

Boost your profitability with high oil content

With the merging of Syngenta and Sensako, South African producers can benefit from the latest genetics and high-oil sunflower cultivars with additional tolerance against diseases and herbicides.

The thorough and focussed use of technology is the foundation upon which Sensako's activities rests. According to Kobus Lindeque, commercial director: Syngenta Seeds, sub-Saharan Africa, the research, breeding and development of new cultivars is centred around bringing certified seed to the market that will benefit the producer and, eventually, the consumer.

Sensako boasts more than 60 years' involvement in the South African seed industry and is renowned for their leading research, breeding and seed production over the years. Although well known for its contribution to the wheat industry, Sensako also offers producers excellent soya and sunflower products.

SY 3970CL is one of the new generation sunflower hybrids. "The future of sunflower rests in oil. In the past, the focus was always on yield, with processors getting the short end of the stick. Now, the focus is on cultivars with a high oil content that can boost both the processor and producer's profitability,"

says Andries Wessels, product development manager at Syngenta.

More than the standard cultivar

Over the past two seasons, Unigrain and Sensako launched a project which completes the sunflower value chain and holds great benefit for producers. Accredited partners contract producers and assist with production and logistics. Producers can earn a notable premium by delivering seed with a high oil content.

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"The current standard for oil content of sunflower seed is between 36 and 38%, but with Sensako's new SY 3970CL cultivar, producers can realise between 42 and 50% oil content. Plantings of the 2020 season delivered oil percentages of between 45,7 to 50,5%. According

to Unigrain, yield was also higher than expected in many cases," says Andries.

Not only does SY 3970CL have good yield potential, but it also offers good drought tolerance. The seedling has exceptional growth vigour, and it takes around 125 to 130 days to reach relative maturity, and 69 to 72 days to flowering.

This medium grower does not grow very tall and possesses the 'stay green' trait, which prevents plants from falling over before or during harvest. The plant forms a good arched neck at the end of the season and has excellent seed lodging. The seed is black in colour, which helps ensure identity preservation in the value chain.

SY 3970CL is well adjusted to minimum tillage systems, but is also suited to conventional tillage. It can be planted at average to higher plant populations. SY 3970CL is equipped with Clearfield® technology for easier management of broadleaf and grass weeds, and the seed is treated with only the best seed treatment products. 🌱

For more information about the project or to place an order, contact your nearest Sensako agent. Alternatively, send an email to Pieter Craven at pieter.craven@syngenta.com or Andries Wessels at andries.wessels@syngenta.com.