

TRIP REPORT: Guatemala & Mexico (Mar. 26-Apr. 3, 1980)

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C. A. Francis
Agronomy

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Objectives:

1. Guatemala: to attend PCCMCA (Central American Crops Conference) to establish specific contacts with research workers in Honduras and Guatemala; to visit with ICTA administration about cooperative sorghum research in Guatemala; to visit USAID Mission and make contacts preparatory to Dr. Earl Leng's trip to Guatemala within the next few weeks.
2. Mexico: to attend the sorghum workshop in CIMMYT with colleagues from ICRISAT and Chapango, and learn about the NE role in cooperative international breeding research; to select appropriate germplasm in the winter nursery in Poza Rica (Vera Cruz) for our summer planting in Sidney, and for both cold tolerance and drought tolerance work in NE and KS.

Wednesday: March 26 (travel: Lincoln - Chicago - Miami - Guatemala)

Thursday: March 27 - (PCCMCA Meeting)

The formal sorghum presentations were given Mon-Wed by research people in the zone (Annex 1). This research group has grown in size and scope since the last PCCMCA meeting I attended about 6 years ago, although much of the research reported still is relatively routine and will improve greatly as these nutritional programs mature. It is clear that most nutritional research organizations still lack well-trained people, and emphasis in sorghum is limited relative to other food crops in the region. One stimulating and positive influence in the programs in the zone is Dr. Vartan Guirigossian, ICRISAT/CIMMYT sorghum breeder now working out of the CIMMYT headquarters in Mexico. He is a prime contact for our Title XII group, and a logical person to work with as we design and implement specific collaborative activities in Guatemala and Honduras.

GUATEMALA

ICTA = Instituto de Ciencias y Tecnologia Agricola, 5 Av 12-31 Zona 9, Guatemala City; Telephones 32-19-85, 31-05-81, 31-84-15

1. Director: Ing Carlos Humberto Ramirez (Gerente (ICTA))
2. Sorghum Program Director: Dr. Al Plant (funded by AID)
3. Ing. Jorge Fuentes - also in Sorghum Program.

Dr. Al Plant has been with the ICTA sorghum program, and its predecessor in DIGESA, for the past 12 years. He is currently funded by USAID, and these funds are gone in September of this year. He is in the process of increasing seed of 3 hybrids and 1 variety, both yellow and white seeded, the parents of which apparently came directly from Texas. He is the current contact for potential Title XII work in Guatemala, and is currently working in collaboration with Texas. There is some question about the productivity of his program over the years, and whether some change should be made. Drs. V. Guirigossian and F. Poey can comment on the program from direct experience in the field. We should explore collaborative work with great care!

USAID Office - Guatemala: 8^aC 7-86 Zona 9, Piso 3^o;

1. Mr. Don Pfeister - Rural Development Division ROCAP (Piso 2^o)
2. Mr. Conazco - Head of USAID - Guatemala
3. Mr. Jim Blaidner - Rural Development Officer - Guatemala
4. Mr. Clem Weber - Assistant RDO - Guatemala

In a brief discussion with M. Pfeister and Mr. Blaidner, we explored the funding situation for the sorghum position. Although funds run out in September, they feel that the activity may warrant continuation and may seek flexibility in further funding. I did not have the impression that they were familiar with the field situation in sorghum, maize or other crops. Mr. Pfeister has been in ROCAP for a long time, while Mr. Blaidner has just arrived after leaving Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA

Addresses:

1. Dr. Mario Contreras, Director
Programa Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria
Secretaría de Recursos Naturales
Tegucigalpa, D. C.
Republica de Honduras, C.A.
2. Dr. Robert Waugh (same address): Rockefeller Foundation, has worked in Colombia and Guatemala, and now works with Dr. Contreras in Honduras. He is an excellent contact with more than 20 years experience in Central America and Colombia, and will give solid advice on the research and development situation in Honduras.
3. Dr. Simon Malo (Univ. Florida staff, left for Honduras) - new director of the Escuela Agrícola - Panamericana - Zamorano, Honduras.
Also on staff:

Dr. Keith Andrews - Entomologist
Dr. Pablo Emilio Paz - Head of Agronomy Department
Ing. Rigoberto Nolasco - Sorghum Agronomist

I discussed the potentials for collaborative work in Honduras with the Secretaría de Recursos Naturales or with Zamorano (EAP), with Dr. Mario Contreras and with Dr. Pablo Emilio Paz. There are possibilities with each group and Dr. Waugh will be helpful to sort things out. The advantages of working with the Secretaría is its official position in research in the country; disadvantages center around lack of trained people and lack of stability in personnel and budget. The first could be strengthened by Title XII activities - training capable young scientists - but the latter has no simple solution. One other government group which has possibilities is PROMYFSA (Production Program for maize, beans, rice and other crops). This development - related group has technicians around the country, and might be appropriate for work in testing technology, acceptance of new varieties, etc. The director is Ing. Hugo Montenegro. Since they are not a research organization, it is less likely that we could easily establish linkages with them.

