

Genetic Resources Research Institute, Kenya



Fig. 1: Farmers during a participatory selection field day



Fig. 2: A lost sorghum variety which GeRRI has restored back to the farmers



Fig. 4: Striga susceptible (left) and resistant (right) sorghum accessions



Fig. 3: Sorghum panicle colour diversity



Genebank at a Glance

Full name	Genetic Resources Research Institute, Kenya. Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
Acronym	GeRRI
Country	Kenya
Year established	1988
Conservation methods and facilities	Seed
Number of staff	30
Total number of accessions	52,242
Number of accessions distributed annually	216

Recent Highlights

- Under The Seeds for Resilience project, GeRRI focused on germplasm characterization and evaluation to improve their understanding of the diversity and potential genetic value of its collection. Researchers are evaluating traits such as tolerance to low phosphorus and striga weed in sorghum, and blast in finger millet. Other target crops include pearl millet, cowpeas, green grams and pigeon peas. Some of the useful traits that have been observed include early maturity and tolerance to striga weed in sorghum (Fig. 4).
- GeRRI conducted 5 participatory selection events through which farmers have selected over 300 farmer-preferred accessions of sorghum (Fig. 1). Out of these, 101 accessions have been bulked and seed kits disseminated to 511 farmers for farmer-managed evaluation trials. About 48% of the farmers reported that once the process started, other farmers' interest peaked and they too requested seeds of the genebank samples.
- GeRRI has been able to restore some of the lost sorghum accessions (Fig 2).



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