

9310560

PDAAU-379

IAN=47339

IITA/INTSOY Cooperative Training

John W. Santas

ISR-81-4

March 1981

International Soybean Program, INTSOY

College of Agriculture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
113 Mumford Hall  
1301 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801 U.S.A.

College of Agricultural Sciences  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus  
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00708

International Soybean Program (INTSOY)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA)

TRIP REPORT

Name: John W. Santas, INTSOY Training Officer

Period of Travel: March 14-24, 1981

Itinerary: March 15-17 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast  
March 18, Abidjan/Ibadan  
March 19 and 20 at IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria  
and return to Lagos  
March 21, Lagos, Nigeria to Rome, Italy

Purpose: To initiate dialogue regarding the possibility of combining IITA and INTSOY resources and staff to present soybean production short courses at IITA, Ibadan, thus meeting training needs of soybean workers from Central and West African countries.

Persons Contacted at IITA:

E. A. Kueneman, Soybean Breeder  
P. R. Goldsworthy, Assistant Director, Grain Legumes Program  
E. R. Terry, Assistant Director, International Programs  
D. W. Sirinayake, Assistant Training Officer  
H. C. Knipscheer, Agricultural Economist  
E. H. Hartmans, Director General

Results, Accomplishments, Observations:

The Head of Training, W. H. Reeves, had informed me that he would be away at the time of my visit, but I made a brief stop to meet his assistant, Mr. Sirinayake.

I delivered some germplasm (on behalf of R. M. Goodman) to Eric Kueneman, and requested his reaction to the idea of a joint IITA/INTSOY short course. He was very receptive and indicated that in terms of the progress and development of soybean work at IITA, sometime in 1983 would perhaps be most appropriate. According to him, if Dr. Goldsworthy decided that such a course should be presented, he and Dr. Reeves would be called upon to carry out the idea. They would be ready and willing to plan and implement a joint course if the decision is made. My time with Eric was limited because he had to spend time with visitors from the Ivory Coast and Cornell.

(over)

In a meeting with P. R. Goldsworthy, I explained the procedures and format we had followed in collaborating with ICA (Colombia) to present courses in Latin America. He is, of course, interested in expanding and broadening the working relationship between IITA and INTSOY through any activities that might be appropriate and mutually beneficial. They seem to have moved away from the previous pattern of presenting a Grain Legumes course which included a soybean component. The trend is toward a course dealing strictly with cowpeas. For example, a cowpea production course is being offered in April of 1981. This trend, combined with the expansion of soybean production research at IITA, seems to justify and support the offering of a course dealing specifically with soybeans. IITA will play an active role in serving the growing interest in soybeans in various parts of Africa, including Nigeria. At least now, Dr. Goldsworthy is aware of our interest in collaborating to meet the training and educational needs in Africa.

Since we are currently considering the presentation of another course in Colombia in 1982, a 1983 course at IITA seems convenient time-wise from the INTSOY point of view.

The meetings with Drs. Terry and Knipscheer (both UIUC Ph.D.'s) were courtesy calls to convey greetings on behalf of Illinois and INTSOY. I met briefly with Director General Hartmans. In his opinion, soybean work at IITA is progressing well, and in 1983 they should be ready to present a course.

Before departure, I attended a seminar called to explain that an Office of International Programs had been created with an Assistant Director in charge, to administer all of IITA's outreach, cooperative, and extra-core funded projects. Dr. Eugene Terry has been designated Head of that Office. IITA's involvement in these types of in-country projects has expanded rapidly in recent years. For example, at the time of my visit, 33 IITA staff were located in various African countries serving on projects supported by funds from sources other than CGIAR.

When I returned to UIUC, I discovered that W. H. Reeves was visiting campus, so W. N. Thompson and I had the opportunity to meet with him to discuss our interest in collaboration on training. As was expected, our organizations approach training from slightly different perspectives. INTSOY training activities, for example, must be self-supporting and the training fee must cover all costs including staff time. IITA, on the other hand, considers training part of its mandate, and core (CGIAR) funds are used to support training activities. These differences raise some implications concerning course fees and payment of INTSOY-staff expenses if we were to become involved in a joint training effort. We agreed that this difference is not a major impediment and would not prevent our cooperation to provide training for soybean workers in Africa.

Discussion with Dr. Reeves confirmed my impression that the Grain Legumes Course at IITA would probably not continue. This makes room for a separate soybean course, but the question of whether or not to present a soybean course and whether or not to collaborate with INTSOY in the presentation of that course would be decided by Dr. Goldsworthy.