



## **DONMARIO builds its way into South Africa**

On April 16, an article was published in a recognized South African communication media, LBW (Landbouweekblad), in which Francois Hamman, manager of Sojaboon at Agricol (a South African seed company that commercializes the DONMARIO brand in the local market) and Joner Dalcin, GDM Development Supervisor in South Africa, were interviewed.

The article mentions that four new soybean crops were launched from Argentina. Agricol introduced eight new cultivars during a farmers' day, of which four are already registered, with the remaining four which are earmarked as potential cultivars for the future. "We want our farmers, who have to feel that these levies are a positive so that we can bring the best genetics to South Africa. We know our farmers pay the levy and therefore we cannot sit back and wait – we need to move forward with the new genetics," Francois Hamman said.

The management site, where older, proven cultivars such as the famous DM 5953RSF, was planted as well as the potential future cultivars was planted at 0.45 m row width with the aim of determining the effect of this row width on the DONMARIO cultivars, as well as the potential future cultivars. "We also planted trials with soybean seed of opposition companies, to compare the current DONMARIO cultivars with it. These results will also be passed on to farmers," said Hamman.

In America and Brazil, the average soybean yield has the past decade with up to 1.5% per year, while in South Africa improved by only 0.4% per year. The average yield in America, Brazil and Argentina is 3.2 t / ha to 3.5 t / ha. Local is it less than 2 t / ha.

Joner Dalcin, Development Supervisor of GDM in South Africa, says it is also envisaged that the Intacta-gene, which can help among other to lower insect pressure on soybeans, may be released in the DONMARIO series of soybeans to farmers within the next two years.

Dalcin also argues farmers will still have to follow a spray program to prevent resistance, but that the INTACTA technology can contribute to less spray costs.



*IMAGE 1: One of the new potential cultivars, currently only described as Exp1901 already shows good potential as a soybean in the 4.9 maturity group*



*IMAGE 2: Mr. Joner Dalcin, development supervisor of GDM in South Africa (left) and Mr. Francois Hamman, (Soybean crop manager) at Agricol. Hamman would like local farmers to see the levy fees as a positive and that new soybean technology are being tested in South Africa at this stage*



*IMAGE 3: The Don Mario cultivar DM60R05 shows very good branching and full pods, even after having a midsummer drought and shortage of rain between January and March*

**The article was written by journalist GERRIT BEZUIDENHOUT on april 16th 2020**