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TRIP REPORT

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PERIOD OF TRAVEL : September 14-19, 1980

ITINERARY : Washington, D.C. to Lubbock, Texas
and return to Washington, D.C.

PURPOSE : Attend the First Evaluation of the CRSP-GS/PM
Board Meeting and Technical Committee Meeting
and the Sorghum Improvement Conference of
North America (SICNA)

PARTICIPANTS : There were 93 registered participants which
included the: Evaluation Panel (4); Board of
Directors (5); Technical Committee (4); principal
investigators, commercial seedsmen, and a few
others interested in sorghum research.

RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The agenda for the meeting was:

Monday Field tour of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Dekalb Agricultural Research Farm to observe research on sorghum and millet.

Tuesday Introductory speeches and remarks. Breeding and Genetics Review.

Wednesday Entomology, Pathology, Physiology, Plant Nutrition and Cultural Practices Review. Technical Committee Meeting.

Thursday Quality and Nutrition, and Socioeconomics Review. Discussion of International Networks. Board of Directors Meeting.

Friday Evaluation Panel met with Board of Directors followed by meeting of Panel with all participants.

The research being carried out at the Experiment Station at Lubbock is very impressive. Much of the material we saw in the field and the research information will be of great benefit to many of the LDCs. Seeing the sorghum and millet plots certainly reminds one of the great need to get the LDC linkages established as soon as possible to aid in the transfer of improved varieties/lines and research methods. The group was shown a great number of sorghum and millet lines, some with high food quality, including high lysine. We also looked at lines resistant to insects and diseases, lines tolerant to iron and aluminum toxicities and drought.

The four half-day review sessions were very well done. Each one is to be commended for the manner in which he/she presented the results and future plans. All of the papers presented will be available in the very near future for distribution to all concerned. I have one nearly complete set should anyone desire to read the paper.

The group of investigators selected two persons to be considered by the Technical Committee as replacement for Drs. Rosenow and Vanderlip on the Committee. This is in accordance with the rotational plan for new Committee members. From this list of names, two people were selected and recommended to the Board of Directors as replacements. Dr. George Teetes, Entomologist from Texas A&M; and Dr. William Stegmeyer, Millet Breeder from Kansas State University, were approved by the Board as new Committee members to serve for three years.

At the Board of Director's meeting, there were some further discussions on the establishment of LDC linkages in Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Sudan and Egypt. It was decided the memoranda of understanding should be signed by the Management Entity and each of these countries in the very near future. Dr. Leng discussed the possibility of INIA of Mexico putting up funds through the CGIAR to fund the Latin American program now being carried out by ICRISAT and headquartered at CIMMYT.

The Evaluation Panel first reported its findings to the Board which were:

- a. The staff of the Management Entity/Program Director needs to be expanded so that there is better coverage for the office when the Program Director is away and also to provide better financial reporting.
- b. More of the university staff members who serve as research workers on the projects should be on a full-time basis rather than on the present 10-15% funding basis.
- c. Some of the linkages with the LDCs should be with host universities as they also have some facilities and trained staff to carry out research. These linkages should be in addition to or in combination with those usually agreed to with the Ministries of Agriculture.

- d. The Panel was not provided a breakdown of the budgets by projects and line items within the projects and it was requested that for the next evaluation that these should be made available.
- e. The first priority for LDC linkages should be with the Latin American countries.
- f. The needs of the LDCs should be the main thrust of the CRSP. The disease projects and those related to grain quality were cited as good examples of meeting this goal. The individual projects will be rated as to the applicability/benefit to the LDCs in the evaluation report. (These ratings were not presented at this session.)
- g. In addition to the research now being conducted in the U.S. aimed at removing the constraints in the LDCs, consideration should be given to carrying out research on insects and diseases which do not occur within the U.S. It was suggested that this could be done through a collaborative effort with the International Centers.

COMMENTS:

The research workers had a very short time allotted for their presentations of research results, but even with this limitation they did an excellent job. The Panel felt that it should have had more time between the end of the presentation of research projects and the time the Panel made its report to the participants. This is a good point, but it would have been difficult to keep the participants waiting around, with little to do, for up to a day while the Panel prepared its report.

The Panel was not given a scope of work for the evaluation, but was provided an issues paper. I think a scope of work would have been better and I suggested this at a Board meeting at the time plans were being made for the evaluation.

The Panel felt that it should be reconvened after the 1981 crop season for the next evaluation.

After our receipt of the Panel's Report, the A.I.D. evaluation will be held and is tentatively scheduled for December.

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