

Soybean Research for Sustainable Development



Abstracts

World Soybean Research Conference 11

18-23 June 2023, Vienna, Austria

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Johann Vollmann · Marjana Vasiljević · Leopold Rittler ·
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Editors

Soybean Research for Sustainable Development

Abstracts of the World Soybean Research Conference 11 (WSRC 11)
18-23 June 2023
Vienna, Austria



University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Editors

Johann Vollmann, Marjana Vasiljević, Leopold Rittler, Jegor Miladinović, Donal Murphy-Bokern

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Foreword

At present, the world community is facing substantial changes of different nature which have a considerable impact on the global food and nutrition situation: Man-made climate change is becoming clearly visible and is negatively affecting food security, while disruptions and changes in global supply chains also contribute to increased food insecurity as well as economic instability. The soybean stands in the middle of these processes, as it is and continues to be the most important protein and oilseed crop of the world, which is utilized for the production of livestock feeds, numerous human food components, and non-food products. Due to a global rise in the consumption of meat and dairy products during previous decades, the massive expansion of soybean production was partly associated with increased greenhouse gas emission, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. Because of this, present soybean production is experiencing harsh criticism from science and civil society.

Therefore, the timely motto of the World Soybean Research Conference 11 is “*Soybean research for sustainable development*”. As research and development are the major engine behind any progress in crop production, agricultural research is urgently needed to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and to minimize the impact of soybean on the environment towards a fully sustainable soybean production in the near future. This includes a reduction of production inputs through improvement of agronomic and genetic input efficiency, new pathways in livestock feed uses, and finally an enhanced direct utilization of soybeans in human foods. The five major themes of the conference are (i.) breeding-genetics-genomics-biotechnology, (ii.) food-feed-nutrition, (iii.) agronomy-physiology-agrotechnology, (iv.) weeds-diseases-pests, and (v.) business-policy-market issues, which will be elaborated in over 30 scientific parallel sessions, 4 plenaries and 2 poster sessions. The versatility of approaches to sustainable soybean production is well reflected by miscellaneous contributions from fields such as genetic diversity, genomics-assisted soybean breeding, genome editing, stress and climate change mitigation, novel developments in soy-foods and feeds including chemistry, nutrition and health, agro-technology and data-driven crop and soil management, organic soybean production, seed science, the soybean rhizosphere, progress in the management of weeds, diseases and pests, as well as policy and environmental sciences.

The WSRC 11 organizers have received over 500 scientific contributions, and the most outstanding scientists from all major soybean producing countries including China, the United States, Argentina, Canada, Brazil, India, Ukraine, France, Serbia, Japan and South Korea will share and discuss their latest results. In addition, reports from all world regions with significant soybean production will provide unique insights into specific issues of soybean cropping and utilization. Dedicated workshops have been organized to address specific needs such as soybeans for Africa, or soybean breeding for organic farming. In the time since the last World Soybean Research Conference, huge progress has been achieved in the utilization of genomic information, in data-driven agronomic decision-making as well as in various other aspects of soybean biology including the interaction with stress factors. Thus, the conference aims at

fostering the exchange of new knowledge and stimulating collaborative research among the world scientific community. Apart from oral presentations, poster sessions and an industry exhibition provide unique opportunities for personal interaction between the conference participants. Posters in particular are covering a very wide range of specific topics and research questions, and therefore poster sessions are a major source of exchange and scientific inspiration.

I am grateful to all conference chairpersons, members of the international scientific committee, members of the WSRC continuing committee and to all scientific contributors for their excellent inputs to compile an outstanding program, which delivers both a comprehensive overview as well as numerous specific highlights and new landmarks of soybean research. I also thank all sponsors, industry representatives and exhibitors for their valuable support of this conference. And most particularly, I acknowledge the help of the two WSRC organizing teams of the earlier conferences to be held in Savannah, GA, United States and Novi Sad, Serbia which had to be cancelled due to natural disasters; both teams were generously sharing their experience and preparation work they had carried out before.

During the historical Vienna World Exposition of 1873, soybean made its first legendary appearance on the international stage. In 2023 - 150 years later - the soybean community is back in Vienna. I wish all participants of the World Soybean Research Conference 11 many inspiring encounters and helpful insights for meeting the challenges ahead of us.

Johann Vollmann

Chair, International Scientific Committee, WSRC 11

Vienna, June 18, 2023

Table of contents

Soybean lifetime achievement awards	1
Plenary presentations	11
Thematic presentations	
A. Breeding, genetics, genomics, and biotechnology	27
B. Food, feed, and nutrition	247
C. Agronomy, physiology, and agrotechnology	301
D. Weeds, diseases, pests, and their management	425
E. Business, legal, and corporate social responsibility (CSR)	503
F. Other themes	509
Sponsored pages	529
Author index	535

High-throughput phenotyping for temporal screening of soybean canopy cover and height assessed in different environments

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The combined power of remote sensing and photogrammetry can be used to assess significant information about plant development. The canopy cover (CC) and height (HT) are important for defining the growth patterns of the plants and their reaction to different environmental conditions. The objective of this study was to utilize the technology of high-throughput phenotyping (HTPP) for the temporal screening of soybean CC and HT. The trial was set in 2020 and 2021 at the experimental fields of the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia. In total, 206 soybean genotypes divided into early (ED) and late (LD) were grown in drought simulation environments. As a control, the same set of genotypes (EC and LC) was grown in favorable conditions. The CC and HT were determined from the images collected with the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). In both years, the photos were taken four times at approximately 274, 390, 706, and 917 growing degree days (GDDs) after emergence. The results showed that the genotypes grown in drought simulation environments had lower CC compared to the control in both years. This was especially pronounced at 274 and 390 GDDs. In these time points, depending on the year, the CC of genotypes from ED and LD groups was 16%–54% lower than the control. The unfavorable growing conditions also had a negative effect on the soybean HT. The drought reduced the HT of the plants within the ED and LD trial between 12% and 44% compared to the control. The results suggest that some genotypes were more tolerant to unfavorable conditions than others which can be very useful in the selection of drought-tolerant varieties. The study showed that HTPP can be successfully used for collecting important information about soybean development within different environments.

Keywords: Soybean, high-throughput phenotyping, UAV, canopy cover, height

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