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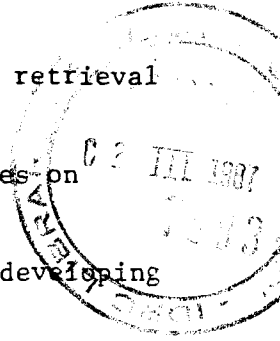
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A REPORT ON SMIC PHASE I  
(DECEMBER 1976 - MARCH 1982)

The Sorghum and Millets Information Center (SMIC) was established at ICRISAT in December 1976, with the objective of collecting, collating and disseminating information to all research workers around the world in the fields of sorghum and millets. The IDRC, Canada, agreed to fund it, initially for 3 years. Since the Project had a slow start, it had to be extended for a further period of 2 years i.e. upto 31 December 1981. It was finally extended upto 31 March 1982.

The following tasks were set up for the Phase I of the Project :

- a) to collect documents on sorghum and pearl millet dating from 1969 onwards;
  - b) to set up an appropriate document storage and retrieval system;
  - c) to bring up-to-date the existing bibliographies on sorghum and millets;
  - d) to provide bibliographic search services for developing countries;
  - e) to provide a photocopy service, particularly for developing countries, based on the document collection;
  - f) to establish a question-and-answer service, using the advice of the scientists in ICRISAT's research network; and
  - g) to issue a Newsletter to reinforce the research network and to improve communications with outside institutions.
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All the above tasks have been accomplished. These are recapitulated below :

(1) SMIC Newsletter (3 times a year) has been published from August 1979. It is being distributed to nearly 1500 addresses in India and abroad. There has been good response to the Newsletter, and from April 1981 issue a French version has been brought out for francophone countries. Upto the end of March 1982, 7 issues of the Newsletter have been published.

(2) SDI Service - Selective Dissemination of Information - An SDI service was initiated in October 1979. Abstracts of articles published in the journals received at the ICRISAT library are being sent to the scientists every month according to their interest profiles. The service, originally restricted to the scientists of ICRISAT (on the Patancheru site and in the Cooperative Programs), is gradually being extended to other scientists.

(3) (a) Sorgho : Bibliographie Annotée de la Documentation Internationale en Français, 1900-1976 - An annotated bilingual (French and English) bibliography of the world sorghum literature in French was published in September 1980. It contains 863 entries.

(b) Retrospective Bibliographies - Compilation work for the following bibliographies have been completed, and they are now in various stages of publication :

- |                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Sorghum Bibliography, 1970-1973 | (3414 entries) |
| (2) Sorghum Bibliography, 1974-1976 | (3119 " )      |
| (3) Sorghum Bibliography, 1977-1980 | (5000 " )      |
| (4) Millets Bibliography, 1970-1976 | (3109 " )      |
| (5) Millets Bibliography, 1977-1980 | (3000 " )      |

For nearly 50 per cent of the references collected, reprints or photocopies have been obtained.

(4) Directory of Sorghum and Millets Research Workers - Data collection work began in December 1980 and was completed by December 1981. Out of nearly 5000 questionnaires sent, more than 2000 responses were received. The final Directory has been sent for printing and is expected soon.

(5) SMIC services - Besides attending to regular technical enquiries and occasional requests for the compilation of specialized bibliographies, SMIC has been supplying photocopies of articles on sorghum and millets from research workers all over the world. With more people coming to know of SMIC services, the demand for photocopies has increased considerably.

(6) Workshop on Meeting the Users' Needs - A one-day Workshop was held on 31 October 1981, which was attended by 40 participants - 20 scientists, 15 documentalists, and 5 editors. The objective of the Workshop was to ascertain the usefulness of SMIC to the scientific community it serves, and to recommend what steps should be taken to improve and augment those services within SMIC's capacity of internal and external resources. The recommendations of the Workshop are given in Annexure I.

Recommendations of the Workshop on Meeting the Users' Needs

The participants of the Workshop voiced their strong support for the continuation of SMIC services, which were highly useful to sorghum and millet scientists. The Group endorsed the following recommendations for the expansion of SMIC activities :

- (1) SMIC should play a more active role in acquiring, processing, and disseminating those type of documents that are not usually covered by the standard bibliographical services and data bases. It was suggested that correspondents should be identified in different areas, particularly in developing countries, who would assist in acquiring such material, or information about it, and send it regularly to SMIC. This activity should be coordinated by a SMIC staff member whose responsibility would be to seek and document such information.

It was recognized that a large body of non-bibliographically controlled information relating to sorghum and millets exists in tropical francophone countries and in France. It is recommended that SMIC should make a special effort to acquire and disseminate this information. The most rapid way might be by the use of consultants.

- (2) ICRISAT and other R&D organizations are increasing their activities in the Sahel region of West Africa. Recognizing the particular need for information acquisition and dissemination in this region, it is recommended that IDRC should consider ways of extending SMIC activities through the ICRISAT Sahel Center by providing infrastructural support and manpower.
- (3) Taking into account the absence in semi-arid tropical countries of online access to external data bases, the Group recommends that steps be taken by SMIC to acquire quickly abstracts of new literature on sorghum and millets

at frequent intervals from such data bases, and that SMIC should establish its own in-house computerized data base to handle such external information, as well as information which SMIC itself obtains from its own sources. Collaboration for acting as a local inputting center for one or more external data bases should be sought at an early date.

- (4) Based on the various suggestions made for improving the contents of the SMIC Newsletter, it is recommended that steps be taken to give better coverage to research in progress, and to the proceedings of symposia and conferences.
- (5) Workshop participants recognized that there is a need to standardize bibliographical citations in IARC publications to facilitate the exchange of information with minimal editorial processing. It is therefore recommended that SMIC should propose draft guidelines for bibliographical citation to Information Services for submission through the Director General, ICRISAT, to IARCs and other concerned agencies for comments and adoption.



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