

Session II Lecture 3

Maize cultivar development for variable environments and future uses

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Summary

Maize has supported billions of humans over thousands of years. Initially primarily a food grain crop, maize is now used as food, feed, and raw materials for many applications. As we look to the future, improving and valuing ecosystem services such as C sequestration and nutrient cycling are important for continued use of maize in circular economy production systems. Future challenges including climate, population increase, and hunger and malnutrition are stark and immediate. Use of new breeding technologies including gene-editing and accelerated genomic selection enabled by knowledge of plant interactions with their environments will help us meet the challenges.