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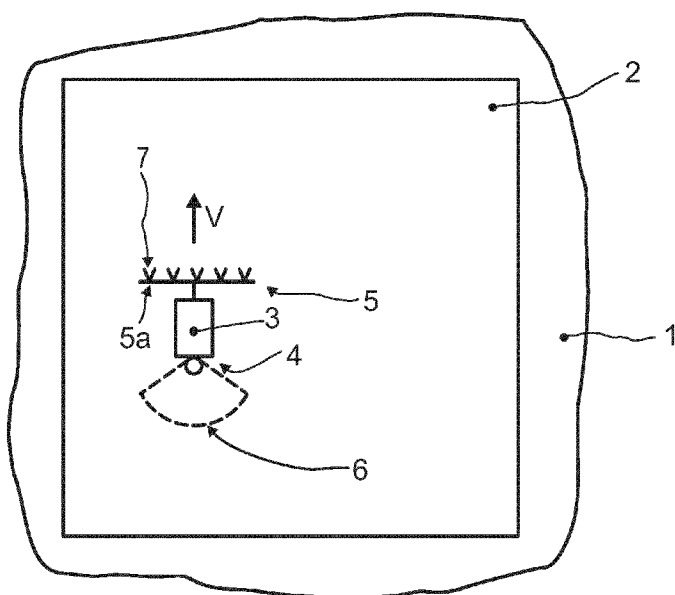
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND VEHICLE FOR APPLYING AN AGROCHEMICAL MIXTURE TO A WORKING AREA OF A FIELD

FIG.1



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for applying an agrochemical mixture to a working area (2) of a field (1) using a vehicle (3) moving on the field (1). Thereby, a solid fertilizer (6) is spread on the working area (2) using a fertilizer spreading device (4) mounted on the vehicle (3; 3a) and a liquid fertilizer additive (7) is sprayed on the working area (2) using a field sprayer (5), mounted on the vehicle (3) separately from the fertilizer spreading device (4). Therein, the liquid fertilizer additive (7) is prevented from coming into contact with surfaces of the fertilizer spreading device (4), which also come into contact with the solid fertilizer (6). Moreover, the invention relates to a vehicle (3) for applying an agrochemical mixture to a working area (2) of a field (1) while moving on the field (1).



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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17 November 2016

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2016/056242

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A01C21/00

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A01C A01B A01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 078 131 A1 (MAKKINK A E) 4 May 1983 (1983-05-04) abstract page 5, line 27 - line 39 page 6, line 1 - line 17 claims; figures	1-8, 10-12
X,P	US 2016/000003 A1 (WENDTE KEITH W [US] ET AL) 7 January 2016 (2016-01-07) abstract page 2, paragraphs 17,18 claims; figures ----- -/-	1-8, 10-12



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2016/056242

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 875 876 A (PUSTOVOIT VASILY FEDOROVICH ET AL) 8 April 1975 (1975-04-08) abstract column 3, line 33 - line 65 claims; figures -----	1-12
A	DE 198 60 306 A1 (HYDRO AGRI DEUTSCHLAND GMBH [DE]) 23 March 2000 (2000-03-23) the whole document -----	6,11,12
A	US 6 444 975 B1 (REUSCH STEFAN [DE]) 3 September 2002 (2002-09-03) the whole document -----	6,11,12
Y	US 5 385 596 A (MAKKINK ANDREW E [ZA]) 31 January 1995 (1995-01-31) abstract column 3, line 22 - line 50 claims; figures -----	13-15
A		1-12
Y	US 6 070 539 A (FLAMME DAVID D [US] ET AL) 6 June 2000 (2000-06-06) abstract column 8, line 22 - line 65 column 9, line 44 - line 58 column 11, line 35 - line 57 claims; figures -----	13-15
A	US 6 199 000 B1 (KELLER RUSSELL J [US] ET AL) 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) abstract column 18, line 57 - line 67 column 19, lines 1-29,62-67 claims; figures -----	13-15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2016/056242

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-12

A method and a vehicle for applying an agrochemical mixture to a working area, comprising spreading a solid fertilizer on the working area using a solid fertilizer spreading device mounted on the vehicle and spraying a liquid fertilizer additive on the working area using a field sprayer, mounted on the vehicle separately from the solid fertilizer spreading device, wherein the liquid fertilizer additive is prevented from coming into contact with surfaces of the solid fertilizer spreading device, which also come into contact with the solid fertilizer.

2. claims: 13-15

A method and a vehicle for applying an agrochemical mixture to a working area of a field using a vehicle moving on the field, comprising spreading a fertilizer on the working area using a fertilizer spreading device mounted on the vehicle, spreading a fertilizer additive on the working area using a field spreader, mounted on the vehicle separately from the fertilizer spreading device, determining the vehicle's geographical position and applying a predetermined quantity of fertilizer and fertilizer additive, respectively, to the field depending on the determined position on the field

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2016/056242

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