impeded widespread adoption of chemical IR agents in agriculture and horticulture.

### 3 THE RESURRECTION OF CHEMICAL IR AGENTS

#### 3.1 Plant defence priming

The costs associated with prolonged expression of defences, has resulted in the evolution of priming as a more cost-efficient strategy for IR, which allows plants to mount a faster and/or stronger BR response against attackers.<sup>61,62</sup> Although priming typically manifests itself as a long-term consequence of transient defence induction to biotic stress, chemical IR agents can serve as suitable priming stimuli when applied in relatively low doses.<sup>50</sup> In some instances, plants receiving such treatments have been shown to display minimal defence induction before pathogen encounter, although their effectiveness tends to be lower than chemically induced IR mediated by direct upregulation of defences.<sup>63,64</sup> Furthermore, IR via priming is still associated with a reduction in plant growth and seed set, albeit minor, which can make it unfavourable in stress-free conditions.<sup>20,62,65</sup> However, these costs are outweighed by the benefits of protection under stressful conditions.<sup>51,62,63</sup> Given the significance of priming for plants in their natural environment, it has strong potential to be developed into an energetically (and environmentally) benign plant protection strategy. To this end, it is necessary to ascertain how a given IR chemical behaves – for instance, at what concentrations do IR agents switch from priming activity to a more costly direct induction of basal defences? Regardless of the nature of the priming stimuli, Martinez-Medina *et al.* (2016)<sup>62</sup> proposed a set of sequential criteria that must be satisfied, namely (i) a memory of the priming stimulus with a low fitness cost, and (ii) a stress trigger that

induces a faster and/or stronger defence response resulting in improved disease protection. Indeed, since the potential of priming was highlighted by Conrath *et al.* (2006),<sup>61</sup> the capacities of priming chemicals, both natural and synthetic, have been documented in a variety of plant pathosystems.<sup>66</sup> Although it is now commonly acknowledged that the use of priming chemicals in agriculture is reduced by their limited efficacy and variable performance, optimizing their potential as components of IPM is becoming appealing.<sup>67–69</sup>

#### 3.2 Integrating chemical IR agents into IPM

IPM is a strategy for combating plant pests and diseases, using all available environmentally benign methods whilst minimizing the applications of chemical pesticides, to keep them below the economic injury level (EIL) threshold. Chemical IR agents fit well into IPM as they can be a replacement for a conventional pesticide or they could be a means of reducing their dosage. Moreover, other components commonly used in IPM could be used as means to improve some of the problems associated with chemical IR agents and thus make them more efficacious. However, IPM is applied to multiple crops with multiple pathogens, some of which are coincidental in time and/or space. Therefore, it is important to understand the principles whereby IPM components are combined and how these will impact different host–pathogen systems. In the remainder of this review, we explore various approaches to improve the efficacy of chemical IR agents (Table 1), and discuss how these can be included within IPM strategies.

#### 3.3 Combining biocontrol and chemical IR

One approach to increase the protection levels of chemical IR agents is to combine them with other agents. Several studies have shown that chemical IR agents and biological control agent (BCAs) in combination results in improved disease control. BCAs are naturally occurring communities antagonistic to specific plant pests and pathogens that have minimal nontarget effects<sup>89</sup> and are a common component of IPM. The most investigated BCAs in this regard are the *Trichoderma* spp., which grow chemotropically toward the roots of many crop species. In the roots, they produce various metabolites that promote plant growth through enhanced nutrient availability. Furthermore, *Trichoderma* spp. also induce plant defence pathways and ultimately inhibit plant pathogens.<sup>90</sup> In bread wheat plants (*Triticum aestivum* L.) receiving combined MeJA and *Trichoderma harzianum* UBSTH-501, spot blotch (*Bipolaris sorokiniana*) symptoms were reduced significantly in comparison to plants receiving either treatment alone. The efficacy of this combined treatment corresponded with enhanced production of the plant development and growth promoter, indole acetic acid in the plant rhizosphere.<sup>70</sup> In another study, MeJA, SA and *T. harzianum* treatments individually gave a similar level of protection against *Fusarium oxysporum* wilt disease in tomato. However, their combination resulted in a synergistic induction of tomato antioxidant defences against *F. oxysporum*.<sup>71</sup> Likewise, combining *T. harzianum* and ASM was significantly better at controlling *Botrytis fabae* disease severity in faba bean plants than either treatment alone.<sup>72</sup> Whilst in most cases the complementary protection conferred by BCAs and chemical elicitor combinations is not complete, in some cases it has been possible to give a high level of protection. A combination of *T. harzianum* and ASM was shown to give complete protection in faba bean plants against *Botrytis cinerea* infection.<sup>72</sup> Other BCAs also have been shown to complement chemical IR agents. For instance, the saprophytic yeast-like fungus

**Table 1.** Strategies used to improve the efficacy of chemical IR agents

Strategy	Agent(s)	Pathosystem	Effect	Ref
Combining biocontrol and chemical IR	MeJA – <i>T. harzianum</i>	wheat	Reduced symptoms. Combination more effective than either treatment alone. Increased biomass	70
	MeJA – SA – <i>T. harzianum</i>	tomato	Synergistic induction of defences. Increased biomass	71
	ASM – <i>T. harzianum</i>	faba bean	Combination improved efficacy	72
	ASM – <i>A. pullulans</i>	kiwifruit	Combination gave complete protection	73
	ASM – BABA – <i>cis</i> -jasnone	barley	Combination improved efficacy	74
	ASM – BABA	grapevine	Improved efficacy. Reduced toxicity	75
Combining chemical IR agents and fungicides	BABA – Mancozeb	potato	Additive protective effective	76
		tomato	Synergistically increased its fungicide efficacy.	
Rationally designed IR agents		cucumber		
	BABA – Fluazinam	potato	Full fungicide activity achieved with a 20–25% lower dose	77
	ASM – Mancozeb	chickpea	ASM application frequency reduced. Improved grain yields.	78
	BABA – Fosetyl-AI	grapevine	Additive protective effective with half recommended fungicide dose	75
	BABA – N-(Trichloromethylthio) Phthalimide			
Rationally designed IR agents	[BABA <sup>-</sup> ] [Cholinium <sup>+</sup> ]	tobacco	Reduced phytotoxicity	79
	[ASMCOO <sup>-</sup> ] [Cholinium <sup>+</sup> ]		Reduced phytotoxicity. Improved disease resistance	
Structural analogues	[INA <sup>-</sup> ] [Cholinium <sup>+</sup> ]	cucumber	Improved disease resistance	80
	L1-3a and L1-4a novel benzotriazole	tomato	Efficacy comparable to ASM	
Multi-action IR agents	RBH new IB11 ligand	Arabidopsis	Resistance to both biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens without growth retardation	81
		tomato		
		wheat		
		tobacco		
Transgenerational IR	Aescin	Arabidopsis	A member of the antimicrobial saponins. Induced resistance	85
	BABA	Arabidopsis	Progeny became more responsive to BABA priming	86
Enhanced transgenerational resistance	BABA	common bean	Enhanced transgenerational resistance	87
	INA	Arabidopsis	Increased resistance in progeny to caterpillar herbivory	88

