

Composite Collection

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica* (L.) Beauv.) belongs to family Poaceae and subfamily Panicoideae. Regarded as a native of China, it is one of the world's oldest cultivated crops. Cultivated extensively in the former USSR, China and India but also widely elsewhere. It is generally grown in the 500-700 mm rainfall areas, requires less rainfall than sorghum and maize but success depends on strategic falls of rain. This crop is fairly tolerant of drought; it can escape some droughts because of early maturity. Under Generation Challenge Program (GCP) by using phenotypic characterization data, geographical origin and taxonomic data, constituted a composite collection of 500 foxtail millet accessions. The composite collection includes accessions of core collection developed at ICRISAT (155), agronomically elite (33), 1000 grain weight more than 3.7 g (9), high grain yield (5), early flowering (77), dwarf (21), more number of basal tillers (> 29) (25), mono tiller (59), more inflorescence length (> 299 mm) (18), less inflorescence length (<=50 mm) (40), more inflorescence width (> 39 mm) (25), less inflorescence width (<=5) (23), and improved cultivars (10) accessions.