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## 'Sureño,' Dual Purpose Grain and Forage Sorghum for Central America

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## 'SUREÑO,' DUAL PURPOSE GRAIN AND FORAGE SORGHUM FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

**S**ureño sorghum- the white grain makes great tortillas and the forage and grain are a preferred livestock feed. Whereas most sorghum cultivars are grown for either silage or grain, Sureño sorghum is used for both. Because of its dual purpose qualities as a good grain for livestock and human consumption and as a forage for cattle, Sureño is popular with cattle producers and the bakery industry and is spreading throughout Central America.

The sweet ensilage of Sureño sorghum is preferred by the Central American cattle producers because of its high nutritious value, high energy value and high production of 71 MT/ha. The grain has high value as a livestock feed and as a human food and grain yields are high at 3.8 t/ha.

Sureño, an open pollinated variety, developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with INTSORMIL support and collaborations in Honduras, was released for commercial cultivation in 1988. It was further developed and promoted through the INTSORMIL funded CENTA sorghum breeding program by INTSORMIL Central American Regional Coordinator, Rene' Clara in El Salvador where it was named CENTA S-3 and released in 2004. It will be released in Nicaragua in 2009. Some of the qualities that make Sureño popular with Central American sorghum producers are its resistance to lodging and tolerance to grain mold and to the foliar diseases *Cercospora sorghi*, *Gloeocercospora sorghi*, rust, anthracnose, *Helminthosporium turcicum* and downy mildew.

Sureño is ideally suited for cultivation in the dry zones of Central America. In these zones, located in eastern El Salvador, southern Honduras and the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, dairy cows normally lose 45 kg weight each summer (dry period) for lack of food. Utilizing ensilage of Sureño, which grows well in dry areas, the animals maintain their weight and their meat and milk production throughout the dry period. Utilizing the rain fall period, ranchers produce two crops annually, one for ensilage and another for grain. Thus, Sureño meets the economic needs of small and medium farmers in the dry zones of Central America where 40% is grown for forage, 30% for use as a grain and 30% for both grain and forage. Sureño is truly a productive dual purpose variety.

*Dual*



*Purpose*



*Sureño*

Sureño is grown in the Pacific Central area of El Salvador and Honduras and will soon be released for cultivation in the Pacific Central area of Nicaragua.