*Aureobasidium pullulans* CG163 in combination with ASM showed significantly reduced leaf spot incidence compared to untreated plants. The CG163 + ASM combination treatment was more effective than either treatment alone. Furthermore, in plants receiving both treatments there was significant upregulation in expression of the defence-related genes *PR1*, Class IV chitinase and  $\beta$ -1,3-glucosidase. This change in gene expression correlated positively with treatment efficacy and expression was highest in plants receiving the combined CG163 + ASM.<sup>73</sup>

In addition to improving protective efficacy, BCA–chemical IR agent combinations have also been shown to improve growth. In bread wheat plants, combined MeJA and *T. harzianum* treatment resulted in significantly higher biomass, both in the presence and absence of *B. sorokiniana* infection.<sup>70</sup> In tomato, combining MeJA or SA with *T. harzianum* improved the protection against *F. oxysporum* disease incidence more than treatment with SA or MeJA alone. Furthermore, as a result of the improved protection, biomass also was significantly higher in plants receiving the combined treatment.<sup>71</sup>

### 3.4 The compatibility of chemical IR agents with biocontrol organisms

Given the broad-spectrum effectiveness of nonhost immunity, chemical treatments intended to trigger IR responses against plant antagonists also could cause deleterious effects on plant mutualists, and so the combinations of chemical IR agents and BCAs in IPM needs careful selection. Examining the effects of IR establishment by ASM application on soybean–rhizobia and soybean–AMF mutualisms, *in vitro* the chemical had no direct effect on the growth of the rhizobia *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* and only a slight inhibition at very high doses on the AMF *Glomus mosseae*. However, both seed and foliar spray application caused increased IR biochemical markers, reduced *B. japonicum* soybean symbiosis efficiency and reduced *G. mosseae* mycorrhization in soybean.<sup>91</sup> A similar finding also was reported by de Román *et al.* (2011)<sup>92</sup> who found foliar treatment of soybean with ASM led to a significant, but moderate, defence response in the plant roots which transiently decreased AMF colonization. This defence induction was not associated with an allocation cost, and so the negative effects on AMF colonization were likely due to defence induction rather than changes in resource allocation. Nevertheless, chemical IR treatments do not always impact plant mutualists negatively and it seems that with some chemicals, certain doses and appropriate application methods, they can be used together without disadvantage to plant mutualists. In sunflower, the effects of ASM and BABA on the downy mildew *Plasmopara helianthi* and the AMF *G. mosseae* differed by application method. When applied as a soil drench, the chemicals gave a 50–55% protection against the downy mildew; although ASM application decreased *G. mosseae* colonization, BABA application did not. When applied as a foliar spray, protection increased to 80% and neither chemical impacted *G. mosseae* colonization. *In vitro*, ASM had an inhibitory effect on *G. mosseae* germination, however BABA promoted germination.<sup>93</sup> In other studies, the negative effects of chemical IR agents on plant mutualists was shown to be dose-dependent. In soybean, SA root application had no impact at lower doses typically used to induce resistance and only had a negative impact at very high doses.<sup>94</sup> Likewise, MeJA root application to cucumber could negatively or positively effect mycorrhizal colonization, with higher doses reducing growth and lower doses promoting it.<sup>95</sup>

### 3.5 Combining chemical IR agents

Combining different chemical IR agents also has shown promise under field conditions. In barley, Walters *et al.* (2011)<sup>74</sup> found improved control of powdery mildew using ASM, BABA and JA combined treatments. Given the growth costs associated with higher and more protective doses in many chemical IR agents, using low doses of multiple agents for additive or synergistic IR effects with minimal growth costs is a potential means of improving their efficacy. In one study, Reuveni *et al.* (2001)<sup>75</sup> established that BABA–ASM mix applied at half the recommended dose had an additive effect, effectively controlling *Plasmopara viticola* in grapevines. Despite this early promise, the strategy of combined chemical IR agents has received little further attention.

### 3.6 Combining chemical IR agents and fungicides

Likewise, results from chemical IR agent–biocide combinations show a complementary potential in which any deleterious effects of both protection products can be reduced. An application of a mixture of BABA and the fungicide mancozeb was significantly more effective at controlling potato late blight (*P. infestans*) as well as tomato and cucumber mildew (*Pseudoperonospora cubensis*) than either BABA or mancozeb alone. The inclusion of BABA in the mancozeb fungicide synergistically increased its efficacy in plants with 5:1 BABA: mancozeb showing the highest synergy factor. Application of the BABA and mancozeb mixture did not have a synergistic interaction in controlling the pathogens *in vitro*, thus demonstrating that BABA-induced resistance enhanced mancozeb fungicide efficacy, with lower doses required to control disease.<sup>76</sup> In potato, a combination of BABA and the fungicide Fluzinam resulted in a synergistic action against late blight. Furthermore, full Fluzinam activity was achieved with a 20–25% lower dose under field conditions.<sup>77</sup> Likewise, ASM efficacy improved in combination with mancozeb. In chickpea plants, repeated ASM application protected against chickpea blight (*Didymella rabiei*) but also resulted in yield penalties. Instead, when using a ASM–mancozeb mix, with reduced application frequency, grain yields were better than those achieved with ASM or mancozeb applications alone.<sup>78</sup>

### 3.7 Dual-action IR agents

Besides the combination of chemical IR agents with fungicides, another strategy employed to improve their performance has been identifying compounds combining biocidal and IR activity. One group of chemicals with such dual modes of action are the strobilurins, introduced in the 1990s as broad-spectrum fungicides. It became apparent that they also improved plant health and yield in the absence of disease pressure and prime plant defences. In *NahG* transgenic tobacco deficient in SAR, the strobilurin Pyraclostrobin enhanced resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* and TMV by priming *PR-1* gene activation.<sup>82,83</sup> In an effort to find dual-action compounds, Schillheim *et al.* (2018)<sup>84</sup> developed a high-throughput assay to screen cultured parsley for compounds that prime the secretion of antimicrobial phytoalexins and found 1-isothiocyanato-4-methylsulfinylbutane (SFN). In *Arabidopsis*, this compound primed *WRKY6* gene expression and reduced susceptibility to *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis*. Additionally, SFN showed broad antimicrobial action, directly inhibiting the growth of the oomycete *H. arabidopsidis*, the fungus *Plectosphaerella cucumerina* and the bacterium *P. syringae*. Also turning to natural plant antimicrobials to find dual-action molecules, Trdá *et al.* (2019)<sup>85</sup> compared the antifungal activities of several members of the Saponins, a group of compounds found

in several plant species and considered antimicrobial. Among the saponins tested, aescin showed the strongest antifungal activity. In terms of plant defence induction, aescin showed strong defence induction in Rapeseed against *Leptosphaeria maculans* and in *Arabidopsis* against *P. syringae*.

