



the market (personal discussion). Lemma and Shimelis (2003) also indicated that fresh market red colored and highly pungent types have high acceptance in the local market. Bombay red is not also suitable

rain during maturity stage (Nikus and Mulugeta, 2010). Due to these undesirable qualities of variety Bombay red, farmers are usually compelled to sell bulbs immediately after harvest whether the market

own harvest for the next planting season to use as planting material for the production of seeds. Consequently, they were forced to buy bulbs for seed production with high price from other distant areas such as Shewa Robit in North Shoa. Farmers have therefore been requesting for alternative improved varieties of onion which could be used to substitute Bombay red. Accordingly, a participatory variety evaluation was initiated to study the adaptation and performance of recently released onion varieties with the ultimate target to supply alternative onion varieties to the Fogera areas.

Field experiments were conducted for two consecutive seasons in 2016/17 and 2017/18 in Woreta Zuria and Quar Mikael 'kebeles', respectively, of Fogera district in South Gondar zone of the Amhara Region. These two 'kebeles' are found in the vicinity of Fogera National Rice Research and Training Center at the outskirts of Woreta

altitude of 1819 m above sea level and receives average annual rainfall of 1230 mm. Mean minimum and maximum temperatures of the area is 12°C and 28°C, respectively. Soil of the site is red clay (vertisol) with

Table 1. Rank of onion varieties by different groups of evaluators in 2017

Variety	Evaluation at vegetative stage Rank			Bulb evaluation
	Female farmers (9)	Male farmers (18)	Agricultural experts (15)	Female

It was further reported by Lemma and Shimelis (2003) that Bombay red is with light red bulb color, light pungent, susceptible to purple blotch disease, high proportion of split bulbs and is short storing compared to Adama red. As a result, farmers are usually compelled to sell bulbs immediately after harvest whether the market price is attractive or not.

planting to produce seeds. They are thus forced to buy bulbs for seed production with high price from other distant areas such as Shewa Robit in the North Shoa zone of the Amhara Region. Alternative variety with desirable characteristics has therefore been the question of farmers, and was partly addressed in these experiments. The dark red bulb color of

and good storability were among desirable characteristics for attracting good market price.

Table 5. Onion cured bulb yield in 2017 (Woreta zuria) and 2018 (Quar Michael) dry seasons using irrigation