

STABILITY AND GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF INTERMEDIATE AND LONG  
CYCLE SUNFLOWER YIELD CULTIVARS IN ARGENTINA

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The objective of this investigation was to determine: a) yield stability of intermediate and long cycle sunflower cultivars and b) the contribution of genetic improvement to yield cultivars. The yield estimates were obtained from 12 comparative yield trials and they were sown in six different localities by Official Territorial Trials Network in 1983-1984 and 1984-1985 campaigns. Combined analysis of variance and means test were made. Stability parameters ( $b$  y  $S^2d$ ) and annual yield genetic improvement were estimated. Yield differed significantly among cultivars and also differed in the linear response to changes in the environment. Only six cultivars were stable for both  $b$  and  $S^2d$  parameters. There were not significance contribution of genetic improvement to yield cultivars between 1984 and 1983, due to new registered cultivars.