### 3.8 Rationally designed chemical IR agents

In other approaches, researchers used rational design to develop a range of new or modified IR molecules. To improve efficacy and reduce phytotoxicity, Kukawka et al. (2018)<sup>79</sup> took the approach of ionic pairing by combining various IR agents with the cholinium cation to form ionic liquids (ILs). BABA, ASM and INA ionically bonded to cholinium – an essential nutrient in the cells of many organisms and which is nontoxic and biodegradable<sup>96</sup> – were tested on the tobacco–TMV pathosystem. ASM and INA, paired with cholinium, had improved disease resistance efficacy. BABA disease efficacy decreased slightly; however, its phytotoxicity, along with that of ASM, drastically reduced.

Since the development of INA and ASM, improvements in large-scale chemical screens and computer-aided drug design have enabled the screening of vast numbers of chemicals for IR properties at a relatively low cost. Chang et al. (2017)<sup>80</sup> virtually screened the Maybridge database, a collection of over 53 000 organic compounds, using the chemical structures of ASM, MeSA and SA to identify three benzotriazole lead compounds. From one of these (L1), which had a 3D structure similar to ASM, two derivatives (3a and 4a) were potent SAR activators. Both L1-3a and 4a gave high protection in a several pathosystems including cucumber–*B. cinerea* and tomato–*P. infestans*.

In addition to screening for structural analogues of known IR molecules, using knowledge of IR receptor structure has been another approach taken to find novel IR ligands. Buswell et al. (2018),<sup>81</sup> in an attempt to find BABA analogues that induce resistance without stunting plant growth, started with the structure of the BABA receptor IB11 and through site-directed mutagenesis, found that an (I)-aspartic acid-binding domain was critical for BABA perception. Using ligand-interaction modelling of the binding domain, they screened a library of  $\beta$ -amino acids and identified seven resistance-inducing compounds, of which (*R*)- $\beta$ -homoserine (RBH) had the strongest activity. RBH, like BABA, conferred resistance to both biotrophic and necrotrophic pathogens in taxonomically unrelated plant species, but without the growth retardation associated with BABA.

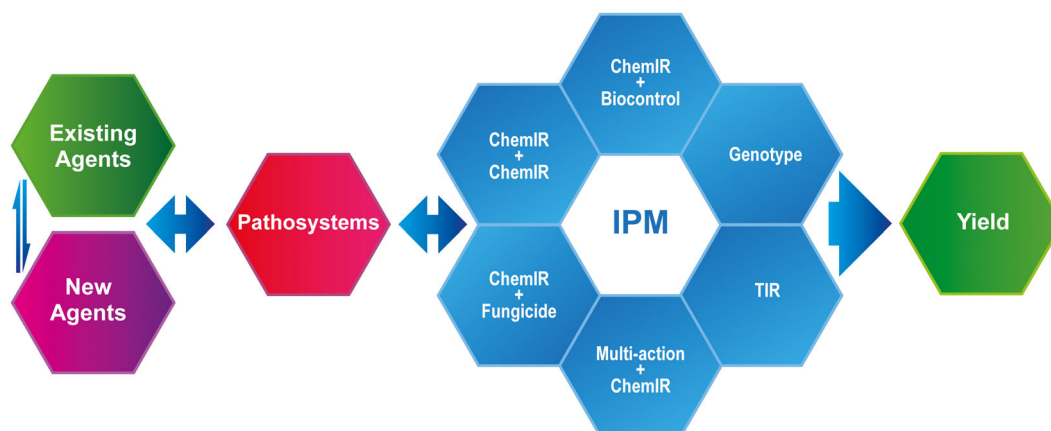
### 3.9 Selecting optimal pathosystems for priming

Understanding species, cultivar and pathogen-dependent responses to chemical IR treatments is crucial to selecting pathosystem appropriate treatments. Chemical IR agent efficacy in some instances is known to be cultivar-dependent. In several cultivars of spring barley, induced resistance to *Rhynchosporium commune* (formerly *R. secalis*) by combined BABA, ASM and MeJA treatment resulted in infection levels that ranged from high to nonexistent.<sup>97</sup> In other studies, chemical IR treatment efficacy was shown to be influenced by cultivar resistance levels. In tobacco infected with *Peronospora hyoscyami* f.sp. *tabacina*, ASM provided effective control in partially resistant, but not susceptible, cultivars.<sup>98</sup> Likewise, in cucumber INA efficacy against *Sphaerotheca fuliginea* infection was best in partially resistant cultivars.<sup>40</sup> By contrast, both ASM and INA efficacy against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in soybean was superior in susceptible cultivars.<sup>53</sup> Likewise, the efficacy of chemical IR agents also can depend on the identity of the attacking pathogen. In tomato, ABA application

led to antagonistic cross-talk between the ABA- and SA-responsive defence pathways, resulting in increased susceptibility to *B. cinerea*,<sup>99</sup> while in *Arabidopsis* pre-treatment with SA caused cross-talk between the SA- and JA-dependent defence, causing increased susceptibility to *Alternaria brassicicola*.<sup>100</sup> In barley, saccharin, a derivative of probenazole, gave high levels of protection against the biotrophic fungi *Blumeria graminis*<sup>101</sup> and the hemi-biotrophic fungus *R. commune*,<sup>102</sup> while in *Arabidopsis* it protected against infection by hemibiotrophic *P. syringae* DC3000.<sup>103</sup> However, saccharin of *Arabidopsis* also caused increased susceptibility to the necrotrophic pathogens *B. cinerea* and *Pectobacterium carotovorum*, presumably owing to antagonistic signalling cross-talk. Indeed, saccharin treatment of *Arabidopsis* resulted in the upregulation of SA-responsive genes and the simultaneous downregulation of JA-responsive genes.<sup>103</sup> In addition to some chemical IR agents resulting in increased susceptibility to some pathogens, mixtures of chemical IR agents may lead to undesirable outcomes due to the complex cross-talk between plant defence pathways. However, apart from considerable evidence that SA- and JA-dependent defence pathways are antagonistic,<sup>104</sup> there is evidence of the simultaneous expression of SA- and JA-mediated defences.<sup>105–108</sup> Mur et al. (2006)<sup>109</sup> found that co-treatment of tobacco and *Arabidopsis* with relatively low concentrations of SA and JA resulted in transient synergistic effects on the expression of SA- and JA-dependent defence genes, while higher concentrations of these hormones resulted in antagonism.<sup>109</sup> In wheat, simultaneous application of MeJA and *T. harzianum* followed by challenge with *B. sorokiniana* resulted in the induction of both JA- and SA-dependent defence signalling. Plants treated with *T. harzianum* showed increased SA levels, enhanced accumulation of total free phenolics and increased activities of defence-related enzymes, but addition of MeJA to *T. harzianum* treatment did not affect SA induction.<sup>70</sup> By contrast, in freesia inflorescences, MeJA significantly reduced *B. cinerea* disease severity but the addition of ASM to MeJA significantly reduced its efficacy.<sup>110</sup> Likewise, in barley, combined treatment of ASM, BABA and cis-jasmone activated SAR, while suppressing the JA signalling pathway.<sup>74</sup> Treatment resulted in an upregulation of the SAR marker *PR1-b* and a substantial downregulation of the *LOX2* gene involved in JA biosynthesis. Furthermore, plants receiving this combination treatment became resistant to powdery mildew, which is effectively controlled by SA-dependent defences. At the same time, plants became more susceptible to the hemi-necrotrophic leaf spot pathogen *Ramularia collo-cygni*, which is controlled by JA-dependent defences.<sup>74</sup>

