Following the release of Samboni, various seed actors are producing its certified seed for commercialization in the zones where it is adapted (mainly Sudan). The scaling of this variety requires the involvement of public extension services, NGOs and other development actors. However, this component is weak as it depends on projects' funds. Thus, the time between variety release and its diffusion at large scale can occur over 15 to 20 years although these technologies are expected by farmers to increase their productivity and cope with climate change and variability.

VARIETY PROFILE

Profile
Samboni or ICSV 1361063 is an improved short guinea type sorghum variety with 115 days of maturity released in the ECOVAS seed catalogue in 2018 by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) under the lead of the Institut d’Economie Rural (IER) in Mali.

Grain yield
The variety exhibited high grain yield (2.8 t/ha) on station and 1.6 t/ha in farmers’ fields across a range of environments and during two successive years. As compared to farmers’ variety (Tieble), which is widely grown in the Sudan zone (700 mm-1200 mm), Samboni has grain yield advantage up to 25% with bold grain and is well adapted to local processing and food.

Crop cultivation
The breeder and foundation seed production of this variety started in 2018-2019. After field demonstrations through NGOs and farmers’ organizations in 2019, the demand for Samboni started increasing from 2020, six hectares were planted by seed cooperatives for certified seed production and an average of 12 tons of seed are expected for commercialization in 2021. Thus, a local business was created around the variety and efforts are ongoing for creation in other countries of West Africa.

FAST & COST-EFFECTIVE BREEDING PROCESS

PARTNERSHIPS DELIVER INNOVATIONS

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (CRP-GLDC)
- Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), Mali
- McKnight Foundation Networking4Seed
- USAID Innovation Lab for Climate Resilient Sorghum
- BMGF HOPE II Project

INNOVATION LAUNCH & COMMERCIALIZATION

- This variety was released in the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) seed catalogue in 2018 by ICRISAT.
- After field demonstrations through NGOs and farmers’ organizations in 2019, the demand for Samboni increased in 2020, and an average of 12 tons of seed are expected for commercialization in 2021.

BROADER RELEVANCE

This innovative cultivar contributes to SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, and SDG 1 “To end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030”. These cultivars contribute to nutrition and food security goals, have been taken up by users as a Stage 4 and Maturity level 3 innovation, i.e. policy and/or practice changes influenced by this new sorghum cultivar has led to adoption or impacts at scale or beyond the direct CGIAR sphere of influence.