

List of activities

1. Survey to determine farmers' problems and cultivation practices
2. Community awareness and farmer selection
3. Field characterization (soil analysis, weed analysis, annual precipitation, field history)
4. Land preparation, planting, treatment and irrigation applications, liming and intercropping trials, etc.
5. Farmers' field day and scoring demonstration, promotion and dissemination of best practices and technologies through field schools (Field Farmers School)
6. Preparation of different sorghum and pearl millet recipes and preference test by farmers/consumers
7. Sharing results and training of farmers and extension workers in the production of sorghum and pearl millet
8. Documentation of results (publications, posters, leaflets, reports, monographs, theses, production manuals and books)
9. Produce advertising materials such as caps and T-shirts; participate in mass dissemination organizations to discuss the importance of sorghum in each country.



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Promoting the adoption of improved management practices to increase sorghum and pearl millet production in Angola and Lesotho

From November 2022 to January 2025



CCARDESA
Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa



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Locations

Project sites in Lesotho: Nyakosoba (2022-23), Ha Makhoroana (2022-23), Siloe (2022-23) Mekaling (2022-24), Machache (2022-24), Mahobong (2022-24), Mokhotlong 2023-24)

Project sites in Angola: Luada (Mazozo), Uige (Nsosso), Namibe, and Malanje

Research problem

Sorghum production using traditional methods is generally low, amounting to around 0.6 tonnes/ha. This is generally low by world standards and even by South African standards. Pearl millet although a useful crop elsewhere, was never planted in Lesotho. The aim of this project is to promote improved management practices to increase sorghum and pearl millet productivity among smallholder farmers in Lesotho and Angola.



Overall objective

The overall objective of the project is to develop and test improved management practices that can increase the yield of sorghum and Pearl millet and be adopted by smallholder farmers of Angola and Lesotho.



Methodology

Field experiments to determine yield of Pearl millet and Sorghum, comparing the sowing dates and intercropping, and liming effects and biochar application are laid out in RCBD (using fertilizer rates x seeds of Pearl millet and sorghum x 3 replications). Three Pearl millet cultivars (Kantana, Okashana2 and Kangara) and two cultivars sorghum (PAN8816 and PAN8925) were planted on the stations and off station. The trials on the adaptation of Pearl millet in were led by Dr Letuma had 49 cultivars laid in a lattice square (7 by 7) replicated twice. Sorghum project led by Dr Masupha and 36 stem borer resistant cultivars and experiment was laid out in a lattice square with two replicates.

