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INTSORMIL Promotes Sorghum Production in Nicaragua



Central America Regional sorghum evaluation trial in Nicaragua

Nicaragua has made great strides in sorghum production through participation in the Central American testing program.



Ing. Nury Gutiérrez, INTA sorghum breeder, discussing the characteristics of the new sorghum variety, INTA SR-16, with participants at a field day in Nicaragua.

The INTSORMIL Central America Regional Program supports the efforts of national research programs to develop dynamic research programs that contribute to productivity, economic growth, natural resource conservation and improved diets. INTSORMIL supports a 'network' approach and promotes sorghum production in the region through the PCCMCA (Central Cooperative Program for Improving Crops and Animals) and other national and international organizations. PCCMCA serves as a forum for the international testing program for sorghum in Central America (CA). Rene Clara, INTSORMIL CA Regional Coordinator based at CENTA in El Salvador, coordinates the regional grain sorghum yield trials conducted on behalf of the PCCMCA. In 2007 the PCCMCA trials were conducted in 12 locations in CA.

Nicaragua has made great strides in sorghum production through their participation in the PCCMCA sorghum testing program. A strong collaborative relationship exists between the INTSORMIL regional research program and INTA, the Nicaraguan national agricultural research program, and ANPROSOR, the Nicaraguan grain producers association. On April 30, 2008 the INTA sorghum program released three new sorghums; (1) Variety INTA-RCV, (2) Variety INTA SR-16, and (3) Hybrid INTA Forrajero. All have outstanding qualities and each targets a different market. The varieties RCV and SR-16 provide small producers with access to improved genetics without the cost of hybrid seed while the INTA Forrajero is a forage hybrid with high yield potential.



Variety INTA-RCV produces an excellent quality sorghum flour which can be substituted in part for wheat flour, thus reducing the amount of imported wheat.

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RCV Variety

Target uses

- Small producers who cannot afford to buy hybrid seed
- Suitable for both human food and livestock feed
- Excellent quality flour to replace part of the imported wheat flour

Comparative advantages

- High yield (4.5 mt/ha) of good quality white grain
- Plant height allows mechanical or manual harvesting
- Tolerance to foliar diseases
- Good for silage as it produces 50 tm/ha biomass

Expected Economic Impact

- More producers will plant sorghum due to high yields and low production costs resulting in an increase of the area and production of this grain
- Increase in milk production and livestock health due to the high quality silage available for feeding during the dry season

SR-16 Variety

Target uses

- Livestock industry for production of concentrated animal feed in substitution of imported yellow corn
- For small and median producers who want red grain and high yields and cannot afford to buy hybrid seed

Comparative advantages

- High yield potential of good quality red grain (4 mt/ha)
- Good agronomic characteristics allowing both mechanical and manual harvesting
- Tolerance to the principal foliar diseases in Nicaragua

Expected Economic Impact

- More producers will plant sorghum due to access to technology, high yields and lower production costs resulting in increased production of this grain
- Increase in sorghum production area due to the availability of low cost seed
- Increased income of small and median producers



Ing. Rafael Obando, INTA/INTSORMIL Country Coordinator in Nicaragua explaining the advantages of the red-grained variety, INTA SR-16, as a livestock feed, at a field day in Nicaragua.

Hybrid INTA Forage

Target uses

- Nicaragua dairy industry
- Livestock as a forage with high nutritive potential



Ing. Bayardo Serrano, INTA Director, explaining the hybrid seed production technology of 'INTA Forrajero' sorghum and the 15% increased milk production when fodder of this hybrid is fed to dairy cows.

Comparative advantages

- Green forage of higher digestible protein
- High production of green forage per area (43 mt/ha) every 45 days; 4 cuttings without irrigation per year
- A forage of good palatability to cattle
- Low cost source of protein for milk production
- Can be used by livestock as a forage, hay or pasture

Expected Economic Impact

- Increased milk production
- Increased income of milk and meat producers

Soberano

"Soberano," another variety, developed for human consumption by the CENTA/INTSORMIL Program has been evaluated in the PCCMCA testing program. It has high grain yields, excellent grain quality and is adapted to CA growing conditions. It has been released in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and is in advanced evaluation trials in Nicaragua prior to release.

The Regional Testing Program

In summary, this regional testing program contributes to the achievement of the INTSORMIL/PCCMCA/CENTA/INTA collaborative goal of "Improving sorghum production and quality in Central America."



Sorghum variety Soberano in evaluation trials in Nicaragua.

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