### 3.10 Transgenerational IR

Since the first systematic studies by Ross in the 1960s, IR has been portrayed as a long-lasting resistance response. It is only recently that this aspect of IR has gained renewed attention in the context of epigenetic regulation. Seeds or seedlings treated with chemical IR agents develop a long-lasting priming that can be maintained for several weeks.<sup>58,111</sup> Furthermore, following sporadic early reports that progeny from biotic stress-exposed plants, such as tobacco by TMV<sup>112</sup> and wild radish by caterpillars,<sup>113</sup> there is now solid evidence from independent studies that priming can be transmitted epigenetically to following generations. Slaughter et al. (2012)<sup>86</sup> reported that progeny of BABA-treated *Arabidopsis* displayed enhanced resistance to *H. arabidopsidis* and *P. syringae*, which was associated with increased responsiveness to priming treatment by BABA ('primed to be primed').<sup>86</sup> Walters and Peterson (2012)<sup>114</sup> showed that barley from acibenzolar-5-methyl-



**Figure 1.** Improving chemical IR efficacy: existing agents or new agents developed in rational design (Chem-IR) are tested in target pathosystems until effective agent(s) are found. The efficacy can be further improved in combination with other treatments and effective strategies can be further combined. Efficacious treatments can be tested in transgenerationally-primed plants and the cycle repeated until an optimal treatment that can be integrated in to an effective IPM strategy.

and saccharin-treated parents exhibited enhanced resistance to infection by *R. commune*. Furthermore, treatment of common bean with both BABA and INA resulted in transgenerational IR against *P. syringae*,<sup>87</sup> whereas MeJA-treated *Arabidopsis* was found to produce progeny primed for JA-dependent defences against herbivory.<sup>88</sup> A suite of recent *Arabidopsis*-based studies have shown that transgenerational IR relies on a complex interplay of DNA (de)methylation pathways in the plant.<sup>20,115–118</sup> Despite these promising new insights, the potential of IR agents to exploit transgenerational IR in the field has received limited attention. The main obstacles come from the relative weakness of transgenerational IR, as well as costs arising from increased susceptibility to other (a)biotic stresses.<sup>115,119</sup> A potentially more promising strategy for the exploitation of transgenerational IR comes from direct manipulation of the epigenetic makeup of the plant. Furci *et al.* (2019)<sup>118</sup> identified selected hypo-methylated regions of DNA in the *Arabidopsis* genome, which provided near complete levels of primed resistance against downy mildew and that remained stable over at least eight generations of inbreeding.

### 3.11 Chemical IR in practical crop protection

With the continuing expansion of our understanding of the mechanistic basis of IR, the characterization of the action of many chemical IR agents in many pathosystems and the availability of more effective agents, it is reasonable to hope that these agents have the potential to become widely used crop protection products. In the field, prediction of the actions of applied chemical IR agents is difficult as this is a relatively uncontrolled environment where many abiotic and biotic stresses will trigger plant responses that can lead to complex interactions with the agents<sup>51,120,121</sup> and so their use must be carefully targeted. However, in more controlled environments such as glasshouses or highly controlled vertical farming chambers, their potential is high. Under such controlled conditions, it should be possible to combine IPM measures that include chemical IR agents in a way that has more predictable outcomes. Also, under these controlled environments, there is a scope for formulating bespoke treatments that are highly targeted to the biotic stress vulnerabilities of the system. Furthermore, for organic growers that desire natural means of protecting produce, the exploitation of IR agents can fulfil such requirements. Indeed, interest

in 'natural' protection products is growing. The global plant biostimulants (a term used for commercial products that are marketed as stimulants of natural plant growth and/or protection) market is forecast to reach US\$4.5 billion by 2027 and have an annual growth rate of 11.2% during the period 2020–2027.<sup>122</sup> In order to provide improved products to this growing market, it is necessary to increase the translation of the mechanistic knowledge of IR, into applied research that incorporates chemical IR into IPM.

## 4 CONCLUSION

Chemical IR agents that lack biocidal action but instead augment plant resistance to invaders may be a viable option in the tool kit for plant pest and pathogen control. These chemical IR agents, initially billed as cost-free potential alternatives to conventional pesticides, have not been used widely in agriculture, limited by their insufficient efficacy compared with conventional biocides, variable efficacy and yield penalties. Although achieving levels of disease control with chemical IR agents that are on par with conventional pesticides may be ambitious, as we slowly move away from the philosophy of 'zero tolerance' in the control of plant pests and pathogens, the integration of chemical IR agents into IPM strategies, in which the aim is to keep pests and pathogens below the economic injury level, has merit.

We have outlined potential strategies by which the efficacy of chemical IR agents as components of IPM might be optimized (Fig. 1). The efficacy of these chemicals depends on the pathosystem in question and through experimentation, it is possible to optimize their performance. In the process of optimization, several successful approaches have been demonstrated. The combination of chemical IR agents with plant mutualists and with other chemical IR agents has resulted in both increased protection and reduced toxicity. Likewise, chemical IR agents in combination with fungicides can reduce the required dosage of the latter. Furthermore, rational molecule design approaches hold the promise of a new and more effective generation of chemical IR agents. While in terms of breeding crops more responsive to these treatments, the phenomenon of transgenerational IR holds promise. These approaches must be based on an understanding of not only their known mechanisms of crop protection, but also the range of



outcomes from experimentation with dose, environment and pathosystem combination. These are strategies that could result in considerable progress towards more robust IPM exploiting a novel range of tools to best effect and drive the development of new crop protectants designed for high efficacy in IPM application.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS), Strategic Research funding IPM work under its Strategic Research Programme Crop and Grassland Production and Disease Control 2016-2021 work package; the Royal Horticultural Society and the Mylnefield Trust for funding the studentship 'Benign Enhancement of Natural Defences'. We also thank support from a proof-of-concept grant from the European Research Council (no. 824985 'ChemPrime') and a BBSRC-Industry Partnership Award grant with ENZA Zaden to JT (BB/P006698/1).

