

Registration of *Guta* Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) Variety for Bale Highlands

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Abstract: *Guta* is a common name for this barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) variety with a pedigree designation of Acc.3260-18. The variety has been developed and released by Sinana agricultural research center for commercial production in the highlands of Bale. It has been tested at Sinana, Agarfa, Robe and Adaba major barley growing areas during 2003-2005 years and showed better performances in grain yield over local variety, *Aruso* and standard variety, *Shage*. Thus, the variety has shown high mean grain yield and relatively stable across locations and years. It also showed comparable responses to net blotch, scald and barley leaf rust diseases as compared to *Aruso*, but it appears that *Guta* was less resistant to these barley diseases as compared to *Shage* may be due to its earliness. On the other hand, as observed during evaluation *Guta* possess resistance or tolerance to barley shoot fly insect than *Shage*; and exhibit compensatory growth after shootfly damage and these needs further research. The early maturing characteristics of the variety suits to the different cropping systems in the area and give better adoption potential by the local farmers.

Keywords: *Guta*; Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.); Yield Performance; Early Maturity

1. Introduction

Guta (Acc.3260-18) barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) variety is food barley variety released in 2007 under Oromia Agricultural Research Institute by Sinana Agricultural Research Center. It was originally developed from Ethiopian barley landrace collections and selected by pure line selection methods at Sinana Agricultural Research Center (SARC) in barley landrace enhancement program to develop a variety with high yielding potential and other better agronomic traits. The material has been evaluated together with other genotypes in different breeding nurseries from 2000-2002 and then advanced to variety trial to see its varietal performance across locations and years in barley producing areas of Bale highland. The variety was officially released as commercial production in Bale highlands after approval by the Ethiopian National Variety Release Committee in accordance with the guidelines of the national variety release system and variety registration of the country. Breeder seed and foundation seed of the variety is maintained by SARC.

2. Evaluation

Guta (Acc.3260-18) was tested together with 20 barley genotypes including checks in regional variety trial at 12 environments in major barley producing areas in Bale highlands during 2003- 2005 consecutive years. *Guta* was evaluated along with *Aruso* and *Shage* as the local and standard variety, respectively at altitudinal range of 2400-3000 meter above sea level at Sinana, Agarfa, Adaba and Robe locations in each year. Since there is high shoot fly presence in these areas, the variety together with other genotypes and checks was checked frequently for shoot fly resistance or tolerance under natural condition at hot spot areas before advanced to variety trials (by visual observation) as shoot fly damage is easily identified and the effect is usually seen as stunt growth and reduced yield.

3. Varietal Characteristics

Guta is early maturing and six-rowed variety with erect growth habit. The variety matures with an average of 103

days which is more than two weeks earlier in maturity than the standard variety, *Shage* (Table 1) so that it can utilize moisture more efficiently. This short maturing habit is preferred by the local community as it can be produced efficiently with in the two main cropping seasons, *Ganna* (March-July) and *Bona* (August-December). It is also characterized by better resistance/tolerance to main biological insect pest (shoot fly) than specially the standard variety (*Shage*) (visual observation); and showed rapid compensatory growth after damage by the insect. The variety is tall with average height of 93 cm. The average days to heading and maturity is 58 and 103, respectively. On the other hand, seed color is grey and has average thousand-kernel weight of 33.2 g (Table 1).

4. Yield and Stability Performance

The results of the evaluation indicated important information regarding variety performance and stability. Thus, grain yield performance of the released barley variety and checks is described below in Table (1). During evaluation seasons, the overall location mean grain yield of this variety was better than all genotype means. Beside this, *Guta* was higher in mean grain yield over check varieties, exceeding by 21% and 4.5% over *shage* (standard variety) and *Aruso* (local variety), respectively. On research field *Guta* gave yield ranging from 2.4 to 4.9 t/ha, whereas 2.0 to 4.3 t/ha on farmers' field. In addition, stability analysis was done on grain yield using three years (2003-2005) data. According to joint regression model, a variety with high mean yield, regression coefficient (b_i) of unity and with deviation from regression (S^2_{di}) = 0 is stable (Eberhart and Russell, 1966). In this regard, *Guta* is stable variety with high mean grain yield, regression coefficient (b_i) of 1.07 which is nearly unity and deviation from regression of 0.02 which is equivalent to zero. Therefore, it has shown stable yield performance across locations of evaluation as well as higher mean grain yield over check varieties (*Shage* and *Aruso*).

