



**ICRISAT**

## Sorghum Hybrid Parents Research Consortium



### Background

ICRISAT is a pioneering non-profit organization dedicated to scientific research for development, committed to transforming dryland farming and agri-food systems. Through global partnerships, ICRISAT develops innovative solutions to combat hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation, benefiting 2.1 billion people across the drylands of Asia, Africa, and beyond. As of 2024, ICRISAT had released 1,328 varieties in 81 countries, including 367 sorghum varieties in 46 countries.

Globally, sorghum production stands at 62 million MT, grown on over 40 Mha across more than 110 countries, with an average productivity of about 1,500 kg/ha.

ICRISAT's Sorghum Hybrid Parents Research Consortium (SHPRC) was established to respond to farmers' need for improved hybrid seeds at an affordable cost. The consortium leverages the complementary expertise of private-sector seed companies to develop improved cultivars and expand access to quality seed.

This model has successfully diversified the genetic base of hybrid breeding programs, producing superior hybrids, and enabling seed companies to stay in the business longer.



### Functions and Impact

The SHPRC partners with private-sector seed companies both in India and other countries to deliver improved hybrids and varieties to smallholder farmers. Through SHPRC, ICRISAT provides five key services:

1. Evaluating breeding materials for key traits and regional adaptation at targeted sites
2. Providing a platform to test promising pipeline hybrids across agro-ecological zones
3. Screening private-sector lines and hybrids
4. Supplying nucleus seed
5. Facilitating networking



The impact of SHPRC in South Asia is evident: several new hybrids commercialized by private-sector partners were developed using ICRISAT-bred materials or selections thereof. Between 2000 and 2010, ICRISAT contributed about 80 % of sorghum A- and B-lines and 60 % of R-lines to private seed companies' working collections in India.



## SHPRC Memberships

Current SHPRC memberships run for five-year terms, with companies choosing to join as primary or promotional members. Members pay an annual grant to ICRISAT in exchange for access to high-quality seed materials.



Interested sorghum seed companies and other private-sector entities may join the consortium. Contact us to learn more or to receive the SHPRC guidelines.

## Contact

**Ephrem Habyarimana**

Principal Scientist - Sorghum Breeding Lead

[Ephrem.Habyarimana@icrisat.org](mailto:Ephrem.Habyarimana@icrisat.org)

