

## **Varietal Information Program for Soybeans (Primary Investigator: Pradeep Khanna)**

*Goals:* The main objective of the Variety Information Program for Soybeans (VIPS) is to provide a one-stop source of electronic information to assist Illinois soybean producers in their planting decisions. Extensive information on varieties grown in the University of Illinois soybean variety trials will be available to the soybean industry by November each year. This will include information on compositional attributes and disease resistance data for the major yield-reducing diseases. In addition to serving producers, this information is of interest to seed companies and soybean processors.

*Procedures:* The recent enhancements to the VIPS make it a more powerful information tool for producers by assimilating a vast, user-friendly database with basic information to assist producers with their variety selection decisions. VIPS presents soybean producers with a diverse selection of both public and private soybean varieties from numerous sources. By presenting the VIPS concept to agronomists entering the soybean marketing channel, the growing foundation for technology-based approaches to variety information and selection continues to be implemented. The VIPS can also assist producers and buyers in making the transition to soybean marketing based on seed quality attributes. In all, new information on yield, protein, and oil content for about 3,600 varieties grown at 13 variety trials locations will be available. Substantial information on disease resistance is collected during the growing season. University of Illinois pathologists are currently testing many of the VIPS varieties for resistance to soybean rust, aphid infestations, Bean Pod Mottle Virus, Soybean cyst nematode, Sudden death syndrome, Sclerotinia stem rot, and Rhizoctonia root rot. In addition, information on Green Stem is currently being noted in field trials. SCN resistance data to five HG population types are being collected for nearly all trial varieties. Links to aid the VIPS participants regarding the use of SCN resistance data are presented. SCN resistance data are provided by nematologists at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University.

*Timeline:* All variety trial information generated during the current year's growing season will be available online at <http://www.vipsoybeans.org> on December 1 of that same year.

### **Industry Communications:**

An important aspect of any research effort is industry communications. It is imperative that research findings are disseminated to the industry in an easy to understand format and in a timely fashion. The Center will employ several communications tools – Internet, video and print media – to disseminate the research findings. NSRL manages three major web sites, StratSoy (<http://www.stratsoy.uiuc.edu/>), the Varietal Information Program for Soybeans (<http://www.vipsoybeans.org>), and the NSRL site (<http://www.nsrl.uiuc.edu/nsrlhome.html>). All three websites are extensively accessed by Internet users for soybean related information, and receive over five million hits annually. Research findings will be made available through these web sites. In addition, results will be published in peer reviewed scientific journals. Results will also be presented at appropriate professional and industry conferences.