

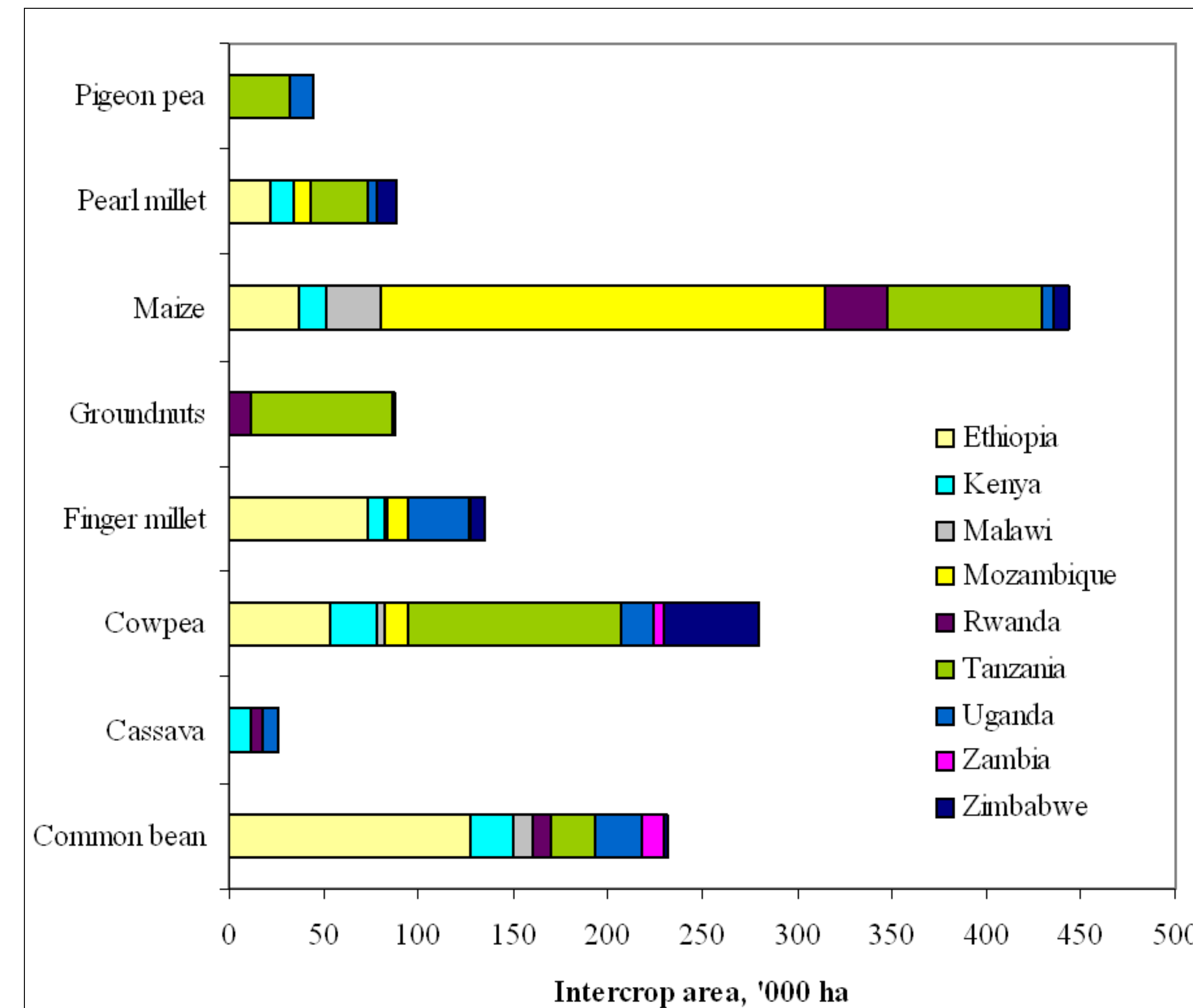
# Atlas of Sorghum Production in Eastern and Southern Africa

