MUAST Releases Climate-Resilient Finger Millet Variety 'Muchekeranwa' to Boost Food and Nutrition Security in Zimbabwe

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST) has released **Muchekeranwa**, a promising early-maturing, high-yielding finger millet variety developed to enhance climate resilience, agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security.

Muchekeranwa flowers at approximately 69 days and matures in 100 days, offering farmers an opportunity to escape terminal drought. It recorded an average grain yield of 2.9 tonnes per hectare, reaching 4.14 tonnes per hectare under optimum conditions at MUAST Agro-Industrial Park-Farm. With an iron content of 44.2 ppm, the variety also offers nutritional benefits.

This milestone reflects MUAST's commitment to climate-smart agricultural innovation and the commercialisation of traditional grains, with valuable germplasm support from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

MUAST: Advancing agricultural innovation for resilient food systems and sustainable livelihoods.