Insights in Aquaculture and Biotechnology

Problems and Prospects of Sorghum Production in the Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for Sustainable Development

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Abstract: *Sorghum is regarded as a major food security crop in Africa. Out of the global production of 61.70 million metric tonnes of sorghum that was produced from 42.60 million hectares, Africa alone accounted for 20.36 million metric tonnes (37.04%) and 24.81 Million ha (58.24%) respectively. Though sorghum productivity in the continent has not kept pace with increasing demand, the area under cultivation in almost all African countries has remained same over the period. Egypt, South Africa and Ethiopia ranked highest in terms of yield per hectare. Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia lead the continent in terms of total production within the period under review. These statistics account for Africa's contribution of about 37% of the global sorghum production out of which, Nigeria alone accounts for 10.5% of global sorghum production. It uses spanned from a variety of dishes for human consumption, animal feed, industrial usage and ethanol production in Africa. Sorghum production on the continent is bedeviled with varied constraints; both biotic and abiotic constraints, including numerous pests and diseases, delivery and adoption of a technologically driven extension serrvice can go a long way in raising the productivity of sorghum in Africa.*

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5Th International Conference On Plant Science and Physiology February 17-18,2020 Osaka, Japan.

Abstract Citation: Problems and Prospects of Sorghum Production in the Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for Sustainable Development February 17-18,2020 Osaka, Japan.