This text details the dietary significance, crop morphology, methods of processing, and nutritional data of grains of “the millet” family. In detailing these processes of consumption, the authors discuss storage practices, types of milling, and secondary processing for consumption. The “figures” section of this chapter includes many images of pearl millet physiology and processing practices. The authors’ background are largely in chemistry and crop and soil sciences. McDonough and Rooney are affiliated with the agricultural research station at Texas A&M University and Serna-Saldivar with El Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico.

This chapter in “The Handbook of Cereal Science and Technology” is an important source of information on millet physiology and processing. It argues that millets are of great dietary significance and are often processed and consumed daily in areas in which they are grown. This data, in addition to the nutritional significance discussed by the authors, further supports the importance of our project. However, the author’s discussion of millet processing was rather general and broad, and this topic warrants further research.

Lost Crops of Africa: Volume I: Grains

Type Web Page
URL http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=2305
Along with other crops of significance in Africa, this text discusses the significance of pearl millet through its early history as a domesticated crop and, mainly, in a contemporary sense through an analysis of its wide geographical range, versatility, and importance in African lifeways. This text details the nutritional qualities of pearl millet, crop morphology and growth requirements, and the importance of millets for subsistence. In the chapter on subsistence millets, the authors discuss the norms around the growth, processing, and consumption of pearl millet, as well as potential areas for improvement. In a final chapter on commercial millets, the authors discuss the potential for the commercialization of millet and its requirements. This text has been published by the National Research Council and has utilized the knowledge and background of a large number of scientists.

This source is useful in its detailed information on the production and processing of pearl millet. Like many other sources, its discussion of the importance of millet further supports the goal of our project to maintain the significance of and ease the labor requirements for pearl millet in subsistence foodways in Africa. However, this text raises important questions about the commercialization of pearl millet which is a goal for many organizations, such as the NRC. It is important to consider the ways in which our design could be co-opted for commercial processes or may be used to resist this commercialization and maintain important subsistence connections—or perhaps something in between the two.

Attachments

- Lost Crops of Africa: Volume I: Grains