

# Cultivar evaluation successful conducted

With wheat production in South Africa under severe pressure, the National Cultivar Evaluation Programme (NCEP) of ARC-Small Grain evaluates all released wheat cultivars of all seed companies in an objective and scientific manner for their adaptation, yield and quality.

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**W**HEAT IS BY FAR the crop with the widest adaptability and can be successfully grown in many parts of South Africa, therefore the NCEP is conducted nationally. During the 2016 season more than 90 trials were planted at almost 80 representative localities in the various wheat production areas.

Although ARC-Small Grain has the mandate to conduct the NCEP in South Africa, the co-operation of other institutions and role-players are of utmost importance. In this collaboration, the department of agriculture, Western Cape, assisted with the planting and maintenance of certain trials in the Western Cape. Other organisations such as the University of the Free State, Stellenbosch University and the South African Barley Brewing Institute (SABBI) also made a huge input.

All the data were presented to a committee with representatives from ARC-Small Grain, the universities of the Free State and Stellenbosch, South African National Seed Organisation (SANSOR), SABBI, the national and respective provincial departments of agriculture, seed companies (Sensako, Pannar and K2 Agri), Grain South Africa and other role players. The committee discussed the results and updated the recommendations for the 2017 season. The data are now used to make recommendations to small grain producers to enable them to lower production risks and increase yields. Cultivar choice can be simplified by examining the long-term scientific data of the specific region, but this has to be done on an annual basis.

ARC-Small Grain publishes comprehensive booklets with all the latest information and results of the previous season. The guidelines give informative and clear recommendations. Information with emphasis on general production practices, soil tillage guidelines, plant nutrition, weed, disease and pest control, is also included in the production guidelines. The quality and yield data of the previous season are published in detail.



**Representatives of the small grain industry that attended the National Cultivar Evaluation Programme meeting.**

**Front:** Gerhard Engelbrecht (K2 Agri), Cornel Bender (UFS), Dr Toi Tsiolo (ARC-Small Grain), Mtileni Mihloti (READ), Joan Sadie (DAFF), Lebo Jack (Dept Agriculture, North West) and Daniel de Klerk (SABBI).

**Middle:** Dr Willem Boshoff (UFS), Petru Fourie (Grain SA), Dr Tarekegn Terefe (ARC-Small Grain), Willem Kilian (ARC-Small Grain), Eddie Goldshagg (SANSOR), Willem Botes (US) and André du Toit (Pannar).

**Back:** Stefan de Groot (Sensako), Dr Willem Otto (Sensako), Dr Zakkie Pretorius (UFS), Dr Francois Koekemoer (Sensako), Dr André Malan (ARC-Small Grain) and Kobus van Huyssteen (SANSOR).

Production practices and cultivar recommendations vary from region to region, and therefore two separate guidelines are published, namely one for the summer rainfall region where the information is focused on both the dryland and irrigation regions, and another guideline for the winter rainfall region. The guidelines are available in Afrikaans and English and will be available during March, 2017.

The respective guidelines are also of great value to new upcoming commercial wheat producers. They are made available free of charge due to the financial support of the Winter Cereal Trust.

Producers who did not receive one of the booklets, may contact Mr Willem Kilian (058 307 3498) or Ms Eveline Mofokeng (058 307 3400). The guidelines will also be available during the NAMPO Harvest Day from 16 to 19 May at the ARC-Small Grain exhibition (in the Microbial Solutions Hall). ♡