### Project Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Screening Finger Millet Varieties for Adaptation to Drought Prone Ecological Regions of Eastern Kenya as a Strategy to Combat Food Insecurity and Climate Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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| **Purpose** | This project seeks to screen finger millet varieties for adaptation to drought prone ecological regions of Eastern Kenya as a strategy to combat food insecurity and climate change. |
The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

Project Summary

Semi-arid and marginal drylands are increasingly becoming more prone to drought and frequently famine stricken as a result of climate change. Households have limited choice of crops to withstand drought. Improving the livelihoods of these poor farmers is closely linked to productivity and profitability of the staple dry land cereals sorghum, pearl millet and finger millet. Whereas sorghum and pearl millet have received much attention in terms of research, finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn) remains a largely ignored crop of immense potential for the semi-arid lands. Therefore, this research seeks to screen finger millet varieties for adaptation to drought prone ecological regions of Eastern Kenya as a strategy to combat nutritional insecurity and climate change. Finger millet varieties will be tested on drought adaptation and value; and modelling of impact of climate change on the growth and yield. Participatory screening of drought tolerant finger millet will be conducted on local landraces and improved finger millet varieties in two semi-arid sites in farmer field schools. One student will assess morphological, physiological, yield and nutritional value and, the other will analyse the impact of climate change on finger millet using the Agricultural Production Simulator (APSIM) Modelling. Participatory M&E approach will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and Specific Location(s)</th>
<th>Machakos and Makueni (Kibwezi) Counties in Kenya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating Institutions</td>
<td>Eastern Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>September, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End date</td>
<td>August, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Funding</td>
<td>US$ 59,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIO-DATA
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

SELECTED FUNDED PROJECTS