

January 21, 2010

Dr. Robert L. Gillen, Head  
Western Kansas Agriculture Research Center – Hays  
1232 240<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Dr. Gillen,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the application of Dr. Zenbaba Gutema Wordoffa for the Assistant Professor, Sorghum Breeding at Kansas State University at Hays. I have known Zenbaba for over 10 years as a collaborator and as a graduate student.

Zenbaba has a good knowledge of Sorghum Breeding, both applied and theoretical. Before coming to Purdue University to pursue a graduate program in Plant Breeding and Genetics, Zenbaba has had several years of sorghum breeding experience. He was involved in field and nursery management operations and the breeding practice and decisions that led to the development and release of cultivars in an organized research program. He was the national coordinator for sorghum research in Ethiopia with coordination and management responsibilities for a large and functional sorghum improvement program in Ethiopia.

In his capacity as the program coordinator in Ethiopia, Zenbaba demonstrated great leadership skills, guiding people to work together very effectively. His polite demeanor and pleasant personality allowed him to work well with people. During his leadership, he led the program in the development and release of several sorghum cultivars. Zenbaba also served as coordinator of the INTSORMIL collaborative program in Ethiopia. INTSORMIL PIs were in good agreement about his effectiveness as the program leader in Ethiopia.

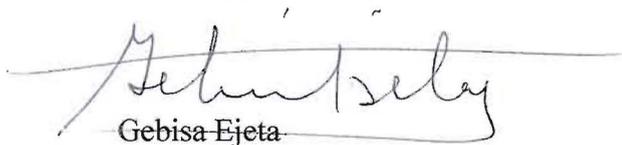
As a graduate student, Zenbaba showed that he has excellent intellect and capacity for research. In addition to the excellent dissertation research he conducted, he was able to equip himself with excellent analytical skills including molecular and statistical manipulations. Zenbaba was able to couple his understanding of plant breeding with laboratory procedures and learned to use these skills to address important problems in crop improvement.



Zenbaba has the right skills, experience, and personality to lead a sorghum improvement program with a defined mission such as the position at Hays. I can attest that Zenbaba is also a good man whose morale is above reproach. He is honest and has good integrity. He works well with people.

I have no reservations recommending Zenbaba for the above position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gebisa Ejeta", written over a horizontal line.

Gebisa Ejeta  
Distinguished Professor  
2009 World Food Prize Laureate