

JOHAR: A Promising Sorghum Variety



Sorghum Variety JOHAR at NARC



Sorghum ears at grain maturity stage

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Challenge

- The crop could not received due priority in R&D activities which resulted in the lack of high yielding varieties for rain-fed area of the country.
- Low grain yield (2-3 ton/ha)
- Non juicy stalk with low dry matter.
- Challenge was to develop high yielding varieties with desired traits like drought tolerance, insect pest & disease and lodging resistance.

Intervention

- Research for development of sorghum variety was initiated in 1996 when 120 accessions acquired from ICRISAT, India and tested at NARC for their adoption.
- The adaptability of accessions as for seed setting, synchronization and characterization before putting in crossing scheme.
- Innovative approaches were adopted to minimize the time for variety development.
- After attaining homozygosity, the selected material was tested under preliminary, on farm, agronomic, multi location and adaptability yield in different agro-ecologies of the country. It took about 10 year for release for commercial cultivation.

Out come

- The sorghum variety “Johar” is medium stature with juicy stalk was released in 2006 for rainfed areas of all provinces of the country.
- It have whitish grain colour, medium waxy bloom, matured in 110 to 120 days.
- Its dry matter production is 15 to 18 tons /ha and grain yield at farmer’s field is 4.5 to 5.0 tons/ha.

Way Forward

- During autumn 2012, 3000 kg seed were produced and distributed to the farmers’ community.
- Contractual seed production system which helps for rapid and easy dissemination of certified seed to farmers.