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5. Disease Reaction

Data recording was done for all genotypes including this variety for major barley diseases such as net blotch (*Pyrenophora teres* Drechs.), scald (*Rhynchosporium secalis* Oud.) and barley leaf rust (*Puccinia hordei* Otth) at across all environments (Table 1). Data was taken at 51-69 plant growth stages (Zadoks *et al.*, 1974) across locations. Both diseases, net blotch and scald were scored using 00-99 double digit scale (Saari and Prescott, 1975) in such a way that the first digit indicate the spread of disease in a plot (% incidence) and the second digit indicate the percentage of leaf area infected (% severity), i.e 1 = <10%, 2 = 10-20%, 3 = 20-30%, 4 = 30-40%, 5 = 40-50%, 6 = 50-60%, 7 = 60-70%, 8 = 70-80% and 9 = >80%. Whereas, barley leaf rust data was collected based on Stubs *et al.* (1986) methodology. Thus, it was observed that the disease responses of the early maturing candidate variety (*Guta*) to the above three diseases was comparable with local (*Arsuo*) variety; however, it appears that *Guta* was less resistant to these major barley diseases as compared to *Shage* (standard variety) which is late maturing type. Similarly, Parlevliet and Moseman (1986) and Getaneh *et al.* (1999) indicated in their reports as early maturing barley lines showed less resistance to leaf rust than late types. And, Yitbarek *et al.* (1998) also found early maturing barley populations as less resistant to net blotch and scald disease due to escaping mechanisms by late maturing types. Michael *et al.* (1989) reported positive relationship between earliness and grain yield.

6. Farmers Evaluation of the Variety

To evaluate the perception and preferences of the local farmers, farmers' participatory barley variety evaluation and selection was conducted at five representative sites in Bale highlands during 2007 *Bona* cropping season. Farmers made selection and evaluation individually and in-group. In this evaluation, 12 released varieties were included together with *Guta*. Among the best barley varieties ranked from one to four during selection is presented in Table 2. In this regard, *Guta* was almost selected or ranked as first variety preferred by the local farmers mainly due to its yield performance, early maturity, productive tillers and relatively disease free than other varieties tested.

7. Adaptation

Guta variety is recommended for production in the highlands of Bale with annual rainfall of about 590 mm in the *Ganna* and 560 mm in *Bona* season (Hailu *et al.*, 1996). Nevertheless, the variety can be adapted to other regions or areas with similar agro-ecologies through adaptation. It can best suit to the two main growing seasons in the area due to its early maturity and suitable in a sense that harvesting of the variety in the *Ganna* season could be followed by planting pulse crops during the *Bona* as rotation. On black soils, 50 kg DAP (diammonium phosphate) fertilizer is recommended to give good yield and with 125 kg seed rate. In addition, the variety can be planted early March for *Ganna* season and early August for *Bona* season.

Table 1. Overall mean grain yield, other important agronomic traits and disease reaction of *Guta* (Acc.3260-18) barley variety and checks across locations and years.

No.	Variety	Row type	DH	DM	PH (cm)	TKW (gm)	HLW (kg/hl)	NB (00-99)	Scald (00-99)	LR (Rxn)	GY (t/ha)
1	Acc.3260-18	six	58	103	93	33.2	61.6	83	82	40MS	2.3
2	Aruso (L. Vty)	irreg.	61	107	92	35.1	62	80	82	40MS	2.2
3	Shage (St.Vty)	six	67	119	88	35.5	60	61	61	5MS	1.9

DH=Days to heading, DM=Days to maturity, PH=Plant height, TKW=Thousand kernel weight, NB=Net Blotch, LR =Leaf Rust, Rxn=Reaction, HLW=hectoliter weight, kg/hl= Kilogram hectoliter⁻¹, t/ha= ton hectare⁻¹, irreg.=irregular, St.Vty=standard variety, L.Vty=local variety & GY=Grain Yield.

Table 2. Farmers' rankings of best barley varieties at different five sites in Bale highlands.

Variety	Sites	Salka III	Salka II	Ilani	Rataba
Guta	Salka IV	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)	1
Dinsho	1(2)	3(2)	-	3(2)	4
Biftu	3	4	4	2(3)	2
Harbu	4	2	2(2)	4(4)	3
Dafo	(3)	5(3)	3	-	-
Meserach	-	-	- (3)	-	4

The number in the parenthesis indicate the rank given by farmers in group selection

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