

MINUTES OF THE 8TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA SORGHUM RESEARCH
NETWORK (WCASRN)
BAMAKO, MALI
DECEMBER 3 - 4, 1990

Participants

1. M. D. Traoré	Mali	member/Chairman
2. J.W. Clark	Niger	member
3. C.C. Nwasike	Nigeria	member
4. M.D. Thomas	SAFGRAD/ICRISAT	member/Coordinator
5. K.V. Ramaiah	ICRISAT	observer
6. T. Bezuneh	SAFGRAD	observer
7. G. Kingma	USAID/SAFGRAD	observer
8. O. Ajayi	ICRISAT	observer
9. P. Salez	CIRAD	observer
10. A. Kéré	INSAH	observer
11. M. Galiba	Global 2000	observer

General

The Steering Committee Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed the members and observers, and thanked the representatives of Global 2000, INSAH and CIRAD for their attendance. The Coordinator described the efforts to contact the Steering Committee members from Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Chad and explained the circumstances behind their absence.

The minutes of the seventh Steering Committee meeting were read and adopted without amendment.

Matters Arising From the 7th Steering Committee Meeting

1. Dr. Clark reported on contributions received for the Sorghum Newsletter - 2 from Niger and 1 from WASIP-Kano;
2. The Sorghum Utilization Conference scheduled for November 27 to December 1, 1990 was postponed to an indefinite date in 1991;
3. The Committee agreed that critical observations concerning Network partners or organizations should be attributed to the Committee and not to individual members.
4. Promotion and Exploitation of Promising New Lines
Stability analysis of 1987-89 variety trials is underway at ISC in Niamey but not yet completed. The Coordinator

will follow-up on this. Seeds of ICSV 1083 BF, CE 180-83, ICSV 111, of WASVAT-Early and ICSV 1063 BF, ICSV 1089 BF, Malisor 84-1 of WASVAT-Medium cycle trials should be multiplied. Technical description (fiches techniques) are needed on these varieties.

Multilocational trials were recommended to exploit these materials, especially at the 5 lead centers and 6 other NARS -Senegal, Benin, Gambia, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. It was recommended that the multiplication of these varieties be coordinated with INSAH. A clearly defined strategy for the exploitation of new varieties needs to be developed during the joint network workshop. NAR cooperators in the multi-locational trials will be requested to fill out technical information forms on the varieties under evaluation.

5. Lead Centers

The Committee expressed concern about the continuity of the *Striga* project financed by the Network after the departure of Dr. Dangi. The SCO agreed to write to the Director of Agronomic Research, Dr. Ayuk-Takem, to encourage the Cameroon program to continue with a strong commitment to this project.

The establishment of a *Striga* working group composed of WASIP-Mali, the *Striga* Network and Cameroon representatives was recommended to follow-up and advise the research staff.

Coordinator's Report

Dr. Thomas summarized the Coordinator's report for 1990.

1. Research projects - a table in the report listed the funds provided and project reports received.
2. Regional trial status - the number of trials dispatched and results analyzed was presented in table 3 of the report.
3. Seed multiplication for 1991 trials - the varieties received from NARS and the quantity of seed increased was summarized.
4. Visit to NARS in 1990 - the countries visited and visiting scientists were listed.
5. Financial situation - the budget, expenditures and balance as of July 1990 were presented in an Annex.

6. Reports - the reports completed or in preparation by the Coordinator's office were listed.

The Committee requested information on the agronomic potential of the lines for disease nursery trials.

SCO Report

Dr. Bezuneh and Dr. Kingma explained the status of SAFGRAD II and III. SAFGRAD II will end in September, 1991. USAID will conduct a final evaluation in January/February, 1991 to determine the impact of networks on research results.

A strategic plan for SAFGRAD III has been submitted to USAID and other donors. It will emphasize greater financial support to NARS and more long-term training. The evaluation will focus on the relevance of the research in the various networks to meet constraints of NARS.

SPAAR is being considered by USAID as another channel for financial support to agricultural research. USAID will prepare a Project Paper (PP) for SAFGRAD III with plans to begin the project in 1992.

An Oversight Committee Evaluation of networks was conducted in 1990 which will provide useful information to project design.

An extension of SAFGRAD II to the end of calendar year 1991 should be considered.

Budget

Mr. Vaidyanathan, WASIP-Mali Administrator, described ICRISAT procedures for financial accounting as it relates to travel advances of Network visitors to NARS and payment to NARS for research support.

The Coordinator presented the Network financial situation as of October 1990.

The Committee recommended that:

- a) Network support funds to NARS be increased. The Coordinator was asked to prepare a budget proposal to this effect;
- b) sufficient funds should be budgeted to extend Network operations to complete the 1991 calendar year -i.e. September 1 - December 31, 1991;

- c) to support WASIP-Mali's request for financing of a hybrid seed production training course for training approximately 15 participants and a manual for hybrid seed production.

