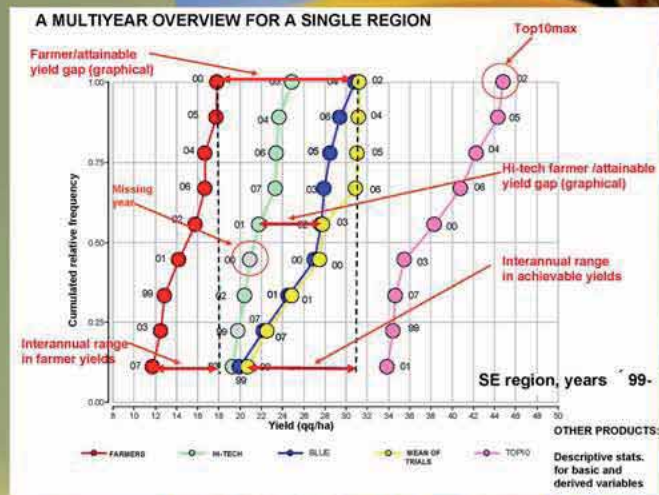


Gaps between farmer and attainable yields across sunflower growing regions of Argentina

Antonio J. Hall

The seminar will cover highlights of a recent yield gap (farmer vs. achievable) analysis for the sunflower crop in Argentina conducted by the Argentine Sunflower Association (ASAGIR). Estimates of farmer yields were obtained from the Agriculture Secretariat data base for the most important reporting districts in the sunflower growing regions; achievable yield estimates were obtained from records of comparative yield trials conducted in each of the eight sunflower-growing regions of the country. For five of these regions, data bases for individual field yields were also compiled. At 0.95 tn/ha, the gap represents 53% of weighted national average farmer yield of 1.81 tn/ha. The exercise provided a reference framework for inter-regional and inter-annual variations in yield gaps, and the results underline the dominant effect of environment (management, soil, weather) in determining yield variability vis-à-vis genotype and genotype x environment effects.



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