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DuPont Pioneer Celebrates Yield Contest Winners in South Africa

Seven yield competition winners announced

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Oct. 27, 2016 – Today [DuPont Pioneer](#) announced the seven winners who achieved top crop yields in the annual 2015 [Weigh to Win](#)[™] national yield competition for maize and soybean farmers in South Africa. Results of the contest were announced at an event in Johannesburg by Pioneer and its collaborators John Deere, Syngenta, Sanlam, Santam, First National Bank and Senter360, a South African centre-pivot manufacturer. Close to 100 farmers participated in the contest.

“The celebration of the winners of this competition comes at a time when South African farmers experienced the worst drought in 100 years. Pioneer is proud of all the farmers who entered the competition despite challenges of the drought experienced in the 2015-2016 season,” said Tony Esmeraldo, DuPont Pioneer commercial leader, South Africa. “They have set an example of the yields that can be achieved when the best genetics meet the best management practices in the field.”

The seven winners received prizes to the value of 400,000 Rand (R400, 000), as well as a tour of the production facilities in Rosslyn and the DuPont Africa regional technology center in Delmas.

Among the 18 finalists, Pioneer[®] brand maize hybrids demonstrated strong genetic potential. “Pioneer brand family of products help to provide high yields in the irrigation and dryland Eastern areas, demonstrating the value of DuPont Pioneer’s elite germplasm, traits and technologies, and our commitment to the growers in South Africa,” said Esmeraldo. “We back up top performing hybrids with a team of experienced local agronomic professionals, who are with farmers throughout the season to ensure they have the best possible hybrids on each hectare for maximum yield.”

The information gathered during the competition enables the company to drive progress in research initiatives. DuPont is investing over R70 million by 2017 to establish a

new Africa regional technology center in South Africa to serve the continent. The establishment of the technology center will position South Africa as a center of innovation in seed breeding. The insectary, the first phase of the facility, was completed in 2014. As part of the technology center, two research facilities in Delmas (Mpumalanga), and Hoogekraal (North West), are under construction and will be completed in 2016. The technology center is designed to help advance DuPont's ongoing efforts to accelerate seed product development for Africa's farmers and help them better manage key agronomic challenges, including pest and disease pressure, climate volatility and nutrient-depleted soils.

The Pioneer South Africa competition is an annual competition which allows all South African grain farmers, 18 years or older, to enter a minimum of two hectares planted to a registered variety from any seed company. It promotes best crop management practices and improves yield per hectare in farmers' fields by putting the right product on the right hectare. The competition is modelled on a similar yield contest organised in the United States by the National Corn Growers Association to recognise the country's top maize growers. American frequent yield contest winner, David Hula, addressed the finalists. He has achieved a staggering 32.5 tonnes per hectare using Pioneer brand maize on his 2015 contest plot.

For more information about Pioneer brand hybrids grown by competition winners, farmers should contact their local Pioneer sales representatives or dealers. For a list of national winners, yield totals and hybrid names, visit WeegenWen.co.za. To learn more about the 2017 contest, visit WeegenWen.co.za or email to weegenwen@pioneer.com.

[DuPont Pioneer](#) is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries. Pioneer provides agronomic support and services to help increase farmer productivity and profitability and strives to develop sustainable agricultural systems for people everywhere. Science with Service Delivering Success®.

[DuPont](#) (NYSE: DD) has been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace in the form of innovative products, materials, and services since 1802. The company believes that by collaborating with customers, governments, NGOs, and thought leaders, we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment. For additional information about DuPont and its commitment to inclusive innovation, please visit www.dupont.com.

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