Commercialization of Gadam Sorghum for Increased Food Security and Household Income in Semi-Arid Eastern Kenya

Enhancing Production of High Quality Gadam Sorghum Grain for the East African Breweries Limited (EABL) Market: Application of Appropriate Pre- and Post-Harvest Handling Techniques at Farm Level

This is achievable if all stakeholders embrace teamwork at all levels

Production and sales of high quality gadam sorghum grain can bring about:

- Increased food security
- Increased household income
- Better family nutrition
- Improved family health status
- Improved living standards

For this to happen, ensure:

- Gadam grains do not produce milk when pressed between fingers.
- As gadam sorghum plants grow and mature, rogue out all diseased and off-type plants from your gadam sorghum plot(s).
- Do NOT feed diseased sorghum plants to your livestock.
- Dry and burn all diseased sorghum plants or put them in pit latrine.

Where to check for grain readiness for harvesting

- At the top
- In the middle
- At the bottom

A well-filled gadam sorghum head ready for harvesting

A gadam sorghum head infested by long smut (Sphacelotheca reiliana)

A farmer reaches out for the head of an off-type sorghum plant
If you cannot access fresh seed, before harvesting, select well filled disease-free heads from the middle part of your Gadam field. Use the same to secure seed for the following season.

An extensionist admires a Gadam sorghum plant with seven tillers from where the farmer can safely harvest seed.

- Sun-dry and thresh the heads, then the seed. Treat the seed with recommended fungicide (seed dressant) e.g. Murtano. Keep dressed seed safely, away from the rest of your harvested gadam sorghum grain.
- Do NOT select heads with black glumes for seed. Seed from such heads are likely to segregate if grown in the following season.
- Aggregated grain must be stored jute bags on raised racks. There should be no direct contact with cemented floor.
- Grain aggregation/ collection points must provide leak-proof roofs for safe storage.

Once harvested, do NOT heap the heads straight in the store. Sun-dry them for at least 2-3 days, store them in a clean store ready for threshing.

- Thresh the sun-dried heads on a plastic sheet/ canvas or locally sewed jute bags.
- Winnowing must be done to remove all inert materials. These include but NOT limited to broken grains, storage pests, soil/ dust.
- Threshed Gadam grain should be sun-dried for at least 2-3 days before to attain the required moisture content (10-12%) before packaging into 90Kg jute bags.

The packaged Gadam grain should NOT BE treated (dusted with Actellic Super). It will be the responsibility of the buyer (Smart Logistics) to treat any aggregated grains if need be.

Do not use sisal gunny bags to avoid possible grain contamination through soil.

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