

TECHNICAL SHEET

VC Akad-Kom pearl millet

Presentation of the millet

Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) also known as millet is a food grain, with very small seeds, grown in dry regions especially in Africa and Asia. Millet is an annual herbaceous plant of the grass family (Terra Millet, 2016). It is the most widely cultivated (gnis, 2011). Millet is primarily a food crop and is therefore used for human consumption. This grain is a great source of protein, phosphorus, and vitamins B1, B2, A, and C (gnis, 2011). There are several different species: Proso millet, round millet, long millet, bunch millet, bird millet, broom millet, pearl millet (gnis, 2011). The most widely grown millet is pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) and accounts for half of the world's millet production (gnis, 2011).

Millet was widely grown in our country in the early 19th century. It is: a gluten-free plant; suitable for extensive conditions; allows to unload rotations with many cereals; drought resistant, suitable for dry regions; temperature demanding (C4 plant); vegetation period: 90 - 110 days; low growing: plants up to 1 m high; soil type : light to medium-heavy (does not tolerate heavy soils); does not tolerate soil compaction; does not tolerate areas with stagnant water and hydromorphic layers (horizontal root network); sensitive to cold spells (do not plant in areas with risk of late frosts); yield 20 - 40 dt / ha; amount of grain in panicle is determined at 3-5 leaves (agridea, 2008).

Millet seed

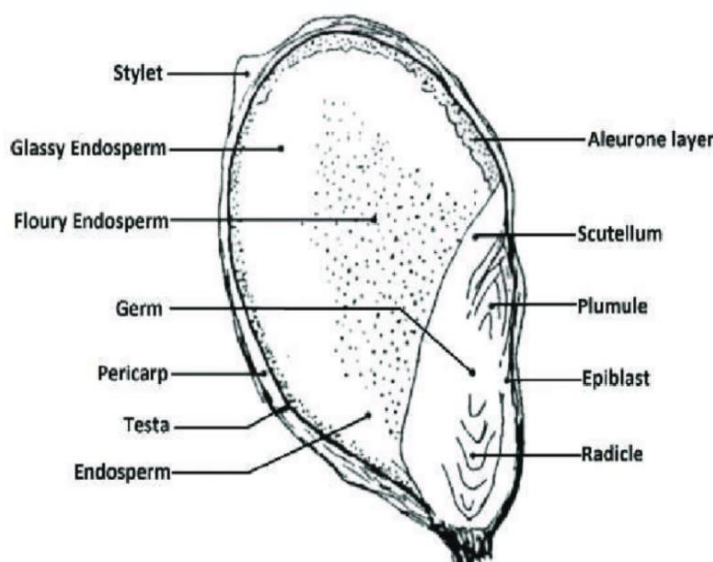


Figure 1 : Cutting of a millet seed (source : Rao and *al*, 2017)

Sowing and development of millet

Sowing is done from May 15 to early June, depending on the region. (In 2015 some sowed after June 20 with success) (Terra Millet, 2016). Important: wait until the soil is well warmed up. 12 degrees minimum (Terra Millet, 2016). Its growing season (100 days) is much shorter than corn (Terra Millet, 2016). Millet is generally harvested between mid-September and early Oct (Terra Millet, 2016). Beware a little moisture is needed for good emergence (moisture already there or coming soon) otherwise yield will be lower, weeds will compete (Terra Millet, 2016).

Characteristics of the technology

- Panicle length 12cm
- Panicle diameter 11cm
- Protein content: 9.35g/100g
- Energy content: 370kcal
- Carbohydrate: 74.87
- Excellent for porridge and foroforo
- Maturity 70 days
- Yield potential - 2.0 tons/ha
- Tolerant to mildew and drought

Références bibliographiques

Agridea (2008) : Millet – Culture ; fiche de renseignement ; 2p.

Gnis (2011) : Cultivons la diversité des plantes cultivées / Millet ; carte d'identité ; 2p.

RAO B., KANDLAKUNTA B., G. D. A. C., GOLLA S. D., TONAPI V. (2017): Nutritional and Health Benefits of Millets; 105p.

Terra Millet (2016) : Le millet : fiche technique 2016 ; 15p.

Web sites consulted

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Other references

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