

A targeted approach to sorghum improvement in Ethiopia



Key details

Location

Ethiopia

Duration

Start Jun 2014

End Jun 2018

Budget

AUD 717,285

Commissioned organisation

The University of Queensland

Partners

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research

Project Leader

David Jordan - University of Queensland

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Eric Huttner

Program

Crops

Project code

CIM/2013/005

is crucially important to food security in Africa as it is grown in the drier and resource-poor areas, where its capacity to better tolerate drought, high temperature, and low fertility make it a preferred crop to maize. Although sorghum tolerates stress, drought still causes significant crop losses and food insecurity in major sorghum growing regions in Ethiopia.

More effective use of water in these environments by improved tailoring of genetic and management options could reduce the effect of drought considerably. Local infrastructure and skills to conduct effective crop improvement programs in Ethiopia are limited, but investment to enhance local capacity could produce substantial and enduring benefits.

This project was part of a larger co-investment with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance sorghum crop improvement in Ethiopia's dry lowlands.



ACIAR

Australian
Aid 

Overview

This project aimed to modernise the Ethiopian sorghum breeding program at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR).

Sorghum is the world's fifth most important cereal and a staple food crop of millions in the semi-arid tropics. It