TECHNICAL SHEET

Thialakh millet variety

Presentation of millet

The common name millet refers, in a broad sense, to several grass species including, among others, *Pennisetum glaucum*, *Eleusine coracana*, *Panicum miliaceum*, *Setaria italica*, *Echinochloa crusgalli* (Saïdou, 2011 cited by Kadri et *al*, 2019). Pearl millet or candle millet, Pennisetum glaucum, represents 40% of the world's millet production (Yang and *al*., 2012 cited by Kadri and *al*, 2019). It is also, the most grown species for human consumption and produces the largest grains (Mariac and *al*., 2006 cited by Kadri and *al*, 2019).

Millet is an upright plant with thick stems and heights ranging from 1.5 to 3 m, but millets of nearly 4 meters can be found (Moumouni, 2014 cited by Kadri and *al*, 2019). The root system is fasciculate with a single main seminal root followed by numerous adventitious roots. One of the causes of millet's good adaptation to the pedoclimatic conditions of the semi-arid zone is its extensive root development, which can reach 300 cm in depth at harvest (Ahmadi and *al*., 2002; ROCAFREMI, 2002 cited by Kadri and *al*, 2019).

Millet, *Pennisetum glaucum*, is the most drought tolerant cereal. It is grown in regions where rainfall is between 150 and 800 millimeters (Besançon and *al*, 1997). In Africa, 70% of production comes from the west of the continent. The main producing countries are, in decreasing order of importance: Nigeria, Niger, Burkina, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal (Besançon and *al*, 1997). It is often the staple food and is consumed in the form of paste, porridge, couscous, or pancakes (Besançon and *al*, 1997). It can also be used to make alcoholic beverages such as millet beer (Besançon and *al*, 1997).

Millet seed

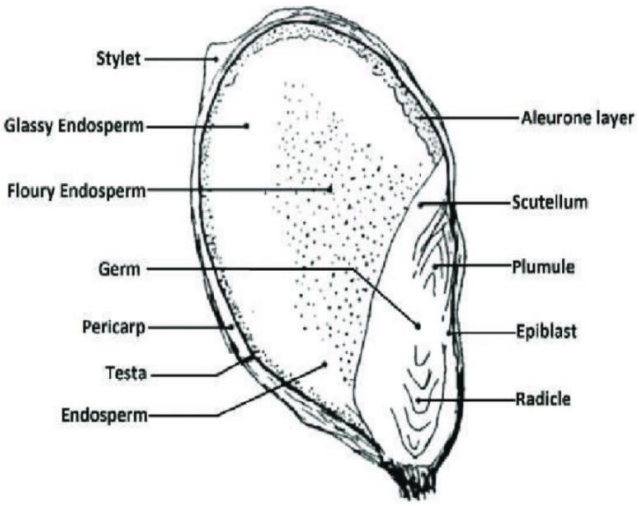

Figure 1 : Cutting of a millet seed (source : Rao and *al*, 2017)

Development of millet

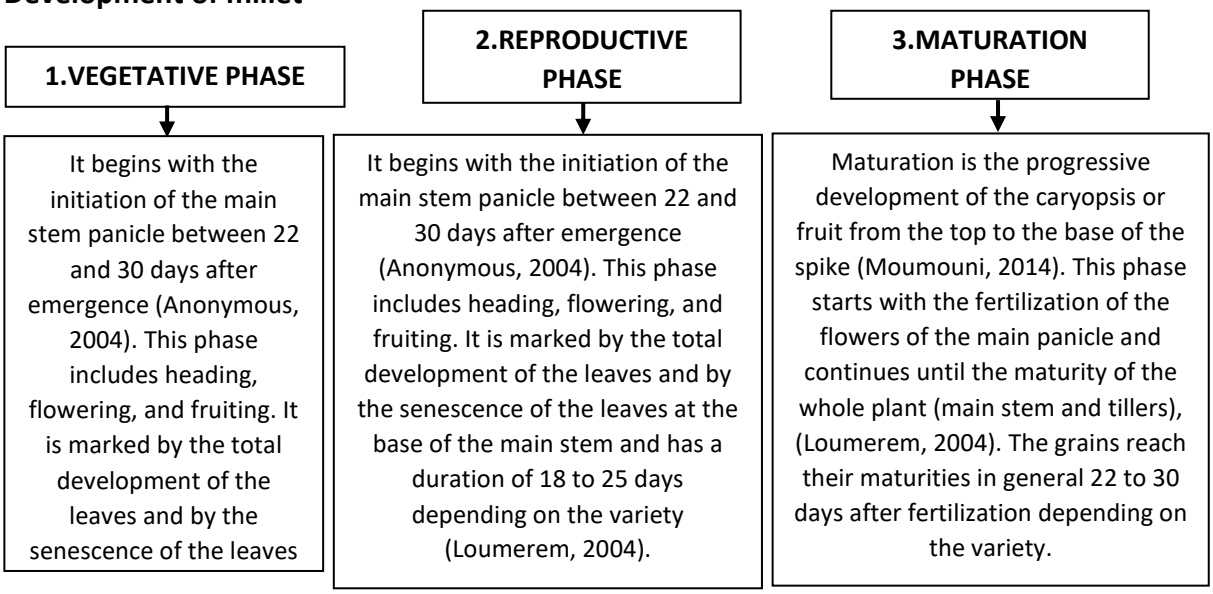

Figure 2: growth and development of millet (source : Kadri and *al*, 2019)

Characteristics of the technology

- Cycle of 95 days,
- Yield : 2,1-3t/ha
- Variety that behaves well against diseases (mildew, anthrax, ergot and rust).

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