EARLY SORGHUM GRAIN HARVEST TO DETER BIRD GRAIN DAMAGE

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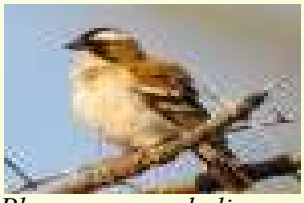
Introduction

In most sub-Sahara Africa, birds cause 100% yield loss of sorghum grain in field if no control measures are applied. A study was carried out in 2015-2016 in eastern Kenya to evaluate (i) effect of millet as bird trap crop for sorghum, and (ii) at what grain stage it would be safer to harvest the ripening seed to deter economic yield loss.


Serinus reichenowi


Plocepasser mahali


Amadina fasciata


Quelea quelea


Streptopelia capicola

Materials and methods

- Established sorghum crop in Kampi-Mawe, Ithookwe and Katumani
- Delimited bird density at selected sites in eastern Kenya
- Determined effect of millet on sorghum grain yield
- Elucidated safe time to harvest grain before bird damage

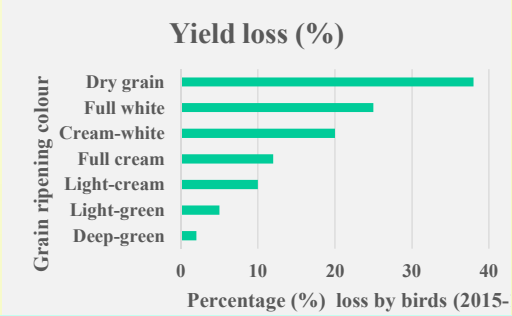


Fig. 3. Grain stage damage

Results

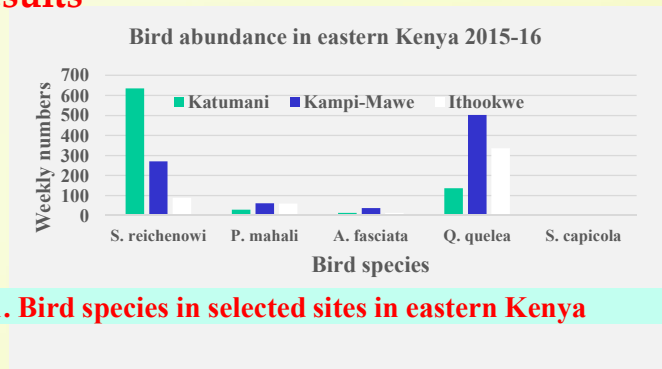


Fig. 1. Bird species in selected sites in eastern Kenya

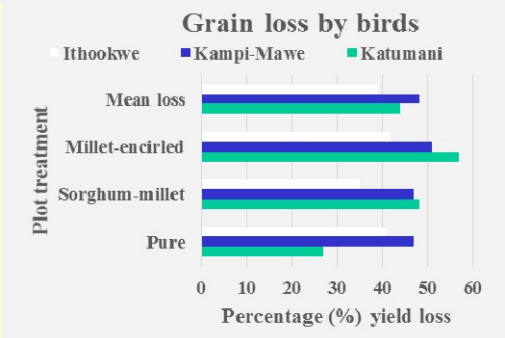


Fig. 2. Bird damage on different management options

Conclusion

- Bird species visiting sorghum fields in high densities were *Q. quelea* and *S. reichenowi*
- Highest grain loss was in millet-encircled plot, hence millet did not trap birds from sorghum damage
- Kampi-Mawe had highest damage followed by Katumani; highest damage at dry grain stage

Acknowledgement

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