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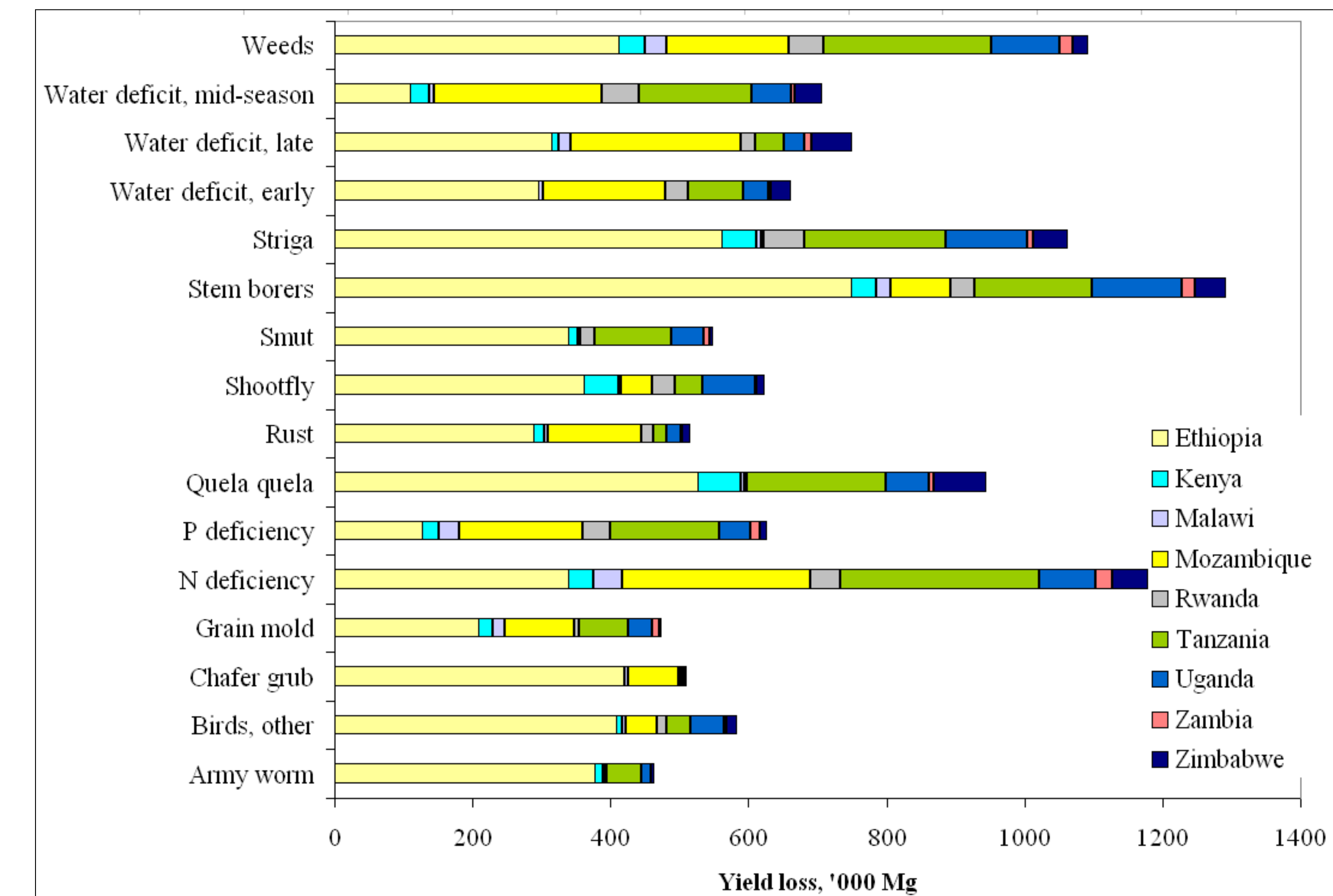
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Grain sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench) is a major crop in Africa that is noted for its versatility and diversity. It is adapted over a wide range of precipitation and temperature and is produced at sea level to above 2000 m elevation. In eastern and southern Africa, it is primarily a crop of small-scale farmers and is typically produced under adverse conditions such as low input use and marginal lands. There are numerous biotic and abiotic constraints to production. The grain and stover are used in many different ways with localized preferences. Much information is needed to effectively address the problems and opportunities of this diverse crop. The *Atlas of Sorghum Production in Eastern and Southern Africa*

