

Enhancing Productivity in a Changing Climate

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52-4 Canola Production in South America.

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*Monday, November 5, 2018: 11:20 AM
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 321*

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Abstract:

Canola, a temperate climate crop, can be successfully cultivated in tropical regions, as confirmed by research plots and commercial fields at low latitudes (6-20°) savannas of Brazil. A large portion of tropical and subtropical grain production regions of South America (SA) may provide a major opportunity to meet the increasing world demand for products derived from canola. These include protein, high quality oil for human consumption and biodiesel. However, less than 100 thousand ha every year are cultivated on each of the SA countries, such as Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay. The cultivation of spring canola cropping during the colder months of the year provides a unique opportunity to increase oilseed production in millions of hectares where soybean and maize are already produced during the warmer months.

Additional environmental and economic benefits arise from growing a pest break-crop in the predominant legume-grasses cropping systems.

Further, it optimizes the use of farmland, and other resources already available, reducing the pressure for bringing marginal land into production. There is a need to map high yielding canola growing regions (altitude >600 m a.s.l) within the lower latitude belt. Simultaneously, it is essential the release of less day-length sensitive cultivars, along with resistance or tolerance to specific biotic and abiotic stresses. These are the challenges required to disclose this significant opportunity for increasing food and feed production while generating major scale economic and environmental benefits.

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