



Recommendation Sheet No. 104\*

January 98

## NEW GROUNDNUT VARIETIES FOR COMMERCIAL PLANTATION

Two new groundnut varieties, *Sylvia* (ICGV 93207)\*\* and *Venus* (ICGV 87853)\*\*, are now recommended for commercial plantation in pure stand and in sugar cane interrows. *Sylvia* is a small-seeded, Spanish-type variety like *Cabri* and *Stella*, and *Venus* is a large-seeded, Virginia-type variety like *Veronica*.

### ▲ Crop cycle

The crop cycles of *Sylvia* and *Venus* are respectively about 130-140 days and 140-150 days, i.e. ten and twenty days longer than that of *Cabri*. If intercropped with sugar cane, *Venus* should be sown not later than one week after cane plantation because of the length of its crop cycle.

### ▲ Adaptation

*Sylvia* and *Venus* are adapted to all soils and regions where groundnut is grown in Mauritius. However, because of its tolerance to drought conditions, *Venus* is the variety recommended for the subhumid region.

### ▲ Reaction to diseases

The two varieties are much less susceptible to common diseases than *Cabri* as indicated below.

	<i>Cabri</i>	<i>Sylvia</i>	<i>Venus</i>
<i>Cercospora</i> leaf spots	Highly susceptible	Slightly susceptible	Slightly susceptible
Rust	Highly susceptible	Slightly susceptible	Tolerant
Mudspot	Highly susceptible	Susceptible	Susceptible

### ▲ Availability of seeds

Small amounts of seeds were distributed to selected growers by MSIRI, AREU and FSC in October 1997. A second distribution will be made in February 1998. Commercial quantities of seeds of *Sylvia* and *Venus* may be available from Barkly Experiment Station, Beau Bassin as from April and May respectively.

\* These recommendations supersede those made in *Growing Groundnut*. Advisory Bulletin No. 6. (1994) Réduit, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute.

\*\* Original code numbers under which the varieties were tested on growers' fields from 1994 to 1996.