

TRIP REPORT - INTSORMIL

Botswana, Africa
March 13 - March 21, 1981

Glen J. Vollmar (Nebraska) and Jerry Eastin (Nebraska)

Trip Purpose: The main purpose of the trip was to participate in the OAU/STRC JP 31 SAFGRAD Workshop on sorghum and millet, Gaborone, Botswana, March 16-18, 1981.

The Sorghum - Millet Workshop. The workshop was in French and English and consisted in formal research paper presentations and discussion by the scientists. A copy of the list of participants is attached. The scientists reported on research progress and exchanged information regarding plant and grain characteristics under African production conditions. Dr. Jerry Eastin presented a paper, "Sorghum Breeding for Stress Resistance." The conference participants held to their agenda and in our opinion presented quality research papers and had productive discussion. A copy of the Resolutions and Recommendations passed by the workshop participants is attached.

As part of the workshop program, the participants toured the Botswana Agricultural Research Station and a traditional Botswana farm.

Introductory addresses were made by: Mr. Akadiri-Soumaila, International Coordinator of OAU/STRC JP 31 SAFGRAD, Mr. A. H. A. Razie, Assistant Executive Secretary and Officer in charge OAU/STRC and Mr. W. Meswele, Minister of Agriculture for Botswana. Mr. Louis Mazhani, Botswana, and Mr. Arlan McSwain, SAFGRAD Project Officer, USAID, made an excellent contribution to the implementation of the workshop. The workshop proceedings will be published.

Other Discussions and Contracts. Several contacts were made with the Botswana AID Mission, the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture, the British group working in Botswana and the South Dakota Program staff. Discussions involved the role of INTSORMIL, Agriculture in Botswana, sorghum-millet research, and the Botswana Farm Technology Improvement PID. Vollmar and Eastin were encouraged to bring back a recommendation that one or more of the INTSORMIL member states or others actively bid on the project. This and other information on Botswana's agriculture has been passed on to Dean Robert Kleis. Specific contacts made included:

Dr. Doug Jones, ADO, USAID, Botswana
Dr. Vic Amann, USDA, Ministry of Agriculture
W. Meswele, Minister of Agriculture
Dr. K. Oland, Director of the Botswana Experiment Station
Mr. David Gollifer, British Program
Mr. Peter Brown, British Program
Mr. John Moore, International Programs, University of Maryland
Mr. John King, SECID, USA

Student Contacts. Discussions were held with several African Scientists regarding U.S. Sorghum-Millet Training Programs. Specific programs were discussed with Mr. Lucas Gakale, Botswana and Mr. Albert Cox, Gambia. Vollmar carried Cox's application for graduate training back to the U.S.

Return. Vollmar returned to the U.S. leaving Botswana March 20, 1981. Eastin left Botswana March 20, 1981, and traveled on to Egypt for further INTSORMIL discussions. The Egyptians remain interested in setting up an extensive drought screening, salt tolerance screening and cropping system research project in the desert new lands. A proposal has been submitted to Drs. Leng and Axtel for processing by INTSORMIL. Any accepted proposal will then be resubmitted to EMCIP to see if cost agreements can be settled on.

Enclosures (2)