

AT THE MAIZAR CONGRESS, WITH TECHNOLOGIES THAT DRIVE MAIZE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Bahía Blanca, May 19, 2020 - As the maize harvest enters the final stretch and producers begin to plan for the new 2021/22 season, the MAIZAR congress was the ideal setting to present the latest news on the technologies that will make the crop continue to grow in productivity and sustainability.

Among these technologies, one that stood out was presented by Profertil, the country's leading company in the production of granulated urea, a key nitrogen fertilizer for the crop. It is eNeTOTAL Plus, a product that provides greater efficiency in the use of nitrogen and better care of the environment.

The MAIZAR congress is the main summit of the maize chain in Argentina and was held virtually last Tuesday, May 18, under the slogan "The future is today". As usual, it brought together the main actors of the sector, including producers, technicians and companies of the sector.

Mirta Toribio, Profertil's Research and Development Coordinator, was among the prominent speakers who participated and reminded that "50% of crop productivity and quality is due to the use of fertilizers". At the same time, she indicated that "nutrition must be sustainable and responsible, taking care of the health of the environment and society".

On this path, maize plays a fundamental role. Currently, the crop is averaging a harvest that will once again make it the most important in the country, with some 50 million tons of production, above the 45 million tons estimated to be obtained from soybeans.

To enhance and ensure this growth, good fertilization is key. Therefore, Toribio explained the advantages of eNe Total Plus. She detailed that it allows maximum use of surface-applied nitrogen, as it avoids N losses due to ammonia volatilization.

"As fertilizer doses increase, this product reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 21% and boosts the increase in carbon sequestration through crops, as it increases their yield," the specialist explained. "If we talk about net emissions, in terms of kilos of grain produced, eNe Total Plus is 40% more efficient," she added.

These technologies, which make maize more productive and sustainable, are underpinning the growth of the crop, which has already expanded its planted area for seven consecutive seasons. According to the Rosario Stock Exchange, in the agricultural cycle that is ending, 2020/21, more than 7 million hectares of the cereal were planted.

For all those who sowed maize and are thinking of doing it again this year, Toribio reminded that "fertilizers must be applied taking into account the Best Management Practices (BMP), which are based on four aspects: the dose, the source, the moment and the correct way." She also recalled that the company has multiple tools and programs at the service of producers.

For example, the Maicero simulation model, which allows defining the best way to manage maize hybrid fertilization in different areas of the country. There are also training programs

such as ProSuelos, which seeks to raise awareness of the importance of soil analysis as a diagnostic tool, or the MITs (Innovation and Technology Model), field training events on crop nutrition.

But, beyond the tools, during the MAIZAR congress, the Profertil engineer called "to go back to agronomy, analyze the issues, evaluate when there may be nitrogen losses, consider the multiplicity of factors that impact on the probability of volatilization and use the BMP". She closed by saying that, in this way, "the harvest will grow, there will be greater carbon sequestration and less greenhouse gas emissions per kilo of grain produced".