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International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program (INTSORMIL)

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International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program
(INTSORMIL)
Columbine and Goldenrod Rooms, Nebraska East Union
3:30 p.m.
October 27, 2006
John Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

I'm extremely pleased to be here today to celebrate the work of the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program, or INTSORMIL. The fact that we will see this worthwhile and productive work continue for the next five years because of this exciting \$9 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, is wonderful. The work conducted through INTSORMIL is a source of pride for all associated with it.

One reason we can feel especially proud here in Lincoln is the fact that INTSORMIL is headquartered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. INTSORMIL focuses international, collaborative research to accomplish three main goals:

- 1) improve human and animal nutrition;
- 2) improve natural resource management;
- 3) increase income.

Through INTSORMIL, seven U.S. universities, and the U.S.

Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service, work with developing countries.

For nearly 30 years, scientific collaborations through INTSORMIL have helped provide life-sustaining aid to some of the poorest nations in the world. At the same time, INTSORMIL yields payoffs for farmers across our nation and in Nebraska, through our classrooms and in our fields, even as it helps improve nutrition worldwide.

Agricultural statistics tell us Nebraska last year was third nationally in grain sorghum production, with 21,750,000 bushels produced. We applaud INTSORMIL because – no doubt about it – its research and technology are “helping” our producers achieve that high level of grain production.

How? INTSORMIL plant breeders have been instrumental in introducing germplasm, or genetic material, from native types of plants from developing countries, into U.S. sorghum and pearl-millet lines. These plant breeders work with agronomists, plant pathologists, entomologists, plant physiologists, food scientists and others to select varieties resistant to weeds, fungi, bacteria, and insects, as well as drought and disease. The results increase yields, and, more importantly, fight world hunger.

INTSORMIL agricultural economists research the economic aspects,

including impact of agricultural research, on the production and use of sorghum and pearl millet. The organization works to develop new technologies to not only improve production, but also to improve marketing strategies, and the uses of sorghum, millet, and other grains worldwide.

All of these collaborative efforts contribute to the success and momentum of the INTSORMIL program. This is a global collaborative effort providing partnerships among some of the most effective U. S. research universities and allowing them to focus on education and research projects leading not only to better grain production, but also to the critically important goal of improving the lives of people worldwide. This is why we're especially-pleased to have INTSORMIL headquartered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Thank you.

I invite to the podium Prem Paul, UNL Vice chancellor for Research.