## REFERENCES

- Jones JGD and Dangl JL, The plant immune system. *Nature* **444**:323–329 (2006).
- Cui H, Tsuda K and Parker JE, Effector-triggered immunity: from pathogen perception to robust defense. *Annu Rev Plant Biol* **66**:487–511 (2015).
- García-Arenal F and McDonald BA, An analysis of the durability of resistance to plant viruses. *Phytopathology* **93**:941–952 (2003).
- Mundt CC, Durable resistance: a key to sustainable management of pathogens and pests. *Infect Genet Evol* **27**:446–455 (2014).
- Couto D and Zipfel C, Regulation of pattern recognition receptor signalling in plants. *Nat Rev Immunol* **16**:537–552 (2016).
- Pel MJC and Pieterse CMJ, Microbial recognition and evasion of host immunity. *J Exp Bot* **64**:1237–1248 (2013).
- Rajamuthiah R and Mylonakis E, Effector triggered immunity activation of innate immunity in metazoans by bacterial effectors. *Virulence* **5**:697–702 (2014).
- Thordal-Christensen H, A holistic view on plant effector-triggered immunity presented as an iceberg model. *Cell Mol Life Sci* **77**:3963–3976 (2020).
- Pritchard L and Birch PRJ, The zigzag model of plant-microbe interactions: is it time to move on? *Mol Plant Pathol* **15**:865–870 (2014).
- Tsuda K and Katagiri F, Comparing signaling mechanisms engaged in pattern-triggered and effector-triggered immunity. *Curr Opin Plant Biol* **13**:459–465 (2010).
- Naveed ZA, Wei X, Chen J, Mubeen H and Ali GS, The PTI to ETI continuum in Phytophthora-plant interactions. *Front Plant Sci* **11**:593905 (2020).
- Luna E, Pastor V, Robert J, Flors V, Mauch-Mani B and Ton J, Callose deposition: a multifaceted plant defense response. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact* **24**:183–193 (2011).
- Qi J, Wang J, Gong Z and Zhou JM, Apoplastic ROS signaling in plant immunity. *Curr Opin Plant Biol* **38**:92–100 (2017).
- Bacete L, Mélida H, Miedes E and Molina A, Plant cell wall-mediated immunity: cell wall changes trigger disease resistance responses. *Plant J* **93**:614–636 (2018).
- Kuźniak E and Kopczyński T, The chloroplast reactive oxygen species-redox system in plant immunity and disease. *Front Plant Sci* **11**:12 (2020).
- Ton J, Flors V and Mauch-Mani B, The multifaceted role of ABA in disease resistance. *Trends Plant Sci* **14**:310–317 (2009).
- Pieterse CMJ, Van Der Does D, Zamioudis C, Leon-Reyes A and SCM VW, Hormonal modulation of plant immunity. *Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol* **28**:489–521 (2012).
- Koornneef A and Pieterse CMJ, Cross Talk in Defense Signaling: Figure 1. *Plant Physiol* **146**:839–844 (2008).
- Vos IA, Moritz L, Pieterse CMJ and Van Wees SCM, Impact of hormonal crosstalk on plant resistance and fitness under multi-attacker conditions. *Front Plant Sci* **6**:639 (2015).
- Wilkinson SW, Magerøy MH, López Sánchez A, Smith LM, Furci L, Cotton TEA *et al.*, Surviving in a hostile world: plant strategies to resist pests and diseases. *Annu Rev Phytopathol* **57**:505–529 (2019).
- Walters D, Walsh D, Newton A and Lyon G, Induced resistance for plant disease control: maximizing the efficacy of resistance elicitors. *Phytopathology* **95**:1368–1373 (2005).
- Ross AF, Systemic acquired resistance induced by localized virus infections in plants. *Virology* **14**:340–358 (1961).
- Sticher L, Mauch-Mani B and Métraux J, Systemic acquired resistance. *Annu Rev Phytopathol* **35**:235–270 (1997).
- Spoel SH and Dong X, How do plants achieve immunity? Defence without specialized immune cells. *Nat Rev Immunol* **12**:89–100 (2012).
- Pieterse CM, van Wees SC, Hoffland E, van Pelt JA and van Loon LC, Systemic resistance in Arabidopsis induced by biocontrol bacteria is independent of salicylic acid accumulation and pathogenesis-related gene expression. *Plant Cell* **8**:1225–1237 (1996).
- Pieterse CMJ, Van Wees SCM, Van Pelt JA, Knoester M, Laan R, Gerrits H *et al.*, A novel signaling pathway controlling induced systemic resistance in Arabidopsis. *Plant Cell* **10**:1571–1580 (1998).
- Pieterse CMJ, Zamioudis C, Berendsen RL, Weller DM, Van Wees SCM and Bakker PAHM, Induced systemic resistance by beneficial microbes. *Annu Rev Phytopathol* **52**:347–375 (2014).
- Farmer EE and Ryan CA, Octadecanoid precursors of Jasmonic acid activate the synthesis of wound-inducible proteinase inhibitors. *Plant Cell* **4**:129–134 (1992).
- Délano-Frier JP, Martínez-Gallardo NA, Martínez-De La Vega O, Salas-Araiza MD, Barbosa-Jaramillo ER, Torres A *et al.*, The effect of exogenous jasmonic acid on induced resistance and productivity in amaranth (*Amaranthus hypochondriacus*) is influenced by environmental conditions. *J Chem Ecol* **30**:1001–1034 (2004).
- Mageroy MH, Wilkinson SW, Tengs T, Cross H, Almvik M, Pétriacq P *et al.*, Molecular underpinnings of methyl jasmonate-induced resistance in Norway spruce. *Plant Cell Environ* **43**:1827–1843 (2020).
- Ton J, Van Pelt JA, Van Loon LC and Pieterse CMJ, Differential effectiveness of salicylate-dependent and Jasmonate/ethylene-dependent induced resistance in Arabidopsis. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact* **15**:27–34 (2002).
- Van Wees SC, Van der Ent S and Pieterse CM, Plant immune responses triggered by beneficial microbes. *Curr Opin Plant Biol* **11**:443–448 (2008).
- Thevenet D, Pastor V, Baccelli I, Balmer A, Vallat A, Neier R *et al.*, The priming molecule  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid is naturally present in plants and is induced by stress. *New Phytol* **213**:552–559 (2017).
- Luna E, van Hulst M, Zhang Y, Berkowitz O, López A, Pétriacq P *et al.*, Plant perception of  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid is mediated by an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase. *Nat Chem Biol* **10**:450–456 (2014).
- Zimmerli L, Jakab G, Métraux JP and Mauch-Mani B, Potentiation of pathogen-specific defense mechanisms in Arabidopsis by  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **97**:12920–12925 (2000).
- Ton J, Jakab G, Toquin V, Flors V, Iavicoli A, Maeder MN *et al.*, Dissecting the  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid-induced priming phenomenon in Arabidopsis. *Plant Cell* **17**:987–999 (2005).
- Cohen Y, Vaknin M and Mauch-Mani B, BABA-induced resistance: milestones along a 55-year journey. *Phytoparasitica* **44**:513–538 (2016).
- White RF, Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) induces resistance to tobacco mosaic virus in tobacco. *Virology* **99**:410–412 (1979).
- Kogel KH, Beckhove U, Dreschers J, Munch S and Romme Y, Acquired resistance in barley. The resistance mechanism induced by 2, 6-dichloroisonicotinic acid is a phenocopy of a genetically based mechanism governing race-specific powdery mildew resistance. *Plant Physiol* **106**:1269–1277 (1994).
- Hijwegen T and Verhaar MA, Effects of cucumber genotype on the induction of resistance to powdery mildew, *Sphaerotheca fuliginea*, by 2, 6-dichloroisonicotinic acid. *Plant Pathol* **44**:756–762 (1995).
- Schweizer P, Buchala A and Métraux JP, Gene-expression patterns and levels of jasmonic acid in rice treated with the resistance inducer 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid. *Plant Physiol* **115**:61–70 (1997).
- Görlach J, Volrath S, Knauf-Beiter G, Hengy G, Beckhove U, Kogel KH *et al.*, Benzothiadiazole, a novel class of inducers of systemic acquired resistance, activates gene expression and disease resistance in wheat. *Plant Cell* **8**:629–643 (1996).
- Benhamou N and Bélanger RR, Benzothiadiazole-mediated induced resistance to fusarium oxysporum f. sp. radicis-lycopersici in tomato. *Plant Physiol* **118**:1203–1212 (1998).
- Benhamou N and Bélanger RR, Induction of systemic resistance to Pythium damping-off in cucumber plants by benzothiadiazole:

