

SENSAKO presents

competitive winners to the market



By Willem Otto, Sensako

As a proudly South African company, Sensako aims to develop seed products for the local market in a bid to help keep producers profitable in a competitive market environment.

The well-known brand recently released five adapted SSS soya bean cultivars and has Syngenta's Clearfield sunflower hybrid SY 3970CL available.

Soya bean cultivars released by Sensako for production in South Africa originate from the breeding programme of Argentina's Estación Experimental Agroindustrial Obispo Colombes (EEAOC) – the country's oldest agricultural research station. It was established in 1909 with the aim of improving and supporting agricultural production in the Tucumán province through research and extension services. To acknowledge the important part this international connection plays in local production, the soya bean cultivar name has 'tuc' as a suffix.

The cultivars and advanced breeding lines developed by EEAOC are tested in statistical trials in the



local soya bean production areas. The Sensako trial programme is visited annually by the EEAOC research team to evaluate statistical trials and seed production. Insights around the newest production practices for soya beans are also discussed with the team.

The soya bean cultivars (indeterminate growers with Roundup Ready resistance) released from the programme have excellent agronomic characteristics, different maturity groupings and wide adaptation. Independent results from commercial strip trials, in conjunction with several study groups and farmers' associations, have confirmed the exceptional yield performance, adaptation, stability and stress tolerance of these winning cultivars.

Three best performers

- **SSS 6560tuc:** A long grower and bushlike cultivar with exceptional yield potential adapted for the warmer irrigation, moderate and cooler areas as well as dryland production. Well suited for wider row widths.
- **SSS 5052tuc:** Stable and adapted high-yield potential cultivar for dryland and irrigation. A bushlike but more upright cultivar with good lodging resistance and resistance to shattering.
- **SSS 5449tuc:** Eastern Highveld winner, adapted for high-yield potential in the cooler dryland and irrigation areas. This cultivar is semi-bushy with excellent pod height and lodging resistance, as well as good resistance to shattering. Well suited for narrow row spacings.

Insight into production management

Cultivar and growth class must be selected for maximum utilisation of the two main yield-determining aspects: leaf area (length of vegetative growth phase) and grain-filling period. The planting date is, of course, an inextricable part of the process as the

daylight length pattern for the remainder of the season is directly linked to it.

Soil water determines planting

As rainfall distribution varies across areas, the optimal soil water conditions for successful planting also vary. Especially under dryland production conditions, planting time is determined by soil water conditions, which are, in turn, affected by rainfall and cultivation activity. Changes in the planting date necessitate an adjustment in the choice of growth class of a cultivar that will be least affected by that planting date. If planting is postponed to a later date, the row width and plant population should also be adjusted.

When considering the available planting window, flexibility in cultivar choice is a key management option. Choose the most suitable growth class and cultivar and adjust the row width and plant population to achieve the best yield reaction. The planting window for growth classes includes the risks related to emergence and seedling establishment, length of vegetative growth period, temperatures during flowering period, and the risks early frost can have on grain filling and physiological maturity. These factors directly impact final grain yields.

Competitive sunflower hybrid

Sensako also offers a competitive yield in sunflower plantings with the Clearfield sunflower hybrid SY 3970CL, developed by Syngenta. The tested effect of a focused product – yield plus better weed control – is a winning combination. The cultivar has excellent agronomic characteristics, stable yields in various production areas, and resistance against prevailing diseases.

Performance seed with proven genetics delivering increased profitability by Sensako.

For more information, visit www.sensako.co.za or phone 058 303 4690 (Bethlehem).