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DuPont Pioneer Celebrates Yield Contest Winners in South Africa
2017 Weigh & Win National Yield Competition winners announced

Johannesburg, South Africa August. 24, 2017 – [DuPont Pioneer](#) announced the eight winners who achieved top crop yields in the 2017 [Weigh & Win](#) National Yield Competition for maize and soybean farmers in South Africa. Results of the eight categories of the contest were announced at an event in Johannesburg by DuPont Pioneer and its collaborators John Deere, Syngenta, Santam, First National Bank, and Senter360.

The yield competition in South Africa promotes on-farm best crop management practices, and generates information that shapes future production practices across the industry. The competition ran from September 2016 to July 2017. Each winner per category will receive a prize valued at R50 000 inclusive of Pioneer brand products.

“The celebration of the winners of this competition comes at a time when South African farmers yielded the highest ever commercial maize production in South Africa of 16mil tons”, said Heinz Oellermann, DuPont Pioneer Business Manager, South Africa. “They have yet again set an example of yields that can be achieved when the best genetics meet the best management practices in the field.”

Among the finalists, Pioneer® brand maize hybrids and soybean varieties demonstrated strong genetic potential and performed well in the 2017 contest. A local team of Pioneer professionals supports these top performing hybrids with a strong focus and commitment on the following elements:

- **Research and development to help maximise the full potential of every hectare**
- **World-class genetics for the right product, the right hectare**
- **International expertise from a team of local professionals**
- **Pioneer® GrowingPoint® agronomy trials to help hone best management practices**
- **Pioneer Premium Seed Treatment® (PPST) is the shield for better yield**



The information gathered during the competition will enable DuPont Pioneer to drive research initiatives. DuPont recently launched the Africa technology centre, an investment of over R100 million, to support local research efforts, across testing locations in South Africa and, for the continent. This technology hub positions South Africa as a centre of innovation in seed breeding and includes:

- The Delmas technology centre; which focuses on major Eastern region research activities, with breeding programs in maize and sunflowers, that incorporates key research and testing locations, combined germplasm, talent and experience to improve cultivar breeding and development for Africa.
- A multi-crop research centre in Hoogekraal that will conduct multi-crop research with a focus on drought tolerance.
- Africa's biggest private Insectary, critical to the development of traits to combat local yield robbing pests, some of which are unique to the continent.

The Weigh & Win National Competition is an annual contest 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. This competition provides farmers with the opportunity to test new production processes and to maximise yields.

For more information about Pioneer® hybrids grown by contest winners, farmers should contact their local Pioneer sales representatives or dealers.

To learn more about the 2017 contest, visit WeegenWen.co.za or email to weegenwen@pioneer.com.

[DuPont Pioneer](http://DuPontPioneer.com) 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](http://DuPont.com) (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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