- ultrastructure and cytochemistry of the host response. *Plant J* **14**:13–21 (1998).
- 45 Godard JF, Ziadi S, Monot C, Le Corre D and Silué D, Benzothiadiazole (BTH) induces resistance in cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var botrytis) to downy mildew of crucifers caused by *Peronospora parasitica*. *Crop Prot* **18**:397–405 (1999).
  - 46 Trotel-Aziz P, Couderchet M, Vernet G and Aziz A, Chitosan stimulates defense reactions in grapevine leaves and inhibits development of *Botrytis cinerea*. *Eur J Plant Pathol* **114**:405–413 (2006).
  - 47 Alexandersson E, Mulugeta T, Lankinen Å, Liljeroth E and Andreasson E, Plant resistance inducers against pathogens in Solanaceae species—from molecular mechanisms to field application. *Int J Mol Sci* **17**:1673 (2016).
  - 48 Heil M, Hilpert A, Kaiser W and Linsenmair KE, Reduced growth and seed set following chemical induction of pathogen defence: does systemic acquired resistance (SAR) incur allocation costs? *J Ecol* **88**:645–654 (2000).
  - 49 Heil M and Baldwin IT, Fitness costs of induced resistance: emerging experimental support for a slippery concept. *Trends Plant Sci* **7**:61–67 (2002).
  - 50 Walters D and Heil M, Costs and trade-offs associated with induced resistance. *Physiol Mol Plant Pathol* **71**:3–17 (2007).
  - 51 Walters DR and Fountaine JM, Practical application of induced resistance to plant diseases: an appraisal of effectiveness under field conditions. *J Agric Sci* **147**:523–535 (2009).
  - 52 Bektas Y and Eulgem T, Synthetic plant defense elicitors. *Front Plant Sci* **5**:804 (2014).
  - 53 Dann E, Diers B, Byrum J and Hammerschmidt R, Effect of treating soybean with 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid (INA) and benzothiadiazole (BTH) on seed yields and the level of disease caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in field and greenhouse studies. *Eur J Plant Pathol* **104**:271–278 (1998).
  - 54 Sharma K, Butz AF and Finckh MR, Effects of host and pathogen genotypes on inducibility of resistance in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Pathol* **59**:1062–1071 (2010).
  - 55 Dietrich R, Ploss K and Heil M, Growth responses and fitness costs after induction of pathogen resistance depend on environmental conditions. *Plant Cell Environ* **28**:211–222 (2005).
  - 56 Walters DR, Induced resistance: destined to remain on the sidelines of crop protection? *Phytoparasitica* **38**:1–4 (2010).
  - 57 Knoth C, Salus MS, Girke T and Eulgem T, The synthetic elicitor 3,5-dichloroanthranilic acid induces NPR1-dependent and npr1-independent mechanisms of disease resistance in arabidopsis. *Plant Physiol* **150**:333–347 (2009).
  - 58 Luna E, López A, Kooiman J and Ton J, Role of NPR1 and KYP in long-lasting induced resistance by  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid. *Front Plant Sci* **5**:184 (2014).
  - 59 Sós-Hegedűs A, Juhász Z, Poór P, Kondrák M, Antal F, Tari I *et al.*, Soil drench treatment with  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid increases drought tolerance of potato. *PLoS One* **9**:e114297 (2014).
  - 60 Rodríguez-Salus M, Bektas Y, Schroeder M, Knoth C, Vu T, Roberts P *et al.*, The synthetic elicitor 2-(5-Bromo-2-Hydroxy-phenyl)-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid links plant immunity to hormesis1. *Plant Physiol* **170**:444–458 (2016).
  - 61 Conrath U, Beckers GJM, Flors V, García-Agustín P, Jakab G, Mauch F *et al.*, Priming: getting ready for battle. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact* **19**:1062–1071 (2006).
  - 62 Martínez-Medina A, Flors V, Heil M, Mauch-Mani B, Pieterse CMJ, Pozo MJ *et al.*, Recognizing plant defense priming. *Trends Plant Sci* **21**:818–822 (2016).
  - 63 van Hulst M, Pelsler M, van Loon LC, Pieterse CMJ and Ton J, Costs and benefits of priming for defense in Arabidopsis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* **103**:5602–5607 (2006).
  - 64 Wang K, Liao Y, Kan J, Han L and Zheng Y, Response of direct or priming defense against *Botrytis cinerea* to methyl jasmonate treatment at different concentrations in grape berries. *Int J Food Microbiol* **194**:32–39 (2015).
  - 65 Douma JC, Vermeulen PJ, Poelman EH, Dicke M and Anten NPR, When does it pay off to prime for defense? A modeling analysis. *New Phytol* **216**:782–797 (2017).
  - 66 Walters DR, Newton AC and Lyon GD eds, *Induced Resistance for Plant Defense: a Sustainable Approach to Crop Protection*. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford (2014).
  - 67 Stout MJ, Zehnder GW and Baur ME, Potential for the use of elicitors of plant resistance in arthropod management programs. *Arch Insect Biochem Physiol* **51**:222–235 (2002).