The other viable possibility appears to be the Panamerican Agricultural School in Zamorano. A well established school for practical agronomists, this organization has been doing a credible job of training for many years. With the arrival of Dr. Malo as director, and Dr. Paz as director of the agronomy department, plus about 4 other specialists (entomologist, pathologist, agronomist, breeder) at Ph. D. level, there is a new interest in broadening the scope of the school to include a serious, sustained research effort. Their plan is to broaden as well their staff at the B.S. level to have agronomists working in several zones of the country together with people from the government. In the opinion of Drs. Paz and Contreras, this will be a more flexible and stable organization than the current government agency, and will compliment well the efforts of official agencies. This is a possible group with which to collaborate, and should be explored.

Friday: March 28 (PCCMCA Meeting; Guatemala - Mexico flight)

On Friday morning we traveled to the experiment station in Cuyuta, near Escuintla (elev. 900m) to see the maize nursery and seed production fields. This program was organized and launched by Dr. Federico Poey and Ing. Hugo Cordoba, and has made an impressive contribution with new hybrids now on the market. The original families are from the CIMMYT population improvement scheme, and the best yellow and white family crosses are being produced (3 way: (A X B) X C). All are based on "planta baja" selections begun by Elmer Johnson some years ago. This is a practical pay-off from CIMMYT breeding program, and is the next logical step in application of new germplasm in many countries.

We met over the two days with Drs. Wayne Adams, (M.S.U.) and Don Wallace (Cornell) and Drs. Aart van Schoonhoven and Steve Temple (CIAT) to discuss Title XII developments in the grain legume CRSP. They have done a good job of initial organization, and are attempting to collaborate as closely as possible with CIAT and IITA on program development. The attached "Joint Research Outline" (Annex 2) is used to develop specific collaborative project budgets. Their guideline in budget is for 25% matching, 25% U.S. institution, 50% pass-through" to developing country. For example, a project "funded" at \$100,000 would actually receive 75,000 from AID, and of this 50,000 would be spent in the collaborating country. The group also has given considerable thought to a basic integrative research philosophy to tie the several specific projects together. I think we could learn from Wayne Adams, a very articulate and perceptive person with experience in research and contacts with a number of countries.

I flew to Mexico with Drs. Hugo Zorrilla and Ken Fischer from maize, and Drs. Larry Harrington and Juan Carlos Martinez from economics, all in CIMMYT - Mexico

Saturday: March 29: CIMMYT Headquarters & Tlaltecipan Station

Together with Dr. Vartan Guirigossian (ICRISAT/CIMMYT in Mexico), Dr. Lewis Mughogher (ICRISAT pathologist in Hydenabed) and Dr. John Axtell (Purdue U.), we toured the sorghum-plots in Tlaltecipan, a medium altitude CIMMYT station in Morelos state. We saw breeding work for drought tolerance, cold tolerance (off season), conversions and grain quality materials. Vartan has an impressive field program going on.

In CIMMYT we were shown through the International Trials preparation area by Dr. N. H. Dhawan (maize), and given results of the selection process for short plant and earlier maturity by Dr. Pandey. Examples of international trials are in 3 volumes (Annex 3), and results of selection in Annex 4.

Programs for other sessions are also attached (PCCMCA meeting): Maize (Annex 5), Grain legumes (Annex 6), Animal Production (Annex 7), and Rice (Annex 8). A farm study report by Bob Hart (CATIE) was given to me by Don Pfeister in ROCAP (Annex 9).

Sunday: March 30: CIMMYT Headquarters (El Batoan)

A new unit of interest to the sorghum consortium is the Basic Seed Unit in CIAT, a group headed by Drs. Johnson Douglas and Federico Poey. From facilities in Palmira, they will train specialists in seed production, seed processing, and certification. At this location, they will produce (and increase) the best lines and hybrids of rice, maize, sorghum and beans for this zone. At the moment, Poey is collecting seed of lines and varieties to be increased at CIAT for training purposes and for distribution. They will encourage wider use of improved materials, and facilitate movement of seed from one country and program to another. We should definitely maintain contact with them, especially the Mississippi State group. (Annex 12 has a description in Spanish of this new program.)

