

# SENSAKO presents new winners to the market



By Willem Otto and Roean Wessels, Sensako

**S**ensako is back! The well-known brand is making its return to the summer crop market with three new SSS soybean cultivars and the new Clearfield sunflower hybrid SY 3970CL.

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

The soybean cultivars recently released by Sensako for production in South Africa, originate from the breeding programme of Argentina's Estación Experimental Agro-industrial Obispo Colombres (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.

## Development of soybeans

Since its inception, the institution has been playing a major role in the development of new crops for the area. In the early 1960s it was instrumental in the development of soybeans as a grain crop. Today, EEAOC continues to introduce quality cultivars for several production areas through ongoing and effective research by its team of experts.

The cultivars and advanced breeding lines developed by EEAOC were extensively tested in statistical trials in the local soybean production areas over the last six seasons. The Sensako trial programme is also visited annually by the EEAOC research team to evaluate statistical trials and seed production.

Soybean cultivars (indeterminate growers with Roundup Ready resistance) released from the programme vary in their agronomic characteristics, maturity groupings and ability to adapt to different environments. Independent results from commercial strip trials, in conjunction with several study groups and farmers' associations, have also confirmed the exceptional yield performance, adaptation, stability and stress tolerance of the winning cultivars.

## Three new cultivars available

The new range of SSS cultivars produced competitive yields compared to the control cultivars across all production seasons. The seed of three of these cultivars is commercially available for planting next season.

- **SSS 6560tuc – exceptional yield potential and adapted for warmer irrigation areas.** Long grower, bushlike cultivar with exceptional yield potential that is adapted for the warmer irrigation areas, the moderate and cooler areas as well as dryland.
- **SSS 5052tuc – stable and adapted high-yield potential cultivar for dryland and irrigation.** A bushlike but 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.** Semi-bushy cultivar with indeterminate growth pattern, excellent pod height and lodging resistance, as well as good resistance to shattering.

Cultivar and growth class must be selected for maximum utilisation of the two 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

Changes in the planting date necessitates an adjustment in the choice of growth class that will be affected least by the planting date. If planting is postponed to a later date, the row width and plant population should also be adjusted. Under dryland production conditions, the planting time is determined by soil water conditions, which, in turn, is affected by rainfall and cultivation activity.

When considering the available planting window, flexibility in cultivar choice is key. Choose the most suitable growth class and cultivar, and adjust the row width and plant population to achieve the best yield reaction.

## New sunflower hybrid

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

For more information on cultivar characteristics, yield results and seed availability for the next production season, visit [www.sensako.co.za](http://www.sensako.co.za).

We call it the Sensako effect – progress through research.

Seed is marketed and distributed by Senseed. Phone us in Bethlehem on 058 303 4690.