

not have any serious disease. The worst enemies of finger millet are birds (quelaquelas). The birds are controlled by scarecrows or scaring.

For more information contact

Harvesting:

Begin to harvest millet when the stalks have begun to dry. Ensure thorough drying before storage.

Notes:

Director of Research

**National Semi Arid Resource
Research Institute - Serere
(NaSARRI)**

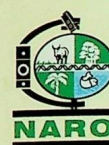
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**A GUIDE TO FINGER
MILLET PRODUCTION
IN THE MID NORTHERN
AGROECOLOGICAL ZONE**



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Background:

Finger millets have been a major staple food for the Agroecological zone (AEZ) for a long time until recently when cassava superceded in the utilization. This had been due to poor seeds.

Local varieties such as Oturu - alwete, Amududu, Oyoka, Otim Seregal etc were grown all over the country usually intercropped with pigeon peas, sorghum.

To overcome this problem of low yields, National Semi Arid Resources Resrach Institute (Serere) (NaSARRI) released some new improved varieties called PESE 1, Seremi I (U15), Seremi II (S17) and Seremi 111

Characteristics of the new Varieties:

All varieties are short - termed,

high yielding and resistant to pests and diseases. They make good ugali/ atap/ kwon and malwa.

Seremi I variety is purple in colour with closed fist when mature. It has short internodes and the seed are big. Seremi II on the other hand is whitish with opened fingers and longer internodes and the seeds are relatively smaller in size.

Yields range from 500kg - 700kg /Acre (1200 - 1500kg/Hac and they take between 110 - 130 days from planting to harvest. The new varieties mature almost one month earlier than he old varieties.

Production Requirements:

The varieties grow well in a well-drained sandy soil which is slightly acidic - Finger millet thrives well in all the Semi Arid regions AEZs with temperature ranging from 25 - 35 C with rainfall of over 1000mm unless

there is severe drought.

Planting:

Generally farmers normally broadcast finger millet. However, planting millet in rows will not only make weeding easy but will give higher yields.

When planting in line, space at about a foot wide. You will require only two kilos for an acre.

Millet is planted twice a year, the first being in February to March while the second between August and September.

Weeding:

For healthy growth and development weed before the weeds grow too high. When you prepare the seedbed well, two weedings are enough.

Pest and Disease Control:

Fortunately, finger millet does