A manual for testing sorghum for nutritional quality was given to me by Vartan Guirigossian.

Conversations with Dr. Lewis Mughohnu, ICRISAT Pathologist, brought us up to date on the recent sorghum regional workshop of all collaborators in East and West Africa, held in Monibasa in February. It is extremely unfortunate that no one represented Title XII from our consortium in this meeting. Whether this was an oversight by ICRISAT or AID, we must avoid any similar occurrence in the future. No matter what the inter-institutional problems in the U.S. or International Center level, we need to take advantage of any such meeting where sorghum research people come together from several countries. It is especially critical during our formative months as we design programs and establish co-operative linkages.

Monday: March 31: Joint meeting on Sorghum Improvement - CIMMYT/ICRISAT

Programs for the meeting is in Annex 13, also with list of collaborators and tour schedule for the Poza Rica trip. In the morning session, representatives from ICRISAT (India) INIA (Mexico) Chapango (post-graduate school) (Mexico), ICTA (Guatemala) and CIAT (Colombia) described their on-going projects in sorghum, and plans for the near future. Title XII university people described plans for collaborative projects (Texas, Purdue, Nebraska). An afternoon planning session was followed by tours of the protein quality lab and inact rearing facilities. (see detailed notes of meeting in Annex__).

Tuesday - Wednesday: April 1-2: Sorghum Group to Poza Rica Station (J. D. Eastin)

Tuesday - Wednesday: April 1-2: Workshop on Role of Social Sciences in Agricultural Development (CIMMYT Workshop attended by agricultural economists and some agronomists from international centers, some national programs, and other agencies). (see detailed notes of meeting in Annex _____).

Thursday: April 3: Mexico - Dallas - Denver - Lincoln

JOINT RESEARCH OUTLINE

U.S. and host country scientists should fill out this form together. Please print. Typing is not necessary. Carbon paper is provided so that the host country team, the U.S. research team and the B/C planning office can have a copy of the document. Please fill out all sections of the form.

I. Proposed Research Country _____

A. Topic: _____

B. Constraint Area(s) to be Addressed (See attached list) _____

C. Description of Proposed Research (production and non-production): _____

D. Anticipated Long-range research goal(s) _____

E. First Year Objective(s) _____

F. Type of Professional Personnel Required _____

C. Approximate time schedule over first year:

D. Division of labor:

1. Anticipated responsibilities of host country researchers:

2. Anticipated responsibilities of U.S. researchers:

IV. Training Component (indicate number, levels and sites)

8

V. Estimated Budget for First Year

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>% on</u> <u>CRSP</u>	<u>Proposed Budget Estimate</u>			
			<u>Contrib.</u> <u>from US</u> <u>Institut.</u>	<u>Contrib.</u> <u>from Host</u> <u>Institut.</u>	<u>Requested</u> <u>from Title XII</u>	
					<u>Expended</u> <u>in US</u>	<u>*Expended</u> <u>in/for 1</u> <u>Country</u>
A. Salaries and Wages						
1. Senior Personnel						
a. P.I.	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
b. Co-investigators	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Other Personnel (Non-Faculty)						
a. Research Associates-Postdoc	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
b. Other Professionals	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
c. Graduate Students	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
d. Pre-Baccalaureate Students	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
e. Secretarial-Clerical	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
f. Technicians	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES						
B. Fringe Benefits (if charged as Direct Costs			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
C. Total Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits (A + B)			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
D. Equipment			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
E. Materials and Supplies			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
F. Travel--1. Domestic (Including Canada, U.S.)						
2. Foreign						
3. Accompanying Dependents (for long-term assignments)			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
G. Shipment and Storage of Household Goods			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
H. Housing Allowances			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
I. Orientation and Medical Expenses			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
J. Publication Costs/Page Charges			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
K. Computer Costs			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
L. All Other Direct Costs			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
M. Training Costs			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
N. Total Direct Costs (C through M)			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
O. Indirect Costs (Specify rate(s) and base(s) for on/off campus activity. Where both are involved, identify itemized costs included in on/off campus bases in remarks) Total Indirect Costs			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
P. Total Direct and Indirect Costs (N plus O)			\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

PERSONS PREPARING

THIS DOCUMENT:

Name

Title and Address

Host Country: _____

B/C PLANNING OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE _____

* Includes foreign travel and training for host country nationals in the U.S.