Country Level Updates-Ethiopia

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Virtual
Outline

- Sorghum in Ethiopia
- Summary of SMIL project activities
- Technology development & promotion
- Strategic partnership to accelerate technologies
- Strategies & opportunities to support value chains in Ethiopia
Sorghum in Ethiopia

• Important staple **food** & **feed** crop
  - Ranks 4th - Tef, Maize & **Wheat**

• Small holder farmers – 4.9 M

• Area – 1.7 M ha

• Production - 4.6 M MT

• Yield – 2.6 t/ha
  - Low by comparison with the crop’s potential

• Only **13%** of grain is marketed, & **7%** is processed

Source: CSA, 2021
# Summary of SMIL Project Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Projects</th>
<th>Collaborating University</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Genetic Improvement of Sorghum for Resistance to Fungal Pathogens</td>
<td>Purdue Uni</td>
<td>Prof. Tesfaye M.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>2. Advancing improved <strong>functionality &amp; protein quality sorghum hybrids</strong> for food applications in Ethiopia</td>
<td>Texas A&amp; AM</td>
<td>Prof. Joseph A.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Genetic Enhancement of sorghum to promote commercial seed supply and grain market development</td>
<td>Purdue Uni</td>
<td>Prof. Gebisa E.</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>13</strong></td>
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Research Output

- Two (OPVs & Hybrids) and
- One forage sorghum varieties
- Characterization of SMIL core collections (380) for important agronomic traits continued in the target environments
  - Disease (Anthracnose) - Intermediate
  - Drought & Striga - Dry lowland
  - Forage purpose - Dry lowland & Highland
- High protein digestibility and waxy sorghum are in field evaluation
- Two promising dual purpose & drought hybrids identified for verification

Phase 2

Phase 3 & 4 (Registered & scaled in country)
Technology promotion (Phase 3 & 4)

Large scale demos (33 ha) of drought tolerant sorghum hybrids in Eastern Ethiopia, Miesso & Babile, October, 2021
Technology promotion (Phase 3 & 4)

Demonstration of released variety (Marara) for mid-altitude areas

Marara mixed with white tef
Ratio 50: 50
Strategic partnership to accelerate the technologies

- **Public and private seed sectors involvement in hybrid sorghum**
  - Public sector- Regional seed enterprises
    - Oromia & Amhara regions seed enterprises
  - Private sector
    - ETHIO-AGRI CEFT – Hybrid sorghum seed production
    - Seid Hussien PLC– Hybrid sorghum seed production
  - Farmers cooperatives : Oda-Bultum cooperative

- **Other project funding**
  - BMGF support (ISC & MERCI projects – hybrid sorghum & technical support)
  - IDRC – Canada (OPVs)
Strategies & opportunities to support value chains in Ethiopia

- **Alignment to the vision of national sorghum strategy (2020 – 2030) – SMIL /USAID support**
  - Generate demand-led sorghum technologies that contributes to the improved livelihoods & sustainable development

- **Diversify utilization & expand market**
  - Demand for commercialization of sorghum,
    - sorghum as export crop
  - Industrial use (malt)
  - Enhance use as a feed/fattening
  - Enhance sorghum based food products
Strategies & opportunities to support value chains in Ethiopia

• **Alternative cropping system**
  Double Cropping: Legume – Cereals
  ➢ **Mungbean** (cash crop) ➔ Sorghum

• **Additional support to the program**
  ➢ BMGF to modernize the breeding program
  ➢ Developed well defined Product Profiles

• **Promotion of finger millet**
  ➢ use as healthy food for lactating women & infants
Challenges

- **Recent conflict**
  - Restrict to conduct and monitor research and outreach activities in major sorghum growing & testing sites

- **COVID-19**
  - Travel restrictions for PIs & SMIL ME
  - Local movement was restricted to implement program
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Thank you!
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