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

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

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Assessment of grain quality traits in a Chinese soybean diversity panel

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Soybean grain quality with high protein and oil content is in high demand by domestic and international markets. The National Agricultural Research Institute of Uruguay (INIA) soybean breeding program aims to develop varieties that can meet those requirements. However, most locally available germplasm has middle to low protein content. An agreement between INIA and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) provided access to valuable genetic resources such as a diversity panel with high reported values of grain protein content. With the aim of phenotypically assess this panel for grain quality traits and yield, two field trials with an incomplete block design and rows as experimental units were conducted in La Estanzuela, Uruguay (S 34.34, W 57.70) in 2022 and grain yield, protein and oil content was measured. No significant genotype by trial interaction was found for any of the studied traits. The heritability was 0.68 for protein content, 0.84 for oil content, and 0.44 for grain yield. Phenotypic adjusted means for protein content ranged from 39.9% to 48.3%, for oil content from 15.7% to 20.7% and for yield from 371 to 4994 kg ha-1. Strong and negative correlations were found between protein and oil content and between protein and yield. Five accessions were identified with superior quality traits and yield. These results suggest that the diversity panel provides suitable additive genetic variance for obtaining genetic gains in grain quality and yield. The observed negative correlations will demand the use of strategies such as genomic selection and mapping of quantitative trait loci to select for high protein content without compromising acceptable levels of grain yield and oil content. To that end, the development of populations of recombinant inbred lines derived from the diversity panel and local germplasm is currently in progress.

Keywords: Nutritional quality, phenotyping, genetic diversity, soybean breeding programs, Uruguay