

## Zerihun Tadele (Prof.)

Zerihun is a Group Leader of Crop Breeding and Genomics Section at the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland. He is also Affiliated Scientist of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Adjunct Professor of Bahir Dar University.

Since he left Alemaya College of Agriculture 40 years ago, he returned to the same campus to pursue his master along with Melaku Ayele, Kiros Meles and Assefa Teferi. He obtained his PhD from the University of Basel in Switzerland.

His work experience began at Melka Werer Research Center in the Middle Awash where he was responsible for research on fiber crops (cotton and kenaf), cereal (irrigated wheat), and oil crops (groundnut, sesame, and safflower). Later, at Holetta Research Center, he was Tef Researcher as well as National Tef Research Coordinator. In the last two decades, Zerihun has been at the University of Bern in positions ranging from ostdoc to Research Assistant and to Professor.

Zerihun is interested in contributing to the global food security through improving the productivity and resilience of understudied crops of Africa. Currently he is working on tef using genetic and genomic tools. He closely works with the National Agricultural Research System in Ethiopia in developing and disseminating improved tef varieties to farmers. Improved varieties developed through these partnerships received high acceptance by smallholder farmers in the country. Zerihun has published over 130 manuscripts and took part in over 50 interviews or media coverage.



### Selected Publications

- [Tef as a case for investment in orphan crop breeding and seed systems development \(2024\)](#)
- [Transcriptomic profile of tef in response to drought \(2024\)](#)
- [Orphan crops: their importance and the urgency of improvement \(2019\)](#)
- [Technology generation to dissemination: lessons learned from the tef improvement project \(2018\)](#)
- [Genome and transcriptome sequencing identifies breeding targets in the orphan crop tef \(2014\)](#)

### Selected interviews or media coverage

- [Establishing a link between Africa and Europe Podcast, University of Bern \(2024\)](#)
- [Milan Global Exhibition on Feeding the Planet in English with subtitles in German & Italian \(2016\)](#)
- [A new way of fighting hunger in Africa Systems-X Video \(2012\)](#)