

Release of Two Early Maturing Spanish Peanut Varieties for Production In Malawi

J.M.M. CHINTU*, D. SIYENI, Department of Agricultural Research Services, Chitedze Research Station, P.O. Box 158, Lilongwe; Malawi. H. CHARLIE, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics-Malawi, P.O. Box 1096, Lilongwe, Malawi

Early maturity in peanut is an important trait which enables its production in places where seasons are short and prone to end season drought. In order to improve peanut productivity in these areas, sixteen elite spanish groundnut genotypes were selected from the ICRISAT's regional breeding nursery and evaluated alongside two released check varieties in Malawi. The trials were done in three seasons and laid out in an incomplete block design with 3 replications. Significant differences were observed in terms of yield among the genotypes in all sites. On average, across the test sites, the following test genotypes out yielded the check Kakoma; ICGV-SM 03530 by over 12.9%, 31.3 % and 13.3% in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons respectively; ICGV-SM 08528 by over 34.1%, 17.5%, 8.2% and 35 % in 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons respectively; and ICGV-SM 08538 by over 41.3%, 18.7%, 16.5% and 11.3% in 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons respectively.

The genotypes ICGV-SM 08538 and ICGV-SM 03530 were among the most stable genotypes. Because of the excellent performance of these two Spanish genotypes, they were released for use by farmers in Malawi in the year 2020.