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Eastern Africa Regional Sorghum and Millet
(EARSAM)
Network

Synthesis of impact data information

by

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Eastern Africa Regional Sorghum and Millets (EARSAM)

Network Impact Indicators

Level 1: Changes in the performance of Research Institutions, Human Resources and the Policy Environment for Research

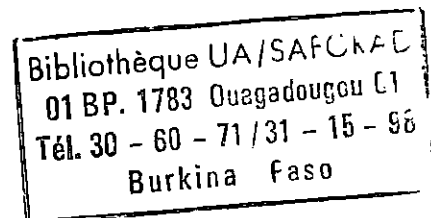
1.1 Conception of EARSAM Network, Research Objectives and Priorities

Impact Indicators

1. NARS Sorghum and Millet scientists in eastern Africa during the 5th Regional Workshop at Bujumbura, Burundi in 1986 agreed to form EARSAM Network to mobilize their scientific talents and resources. They also elected active NARS scientists to the Network Steering Committee (SC) to monitor, plan and implement Network activities. The SC meets twice a year.
2. The SC systematically identified major constraints to sorghum and millet production in the region and formulated and prioritized regional research objectives and projects.
3. The SC discussed germplasm movement and evaluation in the region and developed a model for germplasm movement and evaluation in the region.

Supporting documents/references

Proceedings of 4th Regional Workshop.



Proceedings of 5th Regional Workshop and minutes of 4th Steering Committee (SC) in Ethiopia in Nov. 1986.

Proceedings of 6th Regional Workshop and minutes of SC in July 1988.

1.2 Development and implementation of collaborative research strategy

1. The SC developed and implemented nine projects with lead NARS on priority regional research constraints identified by SC to generate sorghum and millet production technologies. Proceedings of 5th and 6th Regional Workshops and minutes of Steering Committee meetings.

1.3 Exchange of germplasm

1. The EARSAM Network recognized germplasm exchange in the region as an important and integral activity of EARSAM Network and encouraged germplasm exchange among NARS, ICRISAT to NARS and NARS to ICRISAT. Over 8000 samples of sorghum and millet germplasm has been exchanged since 1986.

Proceedings of 6th EARSAM Workshop.

1.4 Generation and diffusion of technology

1. The EARSAM Network Lead NARS with technical support from ICRISAT have developed or adapted effective field screening techniques and used them to identify resistances to ergot, anthracnose, Striga, stem borers, etc. Proceedings of 6th and 7th Regional Workshops.
2. NARS scientists evaluated several cooperative EARSAM regional trials/nurseries from 1988, to 1991 and were able to select adapted and high-yielding germplasm for multilocation testing and eventual release to farmers. Proceedings of 6th and 7th Regional workshop and minutes of the EARSAM Steering Committee Meetings.

1.5 Improving research capability and quality of national programs

1. The volume of and quality of NARS of sorghum and millet research has increased significantly as a result of provision of additional funds, research equipment/materials and research information by the Network. Minutes of SC.
2. As a result of 1. above, the number of NARS developed varieties in EARSAM cooperative regional trials/nurseries has steadily increased.
3. Through the Network, NARS research capacity and capability has been strengthened and as a result more and more NARS have elected to be lead NARS, and accepted to conduct collaborative research.

1.6 Improving research skills of NARS scientists and field technicians

1. The Network provided a short training courses for 43 NARS scientists on seed technology and production. Proceedings of Seed Production Workshop.
2. The Network also provided short technical training to 16 Field Technicians on Entomology, 16 on Pathology and 16 on Breeding Techniques. Teaching Manuals.
3. The Network organized monitoring research tours and scientific working groups to enable NARS scientists visit and evaluate each others programs and entries in regional trials and nurseries and to select genetic material for utilization by their national programs. Since 1986, 5 monitoring research tours and one scientific working group have been organized. Minutes of SC.
4. The Network also organized annual Regional Workshops from 1982 to 1986 and bi-annual Regional Workshops in 1988 and 1990. These workshops were well attended by NARS scientists in eastern Africa, ICRISAT and other International organizations and universities. These workshops have provided the greatest opportunity for scientific interaction among NARS scientists and international scientists outside the region. Proceedings of EARSAM Regional Workshop.

Level II. Changes in the output from Research and Development for improved varieties made available to NARS by the Network

1. Network provided a diverse array of elite improved sorghum and millet germplasm via Network trials and nurseries for evaluation and selection at appropriate agro-ecological locations in the hot and drought stressed; wet and humid; and cool highland environments of eastern Africa. Individual NARS selected several adapted and high-yielding varieties and incorporated them into their national multi-locational trials.

Proceedings of 7th EARSAM Regional Workshop and minutes of SC.

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