

## **A FARMING FUTURE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In an ever-changing agricultural landscape, one of Agricom's goals is to focus on the environmental functionality of forages to ensure they can assist farmers meet their environmental obligations without seriously impacting on-farm profitability. To achieve this, our breeding programmes not only focus on commercialising market leading products but equally, consideration of the environmental fit and functionality of numerous forage species.

It has become evident how important environmental compliance will become in the near future. Currently, there are many unknowns as to what regulation may look like at a regional level, but this will become clearer as time goes on.

Agricom are committed to staying close to these issues and to understand what forage products could potentially be used to help mitigate different scenarios. We have recently commercialised Ecotain® environmental plantain, the only plantain proven to function in four independent ways to reduce nitrogen leaching from the urine patch. Trials support reductions in leaching as great as 89% when used to its maximum effect. Over many years, Agricom has marketed leading forage cereal varieties along with fodder beet. We now understand that both these forage options can play a major role environmentally, firstly as soak crops – the ability of forages such as oats to take up excessive soil N and also fodder beet being a low N use crop. The incorporation of forages like these and many others in time will become more useful within forage cropping rotations to meet future environmental compliance obligations.

Agricom is proud to continue the research into environmentally functional forages across a range of species in order to give New Zealand farmers the best tools to help meet environmental regulations.