

# Summary

Between 1985 and 1989, the effect of harvesting methods was evaluated upon the seed yield and quality of *Brachiaria dictyoneura* cv. Llanero in Colombia's Eastern Plains and Piedmont. Replicated experiments were conducted within previously established production areas. Field management included an initial standardization cut via grazing and/or mowing, plus the application of 50 to 100 kg/ha of N and 20 kg/ha of S. The harvesting methods (evaluated in 1000-m<sup>2</sup> plots) were: manual, both traditional and technified, with different sweating periods of the flowering stems; combine; and two models of reel beater. Determinations were made of pure seed yield (PSY), germinable PSY, plus unit weight, viability, and germination of pure seed spikelets.

Average PSY was highest with technified manual harvesting (87 kg/ha) as compared to harvesting with a combine (49 kg/ha) and with the beater (29 kg/ha). However, the unit weight of pure seed spikelets was higher with the latter two methods. With technified manual harvesting, the optimum sweating time was three days.

The initial viability of the seeds harvested from all the methods average 90%, and in optimal storage remained constant for 12 months. Germination varied between 48% and 74% at one year postharvest. Method of harvest had no consistent effect on physiological seed quality.