



INTSORMIL

Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains
Collaborative Research Support Program

Inside the Grain

Growing solutions to global hunger



Calderon Attends Food Security Workshop

A workshop entitled *Food Security, Postharvest and Quality Assurance of Selected Agro Industrial Products*, was offered by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The workshop was held from June 1-30, 2011 at Kasetsar University in Bangkok Thailand. This workshop provided scientific knowledge to participants from 16 different countries in Asia, Africa and America, about food security, post harvest, and added value of agricultural products. Another main objective was learning to select appropriate and suitable technology for small-scale processing in rural communities. Vilma Ruth Calderon, a food technologist for CENTA in El Salvador, attended the workshop in Thailand. Calderon is an INTSORMIL collaborator in Central America.

The program consisted of a series of lectures, lab practices and field trips to northern Thailand to observe activities of technology transfer and small scale food processing in different communities. The field trip included visits to the provinces of Nong Kai, Kon Khaen, Nakorn Ratchasima, and Roi Et to observe farming practices and processing of products with high added value. The group had the opportunity to observe some practices "in situ", most of them led by women's groups on the processing of agricultural products, such as peanuts, banana, cacao, cassava, rice, maize and sorghum, among others. Example of processed products are: edible rice sheet, dry noodles, roasted peanuts with herbs, corn milk, grilled corn, candies, snacks, flour, and bakery products.

The group also visited the *Royal Chitralada Project* located in Bangkok. This is a program sponsored by the King of Thailand, his Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, in an effort to contribute to the food security of his country. *Royal Chitralada* was built with the purpose of bringing comfort and relief to disadvantaged people in rural Thailand. To date, over four thousand royal development projects have been initiated; all of

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Feed the Future Forum in Washington DC

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) organized the “Feed the Future Research Forum” on June 21-24, 2011 in collaboration with the Board for International Food and Agriculture (BIFAD), and in coordination with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Geological Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency also participated. John Yohe and E.A. Heinrichs from the INTSORMIL Program attended the *Feed the Future Research Forum: Engaging the Research Community* where more than 300 members of the global agriculture research community gathered to refine the research strategy for the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future initiative.

The Feed the Future (FTF) Research Forum followed on the heels of a three-week “e-consultation” focused on identifying key challenges and research questions that support the overall goal of FTF. The goals of the Research Forum were to refine the key challenges and research questions; to explore the ways in which human and institutional capacity development can increase the impacts of research investments; and to explore innovative partnerships, a “whole government” approach and engagement of the private sector as means to advance the FTF research goals.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders from the United States and international research communities, government, civil society and industry and from a broad range of expertise related to agriculture, food systems, social sciences, business, environment, human nutrition, food safety, policy, and other related fields.



Left to right: E.A. Heinrichs, John Yohe (INTSORMIL CRSP), Muni Muniappan (IPM CRSP), Ron Voss (Horticulture CRSP), and Irvin Widders (Dry Grain Pulses CRSP)

Yohe and Heinrichs attended to see how the INTSORMIL CRSP program can fit into the goals of the FtF initiative. The INTSORMIL program works in 13 of the focus countries of the FtF program.

The forum goals were to identify and refine key challenges and researchable approaches that support the overall goal of Feed the Future within the three themes laid out in the initiative’s research strategy: advancing the productivity frontier, transforming production systems, and enhancing nutrition and food safety. Yohe and Heinrichs hope to explore opportunities for increasing the impacts of INTSORMIL research through human and institutional capacity development, innovative partnerships, a “whole of government” approach, and engagement of the private sector. Almost one billion people—one sixth of the world’s population— suffer from chronic hunger and more than 3.5 million children die annually from under nutrition. Hunger robs the poor of a healthy and productive life and stunts the mental and physical development of the next generation. Reducing chronic hunger is essential to the sustainable development of individuals, communities and nations.

Through Feed the Future, the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative, the U.S. Government is helping countries transform their own agricultural sectors and regional trading systems to sustainably feed their people through innovative research programs such as what the INTSORMIL program has to offer.

SEE THE
FEED CHANGE FUTURE

Student Spotlight: Issoufou Kapran

According to Issoufou Kapran, INTSORMIL has helped mentor young scientists. “This improves the capacity of African scientists to conduct meaningful research,” he said.

With this collaboration, we released sorghum cultivars SEPON82, SRN39, NAD-1, F1-223, and SSD35. Also in collaboration with food scientists we demonstrated the feasibility of processed sorghum couscous and brought in an agglomerator which was later manufactured locally.

SEPON82 was taken up by a farmer association (Hadin Kan Jamaa-HKJ) in Southern Maradi region of Niger where it is the most adapted cultivar. The group continues to date to produce and market seeds of this variety while farmers in the area have received support from the Production and Marketing project to produce and market the grain. The seed production effort is currently expanded with support from AGRA, so that HKJ is producing and selling more quality seeds of not only SEPON82 but also other crops like millet and groundnuts. In the meantime many other groups are producing SEPON82 including one in Western Niger who informed me recently having a 80 hectare field of production.



Article by Jaime Klein

Looking to the Future, 5 Year Grant Proposal

September 29, 2011 marks the end of INTSORMIL's current Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement with USAID. In anticipation for this closure the INTSORMIL management entity has been preparing a new proposal to submit to USAID for the Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement approval for 2011-2016. The writing of the proposal is in collaboration with the help of Carrie Wiese, Proposal Development Coordinator from the Office of Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The proposal is an overview of how INTSORMIL plans to build off the current projects and new initiatives that are planned for the future.

“INTSORMIL will continue to advance intensification of sustainable production of sorghum and pearl millet through the objectives; targeting the growth of expanding markets; improving food safety and nutritional quality of sorghum and pearl millet; increasing stability and yield through crop, soil, and water management and genetic technologies; developing and disseminating information on integrated management of biotic stresses; enhancing genetic resources and conserving biodiversity; developing human and institutional capacity; and developing effective partnerships with national and international agencies.”

When the Request for Application is received from USAID, the INTSORMIL Management Office will formally submit the proposal for review. The approval for the proposal should be no later than September 29, 2011. In the mean time INTSORMIL has submitted a proposal for no-cost extension for all projects with remaining funds. These requests have been submitted to USAID and are awaiting approval.



Food Security continued

which aspire to improve the livelihood and lifestyle of the people of Thailand. Most of the activities consist of post-harvest management and utilization of agricultural products: Rice cultivated for food and energy purposes, edible mushrooms production, milk powder and cheese production, charcoal production, rice paper and handicraft production.

Participants also visited the center for research on maize and sorghum at Kasetsart University. The participants could see the varieties of maize and sorghum utilized for transfer technology programs in Thailand and the use of "sweet" sorghum varieties for the production of syrup. Sorghum is not used for any other food product, but syrup. "Super sweet" corn varieties are processed fresh to produce an ethnic beverage called corn milk, a very popular drink in Thailand. Also steamed and grilled immature corn which is produced.

Some of the achievements obtained in the course were: acquiring expertise in the area of food security, production and post-harvest of agricultural products, new ideas for the development of nutritious food from selected raw materials and technology transfer related to the production of value added products and marketing for small scale agro industries.



"...the well-being and happiness of the people are a benefit that is difficult to be measured in terms of money." - Royal Speech on the occasion of the Royal Birthday Anniversary

Content and photos courtesy of Vilma Ruth Calderon



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