Gendered trait preferences for new striga tolerant sorghum genotypes in Konni region, Niger

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The main objective of this study is to examine the gendered trait preferences for new striga resistant sorghum genotypes development that will be easily adopted by the farming community (both men and women) in Konni region.

Background

In Niger, a rural areas where poverty is very high, there are significant disparities in terms of land ownership, field management and resources access. Women have less access to educational and economic opportunities. Nonetheless, they are playing a crucial role in crop cultivation, transformation and the processing, but they are rarely consulted on the type of crop to be grown in the different fields and also the quantity to sell, which is the reason why some newly developed sorghum varieties failed to be adopted in Niger. Farmer’s preferences studies may put in light their needs and their preferences for technology adoption. In some crop production system like cereals, vegetables, root and tubers, men’s preferences traits are mainly focused on the shapes, the yield and the marketing values but for women, it is essentially focused on the related use of the crops and their grain yield. Women largely prioritize food security traits based on the earliness and the multiple harvesting capability.

Indeed, in addition to variety and trait preference prioritization, rural farmers are faced with yield decreases which challenge them in feeding their families. One of the most damaging constraints is striga hermonthica which causes impediments to sorghum cultivation.

Research questions

• What are the gendered trait preferences for the new striga tolerant sorghum genotypes in Konni?

Quantitative gender research question

• What sorghum varieties are preferred by men and women in Konni?

• What particular striga tolerant sorghum traits are preferred by men and women in Konni?

Qualitative gender research question

• What are the experiences of men and women in selecting the varieties they prefer?

Major research question

• What are the gendered trait preferences for the new striga tolerant sorghum genotypes in Konni?

Area of Study and Research Methodology

Data collection methods

• Qualitative data collection

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) method was used to collect qualitative data. Two focus groups per village conducted (one for the men alone and the second for the women alone).

• Quantitative data collection

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data. A total of 60 farmers were interviewed in the two selected village (29 Men ans 31 Women).

References


Conclusion and recommendations

As a conclusion we realised that in konni women have more to say in the breeding process in terms of preferences for new variety development and adoption.

• We are looking to implement women views and traits preferences in our breeding product profiles by targeting two market segmentations - for men and women.

• Opportunities for women to access credit and technologies is key for future adoption.

Identified gaps

In the visited areas women's have less access to education, liberty of expression and economic priorities.

Analysis of qualitative results still pending

Table 1: Farmers preferences sorghum trait by sex in Bazaga and Tserassa Mangou in Konni region, Niger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varieties traits preferences</th>
<th>Men (n=29)</th>
<th>Women (n=31)</th>
<th>Total (n=60)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>28 (96.55%)</td>
<td>30 (96.77%)</td>
<td>58 (96.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striga tolerant</td>
<td>29 (100.00%)</td>
<td>30 (96.77%)</td>
<td>59 (98.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry tolerant</td>
<td>29 (100.00%)</td>
<td>31 (100.00%)</td>
<td>60 (100.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big grain</td>
<td>27 (93.10%)</td>
<td>23 (74.19%)</td>
<td>50 (83.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High plant</td>
<td>18 (62.07%)</td>
<td>11 (35.48%)</td>
<td>29 (48.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td>9 (31.03%)</td>
<td>15 (48.39%)</td>
<td>24 (39.71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big panicle</td>
<td>26 (89.66%)</td>
<td>21 (67.74%)</td>
<td>47 (78.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good taste</td>
<td>29 (100.00%)</td>
<td>31 (100.00%)</td>
<td>60 (100.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier to cook</td>
<td>28 (96.55%)</td>
<td>31 (100.00%)</td>
<td>59 (98.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolerant to weeds</td>
<td>29 (100.00%)</td>
<td>30 (96.77%)</td>
<td>59 (98.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good conservation after</td>
<td>28 (96.55%)</td>
<td>30 (96.77%)</td>
<td>58 (96.67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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