The Sasakawa Global 2000 representative advised that his organization may be able to provide some financial support, if requested. The hybrid production training course should be jointly sponsored by ICRISAT/SAFGRAD (Sorghum Network) and Global 2000.

Inter-Network Conference in 1991

A joint workshop of the sorghum, maize and cowpea networks will be held in Niamey, Niger in March 7-14, 1991. From 160 to 200 participants are expected. There will be 2 days of plenary session with approximately 20 invited scientific papers addressing the following themes:

1. State of the art in Crop Improvement over the last 5 years;
2. Research frontiers for the 1990's;
3. Networking as a regional strategy; and
4. On-farm research.

The 3 networks will meet in separate, concurrent sessions over the following 3 days.

There will be opening addresses by the Executive Secretary of OAU and the Niger Minister of Agriculture. The country papers will be published in a separate report. The networks will finance their own participants while SAFGRAD will finance invitees outside the networks and provide general logistical support.

The Coordinator agreed to write to request NARS who have not designated an official representative to do so and to remind the network researchers that they are encouraged to submit a scientific paper.

Regional Agronomy Trials

Dr. Salez, the CIRAD representative, proposed the establishment of regional trials to evaluate elite varieties. Suggested topics were:

1. To evaluate elite genotypes at different technological levels such as fertility level of N and P, land preparation methods, plant populations, etc.

2. Genotypes in sole versus intercropping trials. Information from research sites needed include rainfall and soil analysis. These trials should be conducted initially on-station but extended to on-farm sites by year 2 or 3.

In-service Training in Plant Protection

The Coordinator proposed a training program at WASIP-Mali in entomology, plant pathology and *Striga*. Estimated cost for one month of training was \$ 25,000. The Committee recommended having separate training courses for 3 participants of approximately 10 days in each of the 3 areas and a revision of the training budget. Suggested time period is September/October.

Participants were suggested to be selected from the following countries:

Striga: Nigeria, Chad, Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso;

Entomology: Niger, Ghana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire;

Plant pathology: Burkina Faso, Benin, Senegal, Ghana.

Visits to NARS in 1990

Dr. Nwasike presented the results of his visit to Ghana and his recommendations for the Ghana national program. Dr. Thomas presented a similar report on visits to Chad, Nigeria and Niger.

Samanko Station Visit

The Committee members visited the ICRISAT/WASIP-Mali facilities and experimental fields on the morning of December 4.

IBPGR Report

Dr. Jane Toll, IBPGR Coordinator for West Africa from the IBPGR office in Niamey, Niger gave a presentation on the role of IBPGR in germplasm collection, evaluation and conservation in West and Central Africa. She drew attention to the importance the NARS give to having representative collections of local germplasm conserved, characterized, evaluated and documented as the basis of their breeding programs. She suggested that the existing research and improvement networks could play an important role in the exchange of germplasm, coordination of evaluation and centralization and exchange of data. A first step could be the building up of a

central data base on the region's sorghum germplasm based on the ICRISAT data base.

The Committee expressed a need for greater Network access to information on the germplasm collections made in the region. Dr. Toll was requested to present a position paper on the integration of genetic resources into the crop networks at the Inter-Network Conference at Niamey in March, 1991.

Global 2000 Report

Dr. Marcel Galiba described the organization and philosophy of Global 2000 and its agricultural development activities in support of small-scale farmers in Africa.

Global 2000 provides small-scale farmers the opportunity to test available technological packages. Nearly 100,000 farmers tested the technology in 1989 for maize and sorghum. Organizing farmers into groups, associations and cooperatives was a vital fact of Global 2000 activities. Following Ghana's experience, Global 2000 realized that production should be supported by other activities like seed production, storage, credit, marketing and processing. The 2nd phase of Sasakawa Global 2000 project in Ghana would tackle those so-called "2nd generation problems".

Meanwhile, programs had been opened in Benin (in 1989) and Togo (in 1990). Everywhere, farmers had seen their yields doubled, tripled, sometimes quadrupled when compared to national averages.

It is their wish that the WCASRN could help them to have improved cultivars. Many fields of collaboration are possible and they looked forward to having good working relationships.

Revised Network Support Budget for 1991

The Coordinator presented a budget proposal for the balance (\$ 87,000) of the Network Support line item to increase research support to NAR programs. The Committee agreed on the following allocation:

Lead Center Projects:	
Mali	\$ 8,000
Burkina Faso	\$ 8,000
Cameroon	\$ 8,000
Niger - Long smut	\$ 6,000
Niger - Cereal Quality	\$ 5,000
Nigeria	\$ 9,000

Subtotal	\$ 68,000

12 non-lead Center NARS: (\$ 2,000 each)
Subtotal \$ 24,000

WASIP-Nigeria F1 Seed
Production Training: \$ 12,000

Contingency \$ 7,000

TOTAL \$ 87,000.

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