

INTSORMIL

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Fighting Hunger and Poverty with Research

... A Team Effort

**Grain Sorghum/Pearl Millet Collaborative
Research Support Program (CRSP)**

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Michael Mogorosi

The 2004 INTSORMIL annual report is dedicated to Mr. Michael Mogorosi in remembrance of his contributions to INTSORMIL and pearl millet and sorghum research and extension.

Michael Mogorosi, Senior Research Officer in the Cereal Improvement Program of the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) in Botswana died after a brief illness in October 2004. Michael joined the Cereal Improvement Program, DAR in 1979. He was awarded a number of educational opportunities starting with a diploma in agriculture from the Botswana College of Agriculture in 1984. He completed a six-month course in sorghum and pearl millet improvement at ICRISAT in 1985. Michael earned a B.Sc. in agronomy at the University of Nebraska in 1989 and subsequently took courses in G X E interaction effects and the use of GIS in agriculture. In 1999 he returned to the University of Nebraska on a visiting scholar grant from INTSORMIL for the application of recent breeding techniques in pearl millet.

Due to his experience and expertise Michael often represented DAR and Botswana in regional and international workshops, and was an invited participant in a review of INTSORMIL's activities in the SADC region. His career was a productive synthesis of academic achievements and relevant specialist training. Less well known, however, was his detailed knowledge and understanding, obtained over many years, of family farming systems in Botswana. Michael's desire to develop practical applications from research at the farmer level was a constant goal in his professional career, and earned him respect and appreciation from farmers, extension workers and researchers alike.

While in charge of cereal research in northern Botswana, Michael's research, both on experimental sites, and on-farm plots led to the release of two new pearl millet varieties. Michael of course also ensured that a good local seed multiplication system was in place.

Michael's sincerity and knowledge earned the respect of farmers and professional colleagues. His passing is a sad loss to the small cadre of experienced pearl millet and sorghum research in the SADC region, and INTSORMIL will miss his contributions to collaborative research.

Contributed by Dr. David Andrews, Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