  - 68 Vallad GE and Goodman RM, Systemic acquired resistance and induced systemic resistance in conventional agriculture. *Crop Sci* **44**:1920–1934 (2004).
  - 69 Bruce TJA, Smart LE, Birch ANE, Blok VC, MacKenzie K, Guerrieri E *et al.*, Prospects for plant defence activators and biocontrol in IPM – concepts and lessons learnt so far. *Crop Prot* **97**:128–134 (2017).
  - 70 Singh UB, Malviya D, Singh S, Kumar M, Sahu PK, Singh HV *et al.*, Trichoderma harzianum and methyl jasmonate-induced resistance to *bipolaris sorokiniana* through enhanced phenylpropanoid activities in bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *Front Microbiol* **10**:1697 (2019).
  - 71 Zehra A, Meena M, Dubey MK, Aamir M and Upadhyay RS, Activation of defense response in tomato against fusarium wilt disease triggered by Trichoderma harzianum supplemented with exogenous chemical inducers (SA and MeJA). *Rev Bras Bot* **40**:651–664 (2017).
  - 72 Abd El-Rahman SS and Mohamed HI, Application of benzothiadiazole and Trichoderma harzianum to control faba bean chocolate spot disease and their effect on some physiological and biochemical traits. *Acta Physiol Plant* **36**:343–354 (2014).
  - 73 de Jong H, Reglinski T, Elmer PAG, Wurms K, Vanneste JL, Guo LF *et al.*, Integrated use of aureobasidium pullulans strain CG163 and acibenzolar-S-methyl for management of bacterial canker in kiwifruit. *Plan Theory* **8**:287 (2019).
  - 74 Walters DR, Havis ND, Sablou C and Walsh DJ, Possible trade-off associated with the use of a combination of resistance elicitors. *Physiol Mol Plant Pathol* **75**:188–192 (2011).
  - 75 Reuveni M, Zahavi T and Cohen Y, Controlling downy mildew (*Plasmopara viticola*) in field-grown grapevine with  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid (BABA). *Phytoparasitica* **29**:125–133 (2001).
  - 76 Baider A and Cohen Y, Synergistic interaction between BABA and mancozeb in controlling *Phytophthora infestans* in potato and tomato and *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* in cucumber. *Phytoparasitica* **31**:399–409 (2003).
  - 77 Liljeroth E, Bengtsson T, Wiik L and Andreasson E, Induced resistance in potato to *Phytophthora infestans*—effects of BABA in greenhouse and field tests with different potato varieties. *Eur J Plant Pathol* **127**:171–183 (2010).
  - 78 Sharma KD, Sharma V, Singh R and Nayyar H, Control of chickpea blight disease caused by *Didymella rabiei* by mixing resistance inducer and contact fungicide. *Crop Prot* **30**:1519–1522 (2011).
  - 79 Kukawka R, Czerwoniec P, Lewandowski P, Pospieszny H and Smiglak M, New ionic liquids based on systemic acquired resistance inducers combined with the phytotoxicity reducing cholinium cation. *New J Chem* **42**:11984–11990 (2018).
  - 80 Chang K, Chen JQ, Shi YX, Sun MJ, Li PF, Zhao ZJ *et al.*, The discovery of new scaffold of plant activators: from salicylic acid to benzotriazole. *Chin Chem Lett* **28**:919–926 (2017).
  - 81 Buswell W, Schwarzenbacher RE, Luna E, Sellwood M, Chen B, Flors V *et al.*, Chemical priming of immunity without costs to plant growth. *New Phytol* **218**:1205–1216 (2018).
  - 82 Beck C, Oerke EC and Dehne HW, Impact of strobilurins on physiology and yield formation of wheat. *Meded Rijksuniv Gent Fak Landbouwk Toegep Biol Wet* **67**:181–187 (2002).
  - 83 Herms S, Seehaus K, Koehle H and Conrath U, A strobilurin fungicide enhances the resistance of tobacco against tobacco mosaic virus and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *tabaci*. *Plant Physiol* **130**:120–127 (2002).
  - 84 Schillheim B, Jansen I, Baum S, Beesley A, Bolm C and Conrath U, Sulfuraphane modifies histone H3, unpacks chromatin, and primes defense. *Plant Physiol* **176**:2395–2405 (2018).
  - 85 Trda L, Janda M, Mackova D, Pospichalova R, Dobrev PI, Burketova L *et al.*, Dual mode of the Saponin Aescin in plant protection: antifungal agent and plant defense elicitor. *Front Plant Sci* **10**:1448 (2019).
  - 86 Slaughter A, Daniel X, Flors V, Luna E, Hohn B and Mauch-Mani B, Descendants of primed Arabidopsis plants exhibit resistance to biotic stress. *Plant Physiol* **158**:835–843 (2012).
  - 87 Martínez-Aguilar K, Ramírez-Carrasco G, Hernández-Chávez JL, Barraza A and Alvarez-Venegas R, Use of BABA and INA as activators of a primed state in the common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.). *Front Plant Sci* **7**:653 (2016).
  - 88 Rasmann S, De Vos M, Casteel CL, Tian D, Halitschke R, Sun JY *et al.*, Herbivory in the previous generation primes plants for enhanced insect resistance. *Plant Physiol* **158**:854–863 (2012).

