

NaSARRI RELEASES FOUR SORGHUM VARIETIES

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July 13th 2017 saw the release of four new sorghum varieties.

The varieties **NAROSORG 1**, **NAROSORG 2**, **NARO SORG 3** and **NAROSORG 4**, have been bred with critical traits such as resistance to drought, diseases and pests.

NAROSORG 1 has excellent brewing quality, is of medium maturity, has grey seed color, and is drought tolerant. It is a conventionally bred variety developed through pedigree selection and it's a replacement to SESO 1 that had succumbed to striga. It has stay green trait making it dual purpose for both grain and forage for livestock.

NARO SORG 2 is a red-seeded, drought tolerant with minimal or no bird damage on the grain. It is desired for food and brew in Karamoja and West Nile.

NARO SORG 3, is chalky white and tolerant to sorghum midge pest. It is good for grain and forage due to the stay green trait

NAROSORG4 is highly tolerant striga weed that has constrained sorghum farmers in Uganda.

All the four releases showed resistance to covered smut, which was as well a big menace to the commercial sorghum production.

Dr. Lubadde Geoffrey the Programme leader dry lands cereals research programme, asked farmers to embrace the new varieties “ I call upon sorghum famers to take up the new varieties as they provide a solution to the major sorghum production constraints, each variety has special attributes but they all fit in the equation of managing climate change challenges” he emphasized.

This release has come after a period of testing, and has been informed by famers' preferences through a number of participatory variety selections, during the National Performance Trial (NPT) evaluation process and finally the Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) test before being released by the National Variety Release Committee (VRC), under MAAIF, during a meeting that was held at Namalere a Kampala Suburb on 05/07/2017.

Mr. Ebiyau Johnnie promised that as scientist they will always do everything to meet the farmer demands “we commit to continue developing, promoting and disseminating improved sorghum technologies to meet the market demands in the country” he added.

“These varieties yield very high up to 2800 kilograms per hectare compared to local varieties and as NaSARRI-NARO we are proud of this achievement, mainly because our famers are going to benefit in many ways” said Dr. M.A. Ugen the director of research NaSARRI.

The Institute is now in a rigorous seed multiplication activity to make the verities available country wide, meanwhile other varieties such as SESO 1 and SESO 3 are still on the market and

can be accessed from NaSARRI -Serere and selected seed companies (Pearl seeds, Equator Seeds, Victoria Seeds and NASECO) across Uganda.