

FARMER'S PREFERRED TRAITS AND CONSTRAINTS TO GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION IN GHANA

BENJAMIN A. DANSO^{1,5}, DANIEL K. DZIDZIENYO^{1,4}, RICHARD OTENG-FRIMPONG²,
RACHEL CANN¹ AND JAMES Y. ASIBUO³

¹West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

²CSIR-Savannah Agricultural Research Institute, Nyankpala, Ghana

³CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Kumasi, Ghana

⁴Biotechnology Centre, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

⁵Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development

ABSTRACT

Understanding the needs of farmers is the first step in designing appropriate interventions for agricultural productivity. This study used Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to identify farmers' preferred groundnut traits and constraints to groundnut production in Ghana. Seven Focal Group Discussions (FGDs) were held across three agro-ecological zones that form the groundnut basin of Ghana, followed by the administration of semi-structured questionnaires to 210 respondents. From the FGDs, groundnut diseases were ranked as the most important constraint, followed by low yield, pest and drought. Farmers' preferred groundnut traits identified in this study included high yield, low pod constriction, sweet taste, early maturity, erect growth habit, high oil content, drought tolerance, tan seed coat colour and tolerance to pests and diseases. Most of the claims made by FGD groups were confirmed using the survey. This study has provided baseline information on the constraints to groundnut production and farmers' preferred traits of groundnut in Ghana.

KEYWORDS: Participatory Rural Appraisal, Groundnut, Ghana, Constraints

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