An integrated approach for enhancing improved sorghum seed demand and supply in Ethiopia: a promising path

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Introduction

• Sorghum is a food security crop for more than 30 million population in Ethiopia 36% of the total crop area (Fig 1).
• The sorghum seed system unable adequately contribute to transforming production due to various factors including:
  a) low level of commercialization resulting
  b) low adoption of improved varieties.
  c) lack of demand-based seed production; and
  d) limited availability of early-generation seed

Objective

• To assess approaches that can enhance improved sorghum varieties seed demand and supply in Ethiopia.

Method

• The following approaches were followed:
  • Training of seed producers on early generation seed production
  • Engage farming community (cooperatives), parastatal and private seed enterprises in seed production (Fig 3) and
  • Linking farmers cooperative unions, government, and non-government organizations involved in seed dissemination through various platforms and seed dissemination approaches (e.g., Fig 5).

Result

• About 9,000 ton of early generation and certified seeds of improved sorghum varieties were produced over past ten years by the federal government and regional state seed enterprises, research centers and farmers' cooperative unions (Fig 4).
• The seed produced disseminated faster than ever where the adoption reached up to 87% in some places
• The estimated seed planted were ranged from hundred thousands to a million hectares over the last decade

Conclusion and recommendation

• Sorghum remains vital under the changing climate, fast-growing population, and increasing demand for food and feed. Collaboration among stakeholders in seed production and dissemination is vital in early generation seeds production, and distribution for developing resilient sorghum seed system.