- 89 Cook RJ, Advances in plant health Management in the Twentieth Century. *Annu Rev Phytopathol* **38**:95–116 (2000).
- 90 Mukherjee PK, Horwitz BA, Herrera-Estrella A, Schmoll M and Kenerley CM, Trichoderma research in the genome era. *Annu Rev Phytopathol* **51**:105–129 (2013).
- 91 Faessel L, Nassr N, Lebeau T and Walter B, Chemically-induced resistance on soybean inhibits nodulation and mycorrhization. *Plant and Soil* **329**:259–268 (2010).
- 92 de Román M, Fernández I, Wyatt T, Sahrawy M, Heil M and Pozo MJ, Elicitation of foliar resistance mechanisms transiently impairs root association with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. *J Ecol* **99**:36–45 (2011).
- 93 Tosi L and Zizzerini A, Interactions between *Plasmopara helianthi*, *glomus mosseae* and two plant activators in sunflower plants. *Eur J Plant Pathol* **106**:735–744 (2000).
- 94 Lian B, Zhou X, Miransari M and Smith DL, Effects of salicylic acid on the development and root nodulation of soybean seedlings. *J Agron Crop Sci* **185**:187–192 (2000).
- 95 Toby Kiers E, Adler LS, Grman EL and Van Der Heijden MGA, Manipulating the jasmonate response: how do methyl jasmonate additions mediate characteristics of aboveground and belowground mutualisms? *Funct Ecol* **24**:434–443 (2010).
- 96 Hou X-D, Liu Q-P, Smith TJ, Li N and Zong M-H, Evaluation of toxicity and biodegradability of Cholinium amino acids ionic liquids. *PLoS One* **8**:e59145 (2013).
- 97 Walters DR, Havis ND, Paterson L, Taylor J and Walsh DJ, Cultivar effects on the expression of induced resistance in spring barley. *Plant Dis* **95**:595–600 (2011).
- 98 Perez L, Rodriguez ME, Rodriguez F and Roson C, Efficacy of acibenzolar-S-methyl, an inducer of systemic acquired resistance against tobacco blue mould caused by *Peronospora hyoscyami* f. sp. *tabacina*. *Crop Prot* **22**:405–413 (2003).
- 99 Audenaert K, De Meyer GB and Höfte MM, Abscisic acid determines basal susceptibility of tomato to *Botrytis cinerea* and suppresses salicylic acid-dependent signaling mechanisms. *Plant Physiol* **128**:491–501 (2002).
- 100 Spoel SH, Johnson JS and Dong X, Regulation of tradeoffs between plant defenses against pathogens with different lifestyles. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **104**:18842–18847 (2007).
- 101 Boyle C and Walters DR, Saccharin-induced protection against powdery mildew in barley: effects on growth and phenylpropanoid metabolism. *Plant Pathol* **55**:82–91 (2006).
- 102 Walters DR, Paterson L, Walsh DJ and Havis ND, Priming for plant defense in barley provides benefits only under high disease pressure. *Physiol Mol Plant Pathol* **73**:95–100 (2008).
- 103 Phuong LT, Fitrianti AN, Luan MT, Matsui H, Noutoshi Y, Yamamoto M et al., Antagonism between SA- and JA-signaling conditioned by saccharin in *Arabidopsis thaliana* renders resistance to a specific pathogen. *J Gen Plant Pathol* **86**:86–99 (2020).
- 104 Thaler JS, Humphrey PT and Whiteman NK, Evolution of jasmonate and salicylate signal crosstalk. *Trends Plant Sci* **17**:260–270 (2012).
- 105 Clarke JD, Volko SM, Ledford H, Ausubel FM and Dong X, Roles of salicylic acid, jasmonic acid, and ethylene in cpr-induced resistance in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant Cell* **12**:2175–2190 (2000).
- 106 Imanishi S, Nakakita M, Yamashita K, Furuta A, Utsuno K, Muramoto N et al., Aspirin and salicylic acid do not inhibit methyl jasmonate-induced expression of a gene for ornithine decarboxylase in tobacco BY-2 cells. *Biosci Biotechnol Biochem* **64**:125–133 (2000).
- 107 van Wees SC, de Swart EA, van Pelt JA, van Loon LC and Pieterse CM, Enhancement of induced disease resistance by simultaneous activation of salicylate- and jasmonate-dependent defense pathways in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **97**:8711–8716 (2000).
- 108 Betsuyaku S, Katou S, Takebayashi Y, Sakakibara H, Nomura N and Fukuda H, Salicylic acid and Jasmonic acid pathways are activated in spatially different domains around the infection site during effector-triggered immunity in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant Cell Physiol* **59**:8–16 (2018).
- 109 Mur LAJ, Kenton P, Atzorn R, Miersch O and Wasternack C, The outcomes of concentration-specific interactions between salicylate and jasmonate signaling include synergy, antagonism, and oxidative stress leading to cell death. *Plant Physiol* **140**:249–262 (2006).
- 110 Darras AI, Joyce DC and Terry LA, Methyl jasmonate and acibenzolar-S-methyl protect cut *Freesia hybrida* inflorescences against *Botrytis cinerea*, but do not act synergistically. *J Hort Sci Biotech* **86**:74–78 (2011).
- 111 Worrall D, Holroyd GH, Moore JP, Glowacz M, Croft P, Taylor JE et al., Treating seeds with activators of plant defence generates long-lasting priming of resistance to pests and pathogens. *New Phytol* **193**:770–778 (2012).
- 112 Roberts DA, Acquired resistance to tobacco mosaic virus transmitted to the progeny of hypersensitive tobacco. *Virology* **124**:161–163 (1983).
- 113 Agrawal AA, Laforsch C and Tollrian R, Transgenerational induction of defences in animals and plants. *Nature* **401**:60–63 (1999).
- 114 Walters DR and Paterson L, Parents lend a helping hand to their offspring in plant defence. *Biol Lett* **8**:871–873 (2012).
- 115 Luna E and Ton J, The epigenetic machinery controlling transgenerational systemic acquired resistance. *Plant Signal Behav* **7**:615–618 (2012).
- 116 López Sánchez A, Stassen JHM, Furci L, Smith LM and Ton J, The role of DNA (de)methylation in immune responsiveness of *Arabidopsis*. *Plant J* **88**:361–374 (2016).
- 117 Stassen JHM, López A, Jain R, Pascual-Pardo D, Luna E, Smith LM et al., The relationship between transgenerational acquired resistance and global DNA methylation in *Arabidopsis*. *Sci Rep* **8**:14761 (2018).
- 118 Furci L, Jain R, Stassen J, Berkowitz O, Whelan J, Roquis D et al., Identification and characterisation of hypomethylated DNA loci controlling quantitative resistance in *Arabidopsis*. *Elife* **8**:e40655 (2019).
- 119 López Sánchez A, Pardo DP, Furci L, Roberts M and Ton J, Costs and benefits of transgenerational induced resistance in *Arabidopsis*. *Front Plant Sci* **12**:248 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.644999>.
- 120 Bruce TJA, Variation in plant responsiveness to defense elicitors caused by genotype and environment. *Front Plant Sci* **5**:349 (2014).
- 121 Walters DR, Havis ND, Paterson L, Taylor J, Walsh DJ and Sablou C, Control of foliar pathogens of spring barley using a combination of resistance elicitors. *Front Plant Sci* **5**:241 (2014).
- 122 Global Industry Analysts Inc. Plant Biostimulants - Global Market Trajectory & Analytics. 2020. Available: <https://www.strategyr.com/market-report-plant-biostimulant-forecasts-global-industry-analysts-inc.asp>