Advantages of forming gadam sorghum production cells in semi-arid eastern Kenya

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More farmers in eastern Kenya go into gadam sorghum production: Why not join them?

This is possible either through your already existing farmer-group or forming a new production cell (group)
Formation of a gadam sorghum production cell

- Can be an already existing farmer group, or
- A newly formed farmer group
- The group should have a common activity that brings them together at agreed intervals
- Group must have officials who guide in all the activities
- Group should be registered with the Ministry of Culture and Social Services
- Membership should be 15-25. Members should be near each other for ease of monitoring and evaluation
- Once the production cell is formed, it should contact the nearest extension office for details on gadam sorghum production and link to the buyer

Why form production cells

- Easy to train production cell members on how to produce quality gadam sorghum grain
• Easy to monitor and evaluate how group members implement all the activities geared towards producing quality sorghum grain for the market.

A production cell member explains to a monitoring team member her efforts to ensure good quality gadam sorghum grain production.

• Easy to aggregate group's produced grain at one collection point for quality check and final packaging before the buyer picks the grain.

Aggregating gadam sorghum grain into one collection point.
More convenient for both group members and buyers to make payments for delivered gadam sorghum grain

Ensuring quality of aggregated and packaged grain is maintained

Packaged gadam sorghum ready for delivery

A farmer receives a payment voucher after delivered good quality gadam sorghum grain to buyers

- Production cell members incur negligible transport costs because the buyer picks gadam sorghum grain at farm gate
• Production cell farms act as demonstration plots for non-participating farmers to learn and consequently form their own production cells.

Cell members and other stakeholders in a farmers' field day learn how to grow and produce high quality grain.

• It enables the production cell members to collectively and individually seek for advice from research and public extension officers.

A cell member listens to research and extension officers explain vital quality maintenance information.
- It enables timely delivery of gadam sorghum seed and accompanying information/advice from both research and extension workers.

An officer explains to farmers on gadam sorghum seed among available drought tolerant/early maturing improved crop variety seeds targeted for the semi-arid areas of Kenya.