Sorghum technology dissemination and adoption in moisture stress areas of Ethiopia: challenges and opportunities
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Introduction
• Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) supports about 30% of the people mainly residing in the arid agroecologies as food and feed in the second populous country in Africa, Ethiopia.
• A shift in production from landraces to improved varieties and associated packages of technologies has been low compared to other major cereal food crops.

Objective
• This work investigates the factors that drive or hinder the adoption of improved sorghum production technologies in Ethiopia.

Method
• 660 representative sorghum grower households were interviewed using structured questionnaire and the data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented in graphs.

Results
• Results show that 83% source of new agricultural information for the farmers is government extension services while farmers-to-farmers, media, research, and non-government organizations fill the remaining gap (Fig 1).
• Slightly more than 75% of the farmers use their own saved seeds. Whereas farmer-to-farmer, local market, Gos and NGOs and seed enterprise shares the remaining percentage (Fig 2).
• The average rate of adoption of improved sorghum varieties in moisture stress areas was 35% with varying rates of 8-87% across locations.
• The adoption was high when a farm family needs the crop mainly for food; early maturity varieties and alternative seed sources are available.
• Inaccessibility to improved seed, lack of technical support, poor forage quality, and shortage of fertilizer were identified as the major production challenges (Fig 3).

Conclusion and recommendation
• With the exiting recurrent drought and climate change, sorghum remains vital food and feed in moisture-stress areas of Ethiopia.
• Supply of information, quality seed and fertilizer, technical support are essential in boosting the production and productivity of sorghum varieties through concerted efforts of the partners along sorghum production-consumption value chain.