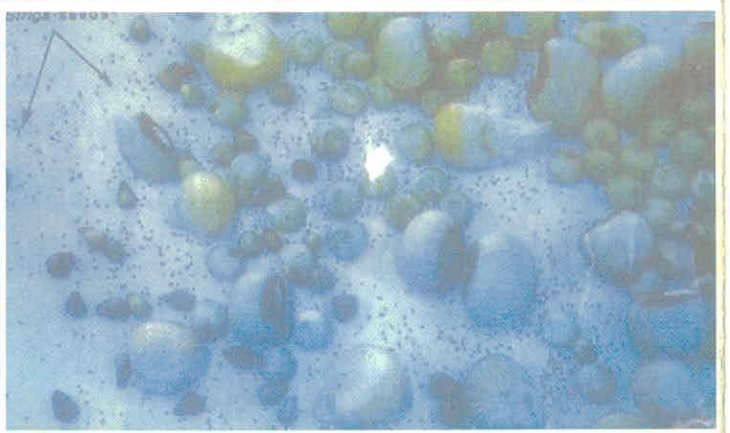


Mr. John Ebiyau a sorghum breeder at NaSARRI takes Dr. Micheal Ugen the Director of Research at NaSARRI through a striga resistant sorghum trial during the participatory variety selection exercise



Tiny striga seeds contaminating sorghum seeds during drying on the ground



A farmer selects her preferred striga resistant sorghum variety during the participatory variety selection exercise



Sorghum striga resistant/ tolerant varieties for striga control

National Semi - Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI)

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National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute NaSARRI SERERE

For more Information Contact:
Director NaSARRI, Serere
P.O. Box 56 Soroti - Uganda
Tel: +256-454-463663
Contact person: johnebiyau@yahoo.com
Tel: +256 772 593 842



CONTROL OF STRIGA IN SORGHUM

- Control Striga emergency
- Reduce Striga seed bank in the soil



The striga resistant sorghum varieties developed at NaSARRI

WHAT IS STRIGA?

STRIGA (Witch weed or Emoto (Ateso) is the main constraint limiting sorghum productivity in Uganda. It is a very dangerous parasitic weed on sorghum causing yield loss of 60-100% on small holder farmers in the main sorghum growing areas.

The infested area is estimated at 107,798(ha) by mainly striga hermonthica (purple flowers) and striga Asiatica (red flowers)



SESO 3 is one of the latest soghum varieties released at NaSARRI

TYPES OF STRIGA



Striga Hermonthica



Striga Asiatica

THE MAIN CAUSES OF STRIGA

- Lack of striga resistant Sorghum varieties
- Low soil fertility
- Continuous cropping
- Drought prone conditions





MODE OF STRIGA SPREAD

- Continuous cultivation of Cereals on the same piece of land
- Planting of striga susceptible Sorghum varieties
- Transfer or movement of farm machinery tools
- Animal grazing in infested fields as seeds can stick on animals and be transferred to other fields
- Transfer by humans working in infested areas.
- Water runoff from infested areas carrying striga seeds.
- Sorghum seed contaminated with striga seeds.

SYMPTOMS OF STRIGA DAMAGE IN CEREALS

- Stunted growth
- Failure of panicle formation
- Bleaching yellowing
- Wilting

How can Striga be controlled?

- Planting resistant /tolerant varieties (NaSARRI has developed these varieties)
- Crop rotation
- Uprooting striga plants before flowering
- Intercropping sorghum/cereal with legumes
- Use of organic and inorganic fertilizers
- Use of weed killers/herbicides

