



Virtual Opening of a GDM Nursery in Brazil

On October 14, more than 700 people were connected to the GDM channel on YouTube for the opening of a nursery in Porto Nacional/TO. Multipliers and collaborators from Brazil, Argentina, the US and other countries could watch the event, which showed briefly how and where the development of a commercial product process takes place.

César Poletto, GDM Business Leader, explained the reason for the virtual ceremony: to involve the largest number of collaborators and multipliers possible. He also commented that the resources for the restructuring of the Nursery are part of GDM global strategy. "The Nursery is very important for the group, since it is where the first phase of the production of commercial products begins. All investment made in the unit are related to the GDM growth plan to generate better varieties to Brazilian growers. This year we are closing our market participation in approximately 50%. Applications destined to the Nursery will generate good results and will boost GDM growth", he highlighted during the broadcast.

Speaking from Argentina, GDM President and CEO, Gerardo Bartolomé, discussed the value of the unit for the group's global strategy. He explained briefly the importance of the germplasm, one of the company's key assets, and the contribution of the genetic material to productivity and the entire breeding program. Next, he talked about the GDM's consolidation in the Brazilian territory and the future technologies that will be available to producers. "We started our business in Brazil in 2003, and the only technology available was the conventional. We went through the first and second transgenic event and both added great value to soybean production. Next year, the complexity will be even greater since we will be offering several technologies such as Roundup Ready, INTACTA, Conkesta, Enlist, Xtend and INTACTA 2. Investments made in Porto Nacional are connected to our mission of delivering elite varieties in different technological platforms to and Brazilian growers and those from countries we operate. A new technology becomes worthless if is not followed by an elite genetics that allows high yield and a safe production" he commented.

Next, Latam Business Director, Santiago De Stefano, based his speech on investments and the work being done in Brazil in the last couple of years". "The resources applied in the Nursery allow GDM to complete the breeding cycle in the country. Currently, Brazil is the largest producer of soybean in the world with the possibility to expand even more its operations. The Nursery restructuring plus the applications made in the Cambé/PR labs in 2019 represent one of the largest investments made by the group in the Brazilian territory. This synergy helps projects to be developed in a much more harmonious way", he said.

Santiago talked about some of the benefits the Nursery will bring to growers since the process researching and developing new cultivars takes place in Brazil, generating more safety, time saving and better logistics. "These investments attest | GDM commitment to growers in continuing launching products that add value to their crops and giving access to several important technologies".



On the other hand, Ezequiel Pozzo, Latam Research Manager, went through the breeding program strategies for the increasing genetic gain and the contributions of the Nursery to this objective. “In the last couple of years, we improved and implemented phenotyping, genotyping tools and environmental data. Information collected through this method converge to bioinformatics, data Science, artificial intelligence and statistical systems. As part of the breeding program, we also use genetic editing techniques to make ad hoc and well-directed changes. Our challenge is to double the current genetic gain from 1.5% to 3%. The Nursery maximizes this advance due to its geographical location which allows inbreeding to be performed every day of the year, converge early generations for biotechnological events, advance with generations from several maturation groups and carry out from three to four breeding cycles”, he explained.

Cristian Brzezinski, GDM Brasil Nursery Manager, finalized the presentations talking about some advantages of the Nursery activities. “We are located in a State that offers favorable climate conditions to handle soybean all year long. In addition, the low latitude, the lack of photoperiod oscillation and the well-defined seasons contribute to the advancement of our projects. We developed a method to work with all maturation groups, from triple zero to late, meeting the demands of Brazil, Argentina, the US and other locations where GDM operates”, he justified.

The re-structuring of the Nursery expanded in more than six times its capacity to produce new genetic materials. The new research center of the unit has more than 1.500 m² and greenhouses focused exclusively on biotechnologies were built in approximately 5.800 m² to meet the needs of GDM projects from the main soybean producing countries such as the US, Argentina in Brazil.

Watch the video and learn more about the Nursery Brasil -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXre5jLUI8M&feature=youtu.be>