

## INTRODUCTION

Sorghum is the third most important staple cereal food crop in Uganda after maize and millets occupying 285,000 ha of arable land. The Crop is mainly grown in the drier areas Eastern, Northern and South Western regions of Uganda. Sorghum is mainly used for food and brewing.

In attempt to improve food security and incomes among the rural poor house holds, SAARI has generated a number of technologies among which are Sekedo and Epuripur improved sorghum varieties released in 1995.

Epuripur one of the improved varieties yield ranges from 2500 – 3,000 kg / ha under good management. However, at farmer level the Yield ranges from 500 – 800 kg per acres.

Epuripur is an early maturing sorghum variety (3 ½ month maturity period and it can be grown twice a year.

In order to obtain high yields, Epuripur requires the following recommendation: -

### SEED BED PREPARATION

Select well-drained and fertile site. Open the land 4 – 6 weeks before planting to allow proper decomposition of plant residue. Ploughing can be done twice to attain a fine seedbed.

## PLANTING TIME

At the onset of rains i.e March – April or August – September. Late planting leads to high disease attack.

### PLANTING METHOD

Most farmers broadcast, however row cropping is recommended as it has the following advantages;

- Field operations made easy e.g. weeding, spraying.
- Use of Ox-drawn equipments practicable
- High yields and therefore high income

### SPACING

Plant at a spacing of 60 cm between rows and 20 cm between plants. Plant 5-10 seeds per hole and thin to two plants per hole when the plants are about 6 inches tall.

### SEED RATE

4 kg/acre or 10 kg/ha is sufficient.

### WEEDING

Two weedings are sufficient for a good crop establishment.

### MATURITY

It takes about 110 days or three and a half months for Epuripur to mature.

## How do you know it is ready for harvesting?

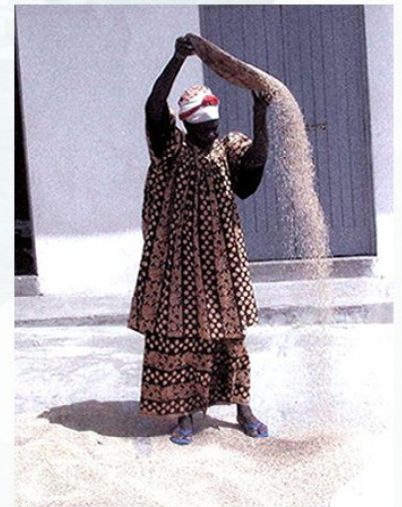
The crop is ready for harvesting when the black scar appears underneath the seed.

### DRYING

Dry on the drying floor 3 – 5 days. Keep the harvested crop away from the rain or most conditions as this encourages grain moulding.

### THRESHING

Separate foreign seed or matter to obtain high quality produce that will fetch good price.



*Winnowing for quality produce*