

RESULTS OF A₂S₂ TEST CROSS RECURRENT SELECTION TECHNIQUE
ON YIELD IMPROVEMENT OF THREE SUNFLOWER (H. ANNUUS L.)
POPULATIONS FROM THE UPLAND TROPICS OF ZAMBIA

B. HABOWA, W. ROATH, P. LAPOINT AND G. RAVAGNON

B. HABOWA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & WATER DEVELOPMENT,
RESEARCH BRANCH MT. MAKULU CRS, CHILANGA, ZAMBIA

A S₂ testcross reciprocal selection technique has been used to select for improved yield in sunflower populations in Zambia over the last 12 years. Composite varieties from three of these populations have been grown in replicated yield trials at several locations for the last two seasons. Results of these trials indicate that this technique has not resulted in the improvement of yield to the extent desired, except for populations which have been selected for Alternaria and Septoria leaf spot disease resistance. Poor random pollination achieved, particularly during the dry season, because of the lack of pollinators may be contributing to these results.