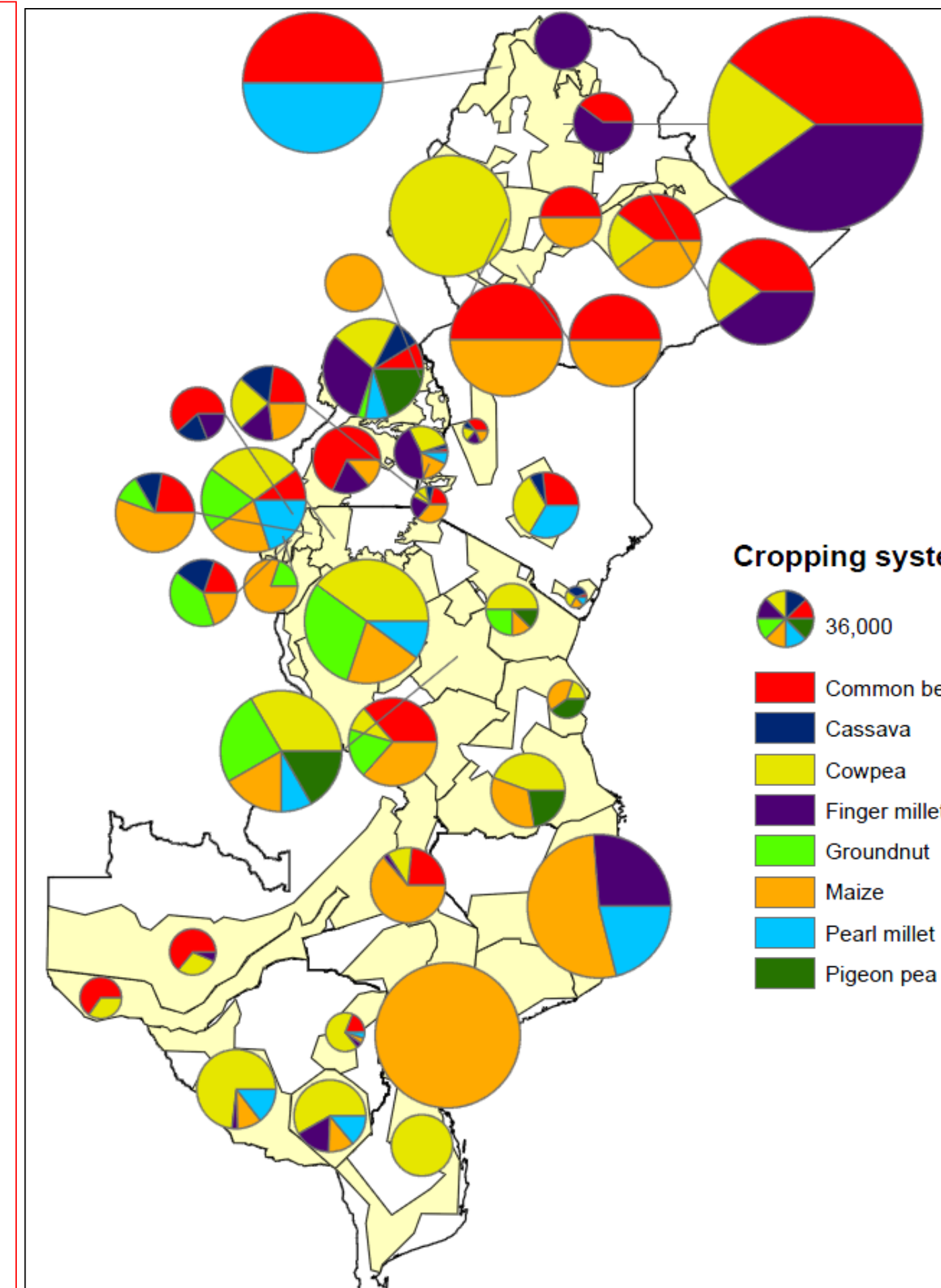
(<http://intsormil.org/smscientificpubs/Sorghum%20Atlas%20web.pdf>) presents information on sorghum in nine countries for use by researchers, extension and rural development specialists, policy makers, and emergency relief personnel. It accounts for 85% of the sorghum production on an area basis, or 3,400,000 ha, from Ethiopia south to Mozambique with most of the uncovered production in Somalia. The *Atlas* presents information in maps and tables for 39 sorghum production areas in nine countries addressing production constraints, cropping systems, management, uses, preferences, gender roles, and marketing.



