

Appendix II

REPORT ON THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN SORGHUM RESEARCH NETWORK, MAROUA, CAMEROON SEPTEMBER 24, 1988.

INTRODUCTION

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the West and Central African Sorghum Research Network (WCASRN) was held in Maroua, Cameroon on 24 September 1988. The following participated in the meeting:

Prof. C. E. Ohiagu,	Nigeria	Chairman
Dr. M. Traoré	Mali	Member
Dr. J. Clark	Niger	Member
Dr. S. Da	Burkina-Faso	Member
Dr. O. P. Dangi	Cameroon	Member
Mr. C. Luce	Senegal	Member
Dr. K. V. Ramaiah	Acting Coordinator, Mali	
Dr. T. Bezuneh	SAFGRAD	Observer
Mr. J. Chantareau	CIRAD/IRAT	Observer
Dr. C. M. Pattanayak	CCRN/ICRISAT	Observer
Dr. W. Frolich	Ghana	Observer
Mr. D. Yagoua	Tchad	Observer
Dr. O. Ajayi	ICRISAT/Nigeria	Observer
Dr. D. S. Murty	ICRISAT/Nigeria	Observer
Dr. R. Tabo	ICRISAT/Nigeria	Observer
Dr. A. M. Emechebe	SAFGRAD Oversight Committee Member,	Observer

The member from Ivory Coast, Mr. K. Attiey, who moved to maize breeding, was replaced by a new elected member, along with two more new members. This brings the total number to six countries represented in the SC. The three new elected members are: Dr. O. P. Dangi (Cameroon), Dr. S. Da (Burkina Faso) and Mr. C. Luce (Senegal).

Three countries were elected as substitutes in case some country drops out from the membership. They are Tchad, Benin and Ghana.

The following agenda was adopted for discussion:

- 1) Introductory remarks by the Chairman of the SC
- 2) Introduction of new members by the Coordinator
- 3) Vote of thanks to departing members and former Coordinator by Dr. M. Traore

- 4) Review of the reports of the SC meetings by the Coordinator
- 5) Financial status of network
- 6) Recommendations of the network
- 7) Proceedings of the Workshop
- 8) Venue and time of next SC meeting and Workshop
- 9) Miscellaneous

After the introductory remarks by the Chairman of the Steering Committee, the Coordinator introduced the new members of the Steering Committee. The Coordinator felt that the additional members will contribute substantially to the improvement of the network.

REVIEW OF SC REPORTS BY COORDINATOR

For the benefit of the new SC members the Coordinator briefed the reports of the last three SC meetings. The important of them are: collaboration with SAFGRAD and CIRAD/IRAT to strengthen the regional sorghum network; prioritization of various yield reducing factors; agronomic research; germplasm collection, evaluation and storage; training of national scientists and technicians; workshop and monitoring tours; regional trials; proposal to SPAAR for supplemental financial assistance to national programs and the Workplan for 1988.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF NETWORK

The SC members expressed interest in knowing the budget that is available for the network activities. Dr. Pattanayak explained that the network activities are covered by the funds from USAID. He outlined the budget that was available for various line items. For the information of all the SC members the Chairman of the SC requested the Coordinator to make available a statement of expenditures and the balance amount against various line items.

In view of inadequate funds to network support and the need for additional funds for supporting the weaker national programs the SC requested the Coordinator to explore the possibility of transferring funds from under utilized line items to the network support line items.

The Cooperative Cereals Research Network (CCRN) may be interested to finance regional trials and perhaps in exceptional cases the national advanced trials, through the network coordinator.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several recommendations were made at the Workshop and are given in Appendix I.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

It was suggested to publish the proceedings as soon as possible. In recognition of Dr. C. M. Pattanayak's outstanding service as Coordinator to the Sorghum Network during the period from 1985 to 1988, these proceedings will be dedicated to him.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Steering Committee meeting was decided to be held in Kano, Nigeria in early 1989. ICRISAT/Kano was asked to make local arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS

A) Network self appraisal: The Director of Research of SAFGRAD informed the SC regarding the need for self appraisal of the networks. The International Coordinator's office is finalizing the guidelines and will inform the SC.

B) Conference of Directors of Research: The conference of the Directors of Research of SAFGRAD member countries is proposed for February 1989. Dr. Pattanayak informed that this meeting may conflict with ICRISAT in-house-review scheduled for February 1989.

C) International Testing Nursery: Dr. Pattanayak proposed a 36 entry trial to be conducted in 5 lead centers and two ICRISAT regional centers.

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