

INTSORMIL MONTHLY REPORT NO.3
November 30, 1979

I. INTRODUCTION

This is the third monthly report of INTSORMIL activities. Reports will be issued regularly at the end of each calendar month.

II. SUB-GRANT STATUS:

All sub-grant documentation between the Management Entity and the eight participating domestic institutions was completed during November, when the University of Nebraska Board of Regents formally approved the major sub-grants to Purdue University and Texas A&M. At the time of this report, the Program Director is awaiting return of signed sub-grant acceptances from these two institutions, after which the completed documentation will be transmitted to BIFAD and AID/W.

III. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

1. The Technical Committee met in Lincoln, Nebraska on November 14 and considered a wide range of policy statements and actions. These included:

- a. Publication policy
- b. Seed stock release policy
- c. Structure and functions of External Evaluation Committee
- d. Nomination slate for External Evaluation Committee
- e. Travel policy statement
- f. International linkage plans
- g. Plans for participating scientist meeting January, 1980.

2. The Board of Directors met in Washington, D.C. on November 25, 1979. Action was taken on the following matters based largely on recommendations by the Technical Committee:

- a. Travel policy statement - approved with proviso for minor editing
- b. Statement on functions of External Evaluation Committee - approved
- c. Nomination slate for the External Evaluation Committee - approved
- d. International linkages - a list of countries targeted for major INTSORMIL collaboration was approved (see "International Linkage Activity" below)

Minutes of both the Technical Committee and Board of Directors meetings have been transmitted to AID/W and BIFAD.

IV. INTERNATIONAL LINKAGE ACTIVITIES:

Following the exploratory trip by the Program Director and Dr. R. I. Jackson, the Board of Directors requested that AID/W furnish INTSORMIL an up-dated summary of country and USAID Mission expressions of interest in Sorghum/Millet CRSP activities. This was received early in November, and provided a basis for lengthy discussion of linkage concepts and possible target countries by the Technical Committee (TC). The TC recommendations were then discussed and acted upon by the Board of Directors. The agreed policies and country selections were discussed by the Program Director with a representative of each AID/W Technical Bureau.

INTSORMIL will endeavor to develop working linkages with selected developing country agencies and institutions at one or more of three levels, viz:

1. National-level collaboration, involving a host-country major coordinating agency and the general INTSORMIL program.
2. Institution-level coordination between one or more INTSORMIL participating institutions and specific host country institutions.
3. Project-to-project collaboration between individual INTSORMIL projects and specific host country research activities.

The following countries have been initially targeted for national-level and/or institutional collaboration (AID/W pertinent region in parentheses)

India (Asia)
 Yemen Arab Republic (Near East)
 Mali, Sudan (Africa)
 Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil (Latin America)

INTSORMIL will develop the maximum possible collaboration with appropriate international research centers and activities. Initially, the major collaboration is with ICRISAT (International Center for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, India). Liaison visits by INTSORMIL personnel have been made to ICRISAT headquarters, a senior research leader from ICRISAT is spending a long study leave at the University of Nebraska, active collaboration is underway between several INTSORMIL projects and ICRISAT field activities, and mutual planning is underway for research workshops and a major sorghum conference to be held at ICRISAT.

Collaboration with other international development agencies and major inter-agency development programs also is planned. A liaison visit has been made to FAO headquarters, and FAO officials have provided lists of field projects in which collaboration may be developed. Preliminary contacts have been made to explore possible collaboration with the large, interagency SAFGRAD program in Africa.

The first request for INTSORMIL technical assistance was received from Mali and Upper Volta, in regard to studies on food utilization of sorghum and pearl millet. A team consisting of Dr. Lloyd Rooney (Texas A&M) and Dr. Allen Kirleis (Purdue) left for West Africa November 21 to carry out the requested technical assistance. Work in both countries, but particularly in Upper Volta, will be in collaboration with ICRISAT field personnel.

V. PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

In the next several weeks, the Program Director will visit each participating U.S. institution to become personally acquainted with administrative officers and research personnel, and to review activities underway, supported by CRSP grant funds. During December, visits will be made to Arizona, Kansas State, Purdue and Kentucky. Georgia and Florida, which were included in the preliminary CRSP structure before budget reductions, also will be visited. The remaining INTSORMIL institutions will be visited in January.

A planning meeting of all INTSORMIL research leaders is to be held in Lincoln, NE, January 14-15, 1980. Final program plans for this meeting will be developed by the Technical Committee early in December.

VI. PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:

No particular new problems arose during the period. The problem of obtaining adequate visas for international travel arose again for the travel of Drs. Rooney and Kirleis to Mali and Upper Volta. It is clear that commercial visa services are not fully equipped to handle "tourist" visas to some of the developing countries to which INTSORMIL CRSP personnel must travel.

It appears that issuance by AID of "official" passports for travel to USAID countries would eliminate the problems which have been encountered, and also recognize the formal connection between CRSP and USAID activities. This recommendation was made by the Program Director in a recent trip report, but no AID/W reaction has been expressed. The Program Director will continue to explore this possible action.