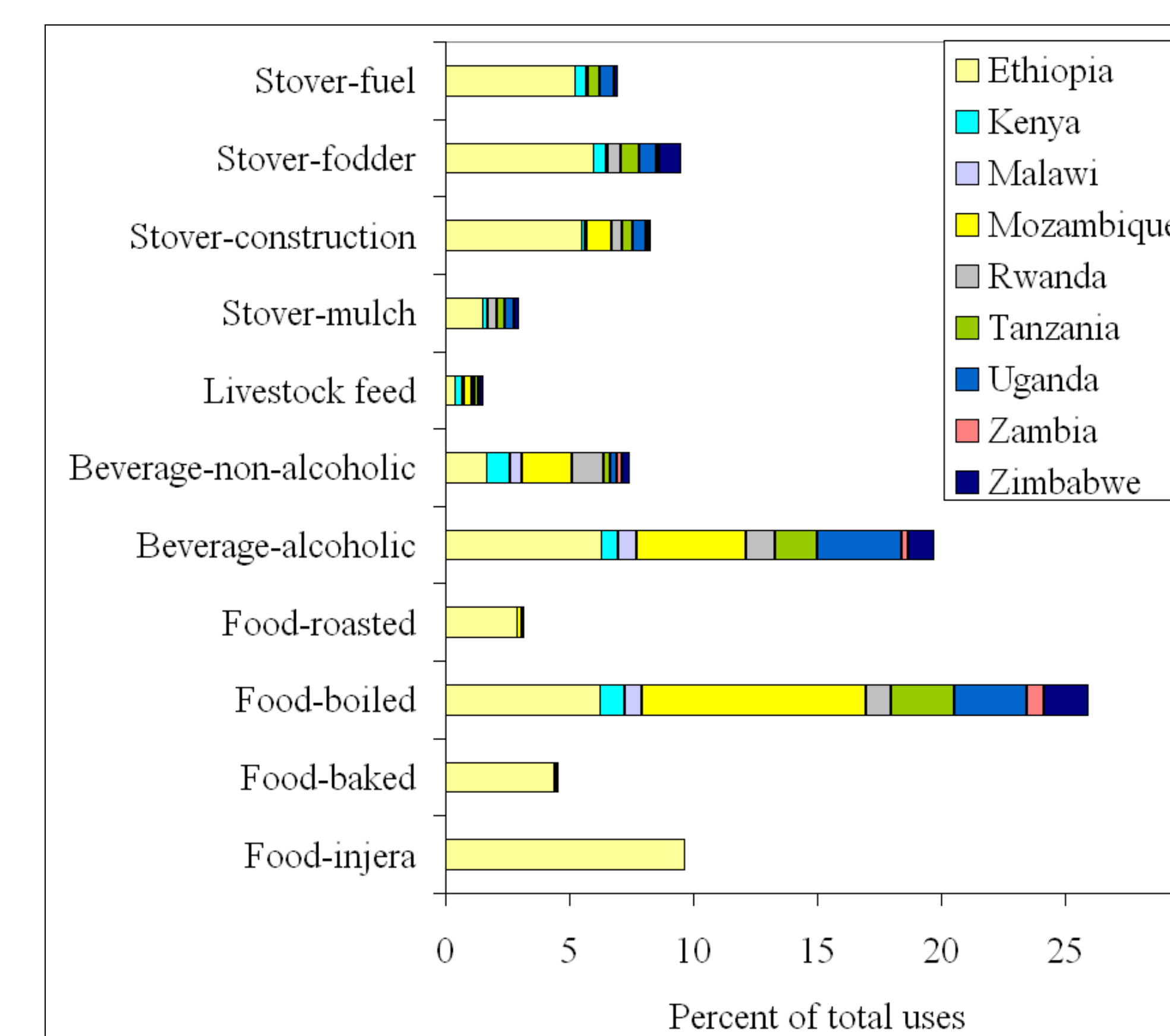
Striga (*Striga hermontheca* and *Striga asiatica*) is the next most important constraint overall, causing more than 1 million Mg yr<sup>-1</sup> loss in production. Weeds, quelea (primarily *Quelea quelea*), other birds, shootfly (*Atherigona soccata*), P deficiency and smut each cause more than 0.5 million Mg yr<sup>-1</sup> loss in production.



Most sorghum (61%) in eastern and southern Africa is produced in sole crop, which contrasts with western Africa where intercrop production of sorghum is more prevalent. The most important intercrop companion crops of sorghum are maize, cowpea and common bean.



Sorghum flour is used mainly to produce foods such as for *ugali*, *nshima*, *sadza*, and *uji*, and for *injera* in Ethiopia. Much grain is used for brewing but little is fed to livestock. Stover is important and used as cooking fuel, fodder and construction material, and to a lesser extent as mulch. Overall, stover use accounts for 26% of the value of the sorghum crop and for 37% of the crop value in Ethiopia.



Production of cereals and grain legumes by small-scale farmers typically is at least partly for home consumption. Overall, 34% is marketed. A greater proportion is marketed in Rwanda and Uganda than in other countries.

Country	%
Ethiopia	29
Kenya	30
Malawi	28
Mozambique	24
Rwanda	67
Tanzania	44
Uganda	50
Zambia	28
Zimbabwe	23

This information is published in the *Atlas of Sorghum Production in Eastern and Southern Africa*

(<http://intsormil.org/smscientificpubs/Sorghum%20Atlas%20web.pdf>)

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Soil water deficit is the major constraint to production causing > 2 million Mg yr<sup>-1</sup> of yield loss for these nine countries. The stalk borer complex, (including *Chilo partellus* (Swinh.), *Busseola fusca* (Fuller), and *Sesamia calamistis*) is very important regionally with loss of production potential estimated to be > 1.3 million Mg yr<sup>-1</sup>. Nitrogen deficiency is a widely occurring with about 1.2 million Mg yr<sup>-1</sup> loss.

