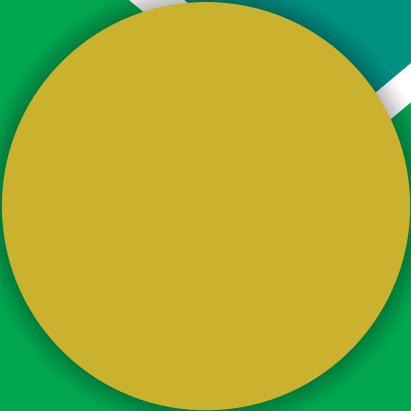


# Multipurpose Grain Sorghum



**Hafeez Ahmad Sadaqat, Amir Bibi and  
Masood Qadir**

Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics,  
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad



Sorghum is a wide genus with many species, including *S. bicolor*, *S. helepense* and *S. sudanense* it can also be classified as grain sorghums, fodder sorghums (for pasture and hay) and sweet sorghums (for medicinal uses and biofuel). Environment adaptation is the single most important factor for selection of sorghum during Kharif season over maize; as both crops are comparable in costs of production and in nutrition.

Grain sorghum requires less irrigation water than maize, and can tolerate extreme summers. It is a better option of cereal crop to produce better yields than corn in hotter and drier areas. It has a diversity of uses, including human consumption and animal feed. Globally, over half of all sorghum is used for human consumption. Grain sorghum is used for flours, porridges and side dishes, malted and distilled beverages, and specialty foods such as popped grain.

Plant Breeders have developed and identified many distinctive genotypes of sorghum crop for multipurpose uses. UAF maintains genetic purity of sorghum for maximum utilization in breeding programs. As sorghum is an often cross pollinated crop. So to reproduce true to type and to maintain genetic identity, needs careful plant to plant observations and research. UAF has rich gene source of sorghum, including new and distinct varieties for grain purpose. These varieties have bold open/compact and branched panicle with high grain yield (Figure 1). Variations in grain color also, including, off white, reddish brown, dark brown and light brown with dot on seed. All these colors are genetically controlled and linked with many beneficial quality characters.



Figure 1. Variation in Panicle size, shape and structure in grain sorghum.