



INTSORMIL

Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains Collaborative Research Support Program

Inside the Grain

Growing solutions to global hunger

INTA/Nicaragua Releases 2 New BMR Sorghum Varieties

The sorghum varieties CI 0943 BMR and CI 0947 BMR were commercially released at a ceremony held at the INTA Agricultural Experiment Station just outside of Managua, Nicaragua. The release ceremony was sponsored by INTA (Nicaragua's Institute of Agricultural Technology), USAID/Washington and INTSORMIL. These two varieties are the second and third BMR varieties to be released in Central America. The first BMR variety was released last year in El Salvador. On hand at the ceremony were Dr. John McMurdy, USAID/Washington and Prof. Bill Rooney, Texas A&M University Sorghum Breeder and INTSORMIL Central America Regional Coordinator; each ceremonially handed a first bag of seed to farmers and collaborators. Dr. John McMurdy also addressed the local scientists and farmers on the success of their collaboration and research. "bmr" refers to a phenotypic character which causes a brownish colored midrib (compared to a white midrib in non-bmr varieties). Varieties with the bmr gene have a low lignin content of the forage (leaves and stem) and are highly digestible by dairy cows.



Dr. John McMurdy, USAID/W addressing the participants.



Prof. Bill Rooney, Texas A&M University sorghum breeder and INTSORMIL Central America Regional Coordinator presenting a bag of BMR sorghum (CI 0943) seed to **Dr. Edmundo Jose Robleto**, a member of the Cooperative San Francisco de Asis. **Nury Gutierrez**, INTA sorghum breeder and release ceremony emcee is seen at left.



Dr. Rafael Obando, INTA sorghum breeder explaining the history and qualities of BMR sorghum CI 0943 to farmers during the field visit.

- The USAID External Evaluation Team visited the University of Nebraska from May 7 – 9, 2012.
- Team members **Dr. Hailu Tefera** (Team Leader), **Dr. Melinda Smale** (Michigan State University) and **Dr. Jeff Dahlberg** (University of California Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center) met with the ME Staff and INTSORMIL Regional Coordinators (**Dr. Gary Peterson**, Texas A&M, **Dr. William Rooney**, Texas A&M, **Dr. Bruce Hamaker**, Purdue University and **Dr. Charles Wortmann**, University of Nebraska - Lincoln).



CHIBAS Haiti - Multipurpose Brown Midrib Sorghum

CHIBAS has been collaborating with the USAID-INTSORMIL project to evaluate double purpose grain/forage sorghum that is low in lignin (brown midrib). This collaboration started in September 2010. These brown midrib varieties have a grain that is suitable for human consumption, as in our sweet sorghum program, and produce very high quality forage. Experiments have shown a milk production increase of up to 15% with dairy cows fed with brown midrib sorghum.

CHIBAS has already tested 14 brown midrib varieties, provided by INTSORMIL, at our two experimental stations. We selected 3 brown midrib varieties for participatory plant evaluation with 15 sorghum growers as well as conducted additional testing in other experimental stations across the country. These 3 varieties will be further tested along with an INTSORMIL variety already widely adopted across Haiti (Sureño also known as CENTA S3). (Source: CHIBAS Info - Issue #2 April 10, 2012)



Sorghum trials at CHIBAS' Cabaret experimental station.

LVII PCCMCA - Panama City

The LVII Annual Meeting of the PCCMCA (Programa Cooperativo Centroamericano para el Mejoramiento de Cultivos y Animales) was held in Panama City, 23-27 April 2012. IDIAP (Instituto de Investigación

Agropecuaria de Panama) hosted the meeting at the Hotel El Panama. The President of the meeting was Ing. Hermann E. Gnaegi U., Director General del IDIAP and the Coordinador General was Dr. Ismael Camargo, Director Nacional de Investigación e Innovación en Recursos Genéticos y Biodiversidad and INTSORMIL collaborator on the USAID/Washington funded bmr sorghum project in Central America. The meeting theme was "Deficit alimentario: Un reto para la producción agropecuaria sostenible" (Food deficit: A challenge for sustainable agricultural and livestock production).



The PCCMCA is a scientific and educational organization comprised of national, regional and international organizations that promote sustainable agricultural productivity in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Ten papers were presented in the plenary sessions. Scientific sessions consisted of 1) Rice and Sorghum, 2) Fruits and Musaceae, 3) Vegetables, 4) Legumes, 5) Maize, 6) Animal Production, 7) Roots and Tubercles and 8) Natural Resources. A total of 245 papers and 60 posters were presented in the scientific and poster sessions with 33 in the Rice and Sorghum session.



Sergio Cuadra, INTA/Nicaragua sorghum agronomist.

A highlight of the meeting was the awarding of prizes for the best paper and poster presentations. In the paper presentation INTSORMIL collaborators Sergio Cuadra, INTA/Nicaragua won first place, Maximo Hernandez, CENTA/EI Salvador received a second place award for his presentation on bmr sorghum and co-authors Vilma Calderon and Kris Duville, CENTA/EI Salvador received an honorable mention for their work on food processing. The LVIII PCCMCA will be held in Honduras in 2013.



Mario Parada Jaco, CENTA/EI Salvador Director of Research and former INTSORMIL student at Mississippi State (L); Maximo Hernandez, CENTA Sorghum Agronomist and Hermann E. Gnaegi, IDIAP/Panama Director General and PCCMCA LVII President.



Nury Gutierrez, INTA/Nicaragua sorghum breeder (L) and Vilma Ruth Calderon, CENTA/EI Salvador food scientist.

Dr. Medson Chisi Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The 2011 Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Award ceremony was held in November, 2011. Dr. Medson Chisi from the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute was the award recipient. The objective of this award is to recognize outstanding Zambian researchers for their achievements and contribution to ST&I development. Scientists are recognized for addressing critical problems through their research work, and using scientific and technological research to advance the socio-economic development of the country. Dr. Medson Chisi was recognized as the outstanding male scientist for 2011 and recognized for his work in sorghum and millet research and alleviating hunger at household level.



Dr. Medson Chisi

Dr. Chisi would like to thank INTSORMIL and his team for their support in helping him create such an outstanding program in Zambia and beyond.