

Introduction

- The Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) in Malawi has a mandate to develop modern and consumer oriented agricultural technologies.
- The support from CIMMYT through ADCIN has strengthened the breeding programs in DARS with direct funding for capacity building (trainings and infrastructure development) and implementation of breeding activities.
- Assessment report for DARS highlighted need for irrigation facilities and greenhouses to support the breeding programs. These are currently being installed.



Challenge

- Erratic rainfall patterns, droughts
- Emerging plant disease pandemics
- Limited access to seed of improved crop varieties
- Declining soil fertility levels

Solutions

- Construction of greenhouse and irrigation structures for drought / off-season experiments
- Sharing of breeding lines across the countries
- Training of technicians in experimentation and data collection



Title: Breeding Process or capacity improvement conducted during 2024 in your country

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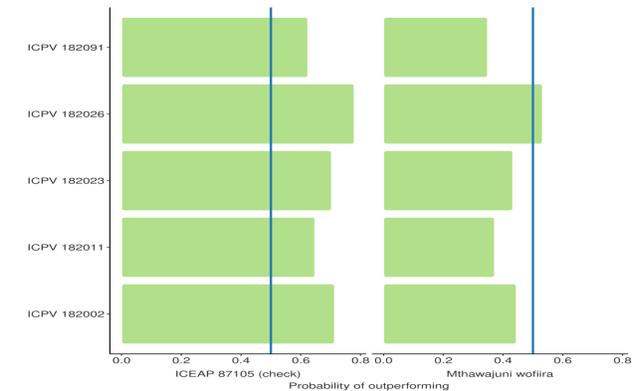
Key messages/Insights

1. On-farm evaluation of promising lines using TRICOT
2. Multi-locational variety performance trials.
3. Infrastructure development - glasshouses, irrigation facilities
4. Exchange of breeding materials



Current implementation status

- Breeding lines of pigeonpea, groundnut, sorghum, finger millet and chickpea evaluated in multilocal sites- 2023-24 season to continue in 2024-25 season
- Evaluation of promising lines of pigeonpea at on farm conducted using TRICOT in 2023-24 season and groundnut in 2024-25 season.
- Promising lines for yield and other traits identified.
- Hybridization in progress
- Greenhouse being constructed and irrigation equipment to be installed at Chitedze



What are your plans to sustain?

- Short- and long-term trainings
- Leverage support
- Establish full breeding team for each crop

Acknowledgements

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