



Intsormil

TRIP REPORT

BY

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SUDAN HYBRID SORGHUM SEED WORKSHOP
WAD MEDANI, SUDAN

NOVEMBER 5-8, 1983

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I. INTRODUCTION

INTSORMIL was the chief financial sponsor of a Sudan Hybrid Sorghum Seed Workshop which was held at Wad Medani, Sudan, November 5-8, 1983. The workshop was set up by the Agricultural Research Corporation of the Sudan (ARC) and ICRISAT, with Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, ICRISAT sorghum breeder in Sudan, as the principal organizer.

Background for the workshop centered on the fact that, after many years of sorghum improvement efforts, hybrids have been developed which show a clear superiority over other "improved" materials now available. Sudan has had almost no experience with hybrid seed production, and does not have a developed seed industry ready to take up effective growing and distribution of hybrids. Therefore, it was decided to bring together individuals with interest in such seed production, appropriate research workers, and persons from outside Sudan with significant experience in successful commercial seed production.

II. FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP

Approximately 40 persons attended the workshop. About 10 of these were from outside Sudan and the remainder were Sudanese or expatriates working in agricultural development in Sudan.

Two days were devoted to the presentation of papers and extensive discussion related to the establishment of a hybrid seed industry. Several persons with extensive experience in successful hybrid seed operations in Asia, Africa and Latin America shared their views with the Sudanese and ex-patriate experts.

On the third day, a field trip was held, visiting seed processing facilities and seed fields in the Gezira and at Sennar.

On the final day, a plenary session was held, at which recommendations were made and discussed in detail.

III. IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

- a. It appeared obvious that highly suitable breeding stocks now are available for successful hybrid sorghum seed production in Sudan.
- b. Interest in the potential of hybrid sorghum is high and growing, not only in the progressive Gezira area, but also among private farmers in other parts of Sudan.
- c. Pilot-scale production in 1983 demonstrated that good yields of high-quality hybrid seed can be obtained.
- d. There currently is no satisfactory seed system in Sudan, which could be expected to produce and distribute high-quality seed effectively.

- e. Both international and Sudanese private-sector interests have potential for rapidly establishing effective seed systems.
- f. Support by the Government of Sudan and international assistance agencies, in 1984 and the next few years, will be crucially needed if effective seed systems are to develop. This support will need to be both financial and technical (especially in the line of removing undue restrictions on the development of private enterprises).
- g. INTSORMIL should be able to play a modest but significant role in development of a hybrid seed industry in Sudan. Professional knowledge, experience and contacts all are available at excellent levels.

IV. PERSONS CONTACTED.

A large number of individuals were contacted at the workshop and elsewhere. Among the most significant such contacts were:

H.E. the Governor of Gezira Province
H.E. S.Z. Soghayroon, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Dr. Osmal Gamel, Acting Director-General, ARC
Dr. Ahmed Abu el Gasim, Director, National Seed Administration
Mr. Mustafa Baasher, Minister, Provincial Government; Private Farmer
Mr. Keith Sherper, Deputy Director, USAID/Khartoum

V. COMPLETE REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS.

- a. A detailed report of the workshop, by Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, ICRISAT organizer, is being circulated as an INTSORMIL report.
- b. The full Proceedings of the workshop will be completed and available for distribution in a few weeks.