Since the launch in 2016, improved nutritional security amidst the rural communities and productivity per unit area (from 1.2 t/ha to 2.0 t/ha) was witnessed on farmers' fields with about 35% adoption by rural farmers from a survey conducted on 1680 farmers distributed in nine states across the three geopolitical zones of Northern Nigeria, including Jigawa, Sokoto, Kano, Katsina, Niger, Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe States of Nigeria.

As a Stage 3 and a Maturity level 1 innovation, this improved variety is available for use by the public and CGIAR research and related activities, thereby contributing to changed discourse and/or behavior amongst the users. This is evidenced by 35% adoption by rural farmers from a survey conducted on 1680 farmers distributed across 9 states in the three geopolitical zones of Northern Nigeria.

Sorghum plays an important role in the diets and economy of the developing countries in the African continent. Here, micronutrient malnutrition, particularly among women and children, is one of the greatest global challenges of our times. Micronutrients are not produced in the body and must be derived from the diet. Deficiencies in micronutrients such as iron, iodine, vitamin A, folate and zinc can have devastating health consequences. Sorghum has been recommended for infants, the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers because of its high caloric and nutritional value. Therefore, any improvement in grain Fe and Zn concentration in sorghum, directly benefits the poor who depend mainly on agriculture.

A biofortified sorghum variety 12KNICSV-188 (IMPROVED DEKO) was developed through population improvement by crossing sorghum lines IS15401 X Deko followed by ear-row progeny selection. The improved open-pollinated varieties were developed by a team of scientists from the Nigerian national system and ICRISAT which was registered and released as SAMSORG 45 in 2016 by the national variety release committee of Nigeria.

To improve nutrition in African region since 2016

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The open pollinated improved variety can help overcome periods of drought, especially terminal drought prevalent in the Nigerian (Sudan and Sahel) ecologies as they are early maturing with 50% flowering in 67 days against an average of 90 days in other varieties.

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This variety has iron content of 129 ppm that is three times higher than the currently grown sorghum varieties with 40 ppm iron. The variety is also drought resistant providing average yields of 2.4-2.8 t/ha, compared to less than 1 t/ha from the local varieties.

http://gldc.cgiar.org