

Project Summary

Title	Development of improved Scald tolerant Barley varieties with superior end-use (malt) and nutritional quality for dry land areas of the northern Ethiopia.
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Purpose	Overall goal is to contribute to improved food security in drought prone areas through the development, dissemination and promotion of improved barley varieties.
Project Summary	Barley an important cash crop for resource-poor farmers in Tigray region of northern Ethiopian where options are very limited, and barley is often the only possible crop. Biotic stresses plus a harsh environment have contributed to low productivity of barley leading widespread food insecurity in the Tigray area. Unfortunately, efforts to deploy improved varieties in barley have not taken root in Tigray. Our approach in this proposal is to combine the latest molecular and client-oriented plant improvement techniques to improved efficiency of selection and fasten release of varieties. A fundamental problem in plant breeding is the relationship between selection environment and target environment. Plant breeders have notable successes in favorable environments, but they are often addressing the problems of poor farmers living in unfavorable environments by simply extending the same methodologies and philosophies applied to favorable, high-potential environments. Achieving food security and poverty alleviation in northern Ethiopia will require a large cadre of well-trained agriculturists. In this project, we propose to train 2 nationals from Ethiopian in the MSc. (Plant Breeding and Seed Systems) program at Makerere University.
Country and Specific Location(s)	In three of the barley growing areas in northern Tigray region of Ethiopia.
Participating	Department of Dry land Crop Sciences of Mekelle University.

Institutions	
Start Date	May, 2010
End date	May, 2012
Amount of Funding	USD 59,955.00