Performance of Pearl Millet Population Hybrids in Africa and the USA. (C01-hanna211211-Poster)

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Abstract:

Three cycles of population hybrids among West African pearl millet landraces were evaluated for grain yield in Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Mali and Zambia and for forage yield in Georgia (USA). Significant variation existed for grain yields among population hybrids, both within and across locations. In general, no population hybrid yielded more grain than the best local genotype. Although the population hybrids produced significantly more forage than their parents, the hybrids did not produce more than the best commercial forage single cross hybrid. Grain production appeared to be stable for cycles 1 to 3. Forage yields were also stable across cycles except a decrease in dry matter yield was observed in cycles 2 and 3 compared to cycle 1 for one of three crosses. Significant variation was observed for rust and downy mildew resistance among the population hybrids.

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