Report on the release of "Camello", drought tolerant *Urochloa* cultivar

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The hybrid **"Camello"** is the outcome of more than 15 years of research within CIAT, plus near ten years of adaptive research in the private sector. The identity of the hybrid corresponds to the internal code CIAT BR04/3025 and CIAT BR04/3207. Those are two genotypes from the hybrid population Br04, which is the apomictic offspring of the cross from the tetraploid synthetic sexual population Sx03 against the tester CIAT606 (Cultivar Basilik). The mother population Sx03 was the product of four cycles of recurrent selections. Once created, the Br04 population has extensively studied at CIAT for its behavior in biomass production, nutritional quality, biotic and abiotic tolerance. For all those traits, the genotypes CIAT BR04/3025 and CIAT BR04/3207 were always identified within the subsample of the best, therefore were selected as candidates for the market.

A subsample of the best apomictic hybrids from the population Br04 was released to partners in 2007. From that moment on, the materials were further studied for the seed production capability, the genotype by environment interactions testing in multiple locations and plant-animal environment interactions. On those trials developed by the partners, CIAT BR04/3025 and CIAT BR04/3207 stood out by the performance under low rainfall conditions, which is allowed by the prominent root architecture, which penetrates deeper layers in the soil, reaching water reserves under drought seasons. A deeper description of the hybrid characteristics can be found in the following link: http://www.grupopapalotla.com/producto-camello.html.

Currently this is already a commercial product in various markets. Depending on the market, the product has been registered as one unique hybrid (BR04/3025) or a combination in bag (called as a blend) of 50%/50% proportions of both hybrids (CIAT BR04/3025 and CIAT BR04/3207), for both cases, the trademark used has been "**Camello**". The following are the countries were the commercial product is currently registered:

- Mexico
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Panama
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Belize
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Ecuador
- Dominican Republic
- Paraguay
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- USA

The following tables express the estimated plated hectares by country, calculated from the reported information on seed sales per country during 2018.

Countries	**Estimated planted Ha based on seed sales**
Belize	75
Costa Rica	198.75
El Salvador	63.75
Guatemala	255
Honduras	70
Mexico	383.215
Nicaragua	75
Panama	127.5
USA	40

In total, the amount of estimated hectares planted during 2018 is 1288 Ha. This reflects a coordinated work CIAT-Partners in the attempt to make the farmers more resilient to drastic climatic conditions, mainly the regions under long periods of low or no rainfall.