



**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 1** | Experimental design to evaluate the impact of SynCom in three different commercial hybrids of maize under DS. **(A)** Experimental layout showing maize plants of hybrids DKB177, SX7341, and P3707VYH placed in 36 plots of 12 plants each, with 48 plants fully equipped with a set of sensors for continuous monitoring. Environmental data were obtained from four stations located along the greenhouse. **(B)** Plots were distributed in a twin row experimental design in a 90-m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse **(C)**. **(D)** Monitored plants (shown as black circles in panel A) were fully equipped with sensors for  $T_{leaf}$ , sap flow and SWC. DS, drought stress;  $T_{leaf}$ , leaf temperature; SWC, soil water content.