

Maize under film not level due to rainfall

Many maize plots are in a moderate state and with maize under film this is not dissimilar. Several plots are growing at different rates. The weight of the machine and the pressure of the tractor wheels prove in many cases too heavy for the soil affected by the heavy rainfall.

On the heavier clay soil, the crop is less affected compared to the lighter soil where different rates of growth has occurred. A recurring issue which according to Hein-Willem Leeraar is that the middle rows of maize under film are in better shape to those on the outsides. The film machine is equipped with a pressure role to increase the water attainment underneath the film.

The wheels of the tractor cause the moist ground to clog up. In 'normal' years this does not need to be a problem, but especially now with a wetter May and June, the ground drainage is affected. To overcome this issue for next year, the machines will be adapted. In front of the seed coulter, a so called goose foot will be fitted which loosens the soil once the tractor wheel has passed it.