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INTSORMIL MONTHLY REPORT NO. 1

September 10, 1979

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Coordinated Research Program in
Grain Sorghum and Millet
(INTSORMIL - CRSP)
International Programs
406-F Plant Sciences, East Campus
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583

I. INTRODUCTION.

The Grain Sorghum/Pearl Millet Coordinated Research Support Grant Program, administered by INTSORMIL for the Designated Management Entity, The University of Nebraska, was approved and funded by AID/W on June 27, 1979, with effective date of July 1, 1979. The basic grant document requires the Program Director to submit a monthly report to AID and BIFAD, highlighting "progress being made, problems that have been encountered, and proposed solutions to said problems."

This is the first monthly report under this provision.

II. DOCUMENTATION PROCESS.

As indicated above, the AID/W Contract Management office issued the basic grant document on June 27, 1979. It was accepted for the Board of Regents of The University of Nebraska by Chancellor Roy A. Young on July 24, 1979.

Requests for execution of sub-grant agreements and for submission of necessary project plans of work and budgets were issued by the INTSORMIL office on August 2, 1979. The required documentation is relatively simple, consisting of:

- A. A standard-form subagreement document
- B. A Plan of Work, outlined as provided in the basic grant document, for each funded project at each participating institution.
- C. A proposed budget, by expenditure category and estimated quarterly rates of expenditure, for the first two years of each project.

As of the time of this report, five participating institutions had returned the signed subagreement, plans of work and budgets to the Management Entity. The documents have been cleared by the Program Director and are awaiting Business Office action. Funds will be released to participating institutions as soon as the University of Nebraska fiscal officers approve the individual subagreements and amendments.

III. ACTIVITIES.

The selected Program Director, Dr. Earl R. Leng, reported for duty at the University of Nebraska on August 1, 1979 and established the INTSORMIL Program office. Headquarters are in 406F, Plant Sciences Building, East Campus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583. Telephone is (402)-472-6032/3.

After issuing the call for subgrant documentation, the Program Director turned his attention to staffing and physical establishment of the office. A highly-qualified administrative technician was recruited by transfer from the UN-L staff and joined the office September 3, 1979. Office furniture and telephones are in place, preliminary files have been established, and contact with AID and participating institutions is underway on a daily basis.

It is hoped that virtually all initial subgrant documentation and approvals will be completed by September 20, 1979. The fine planning work done by all concerned, and particularly the close cooperation between AID/W, BIFAD and potential participants has made the initial process of approval and fund allocation quite easy.

IV. NEAR-TERM PLANS.

Once the INTSORMIL office is fully operational, the Program Director plans a series of trips to establish overseas linkage relationships and to mutually familiarize himself and participants with program details.

The first trip proposed is to India, Yemen, the Sudan, Tanzania and FAO (Rome). This trip was tentatively scheduled for late August - early September but was postponed to allow time for completion of the sub-grant documentation and fund allocation process. Planned participants in this travel are Dr. R. I. Jackson, AID/W Project Officer, Dr. Leng, and Dr. John Axtell (Purdue), representing the INTSORMIL Technical Committee. The principal objectives will

be to determine possibilities for country participation in INTSORMIL activities, by India, Yemen, the Sudan and Tanzania; to discuss in detail possibilities of cooperation between ICRISAT and the Program; and to conduct preliminary coordination discussions with officials of FAO, Rome.

Also early in the autumn, the UN-L grants fiscal officer, Mr. Carl Mueller, plans to visit business offices of each participating institution to discuss budgeting, fund transfer, accounting and reporting procedures.

In December the Program Director plans to visit selected countries in West Africa, accompanied by Dr. Jackson (AID/W) and a representative of the Technical Committee. It is hoped that a representative of the Bureau for Africa of AID/W may also be a member of the party.

V. PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS.

No significant problems have arisen to date in the operations of INTSORMIL. The documentation process for sub-grants has required more time than originally estimated, but delays have thus far not been serious and are not expected to interfere with planned research activities.