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IN SENEGAL**

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INTRODUCTION

In Senegal, pearl millet and sorghum (0.97 mn ha) are second in importance to groundnut (1.05 mn ha), both in terms of surface area covered and production. Among the cereals, pearl millet is the most predominant crop in the north and center regions of the country where rainfall is low and erratic. In the south where rains are comparatively favourable, the principal crops are sorghum, maize and rice. Two major types (Souma and Sanio) of pearl millet are grown in this country. Over 85 per cent of pearl millet grown is of Souma type (75 to 90 days to maturity) and the rest is Sanio (120 - 150 days). Souma is grown in the north and center regions of the country while Sanio in the southern part of the country.

The major problems in pearl millet production are low grain yield, drought, diseases, poor harvest index, insects and occasionally Striga. The rapid progress in genetic improvement is possible because of the wide range of genetic variability available in the germplasm and the ease of crossing utilizing the protogynous nature of the crop.

Earlier attempts were made to improve the traditional varieties. The systematic efforts were made since 1970 after establishing the millet improvement team (Groupe d'amélioration du mil - GAM) with the objective of developing high yielding varieties with yield stability for intensive agriculture. The ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) started its program in 1977 with a prime objective of strengthening the national program mainly through diversifying the genetic base.

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EARLIER WORK

The Millet improvement program at "Centre National de Recherche* Agronomiques (C.N.R.A.)", Bambey started as early as in 1937 by producing inbred lines by pedigree selection in two local populations. By 1949, CNRA developed 213 lines of millet. Through celfing, the lines lost the vigour of the populations, The variety 165 gave 20 per cent more grain yield than the lines derived from this population, Twenty eight selections were made by 1959 based on yield per plant and other characters associated with yield per plant. These were tested between 1959 and 1961. There was an improvement in homogeneity but the yield levels were equal to local. Only five late selections were conserved for future utilization. In 1961, recurrent selection work (simple and reciprocal) was started on early and late populations (Etassé 1965).

Bono and Leclercq (1963) suggested that the pedigree selection can not be directly used as it only allows the establishment of a reserve of interesting inbred lines. Moreover complex mass selection is efficient on local unimproved populations, This method allows improvement upto 30 %. Presently the hybrids obtained by cross breeding between a population and an inbred line have given upto 147 % of the local population as best results. Favourable results have been obtained by mixed cultivation of several populations in the same seed hole.

In 1965, three recurrent selection programs on early millets and two on late millets were in progress. The three recurrent selections on early millets were grouped into a single synthetic. Souna 2. This synthetic was 107 and 121 % superior to local check in first and second generations of multiplication. ^{respectively} The synthetics obtained from selection on late varieties gave interesting results only in first generation of multiplication. Souna 2 was improved through top cross testing using PC 25 (Souna of Bambey Serere) and then Souna 2 as a tester (Etassé 1969). Eight lines (106-7, 108-4, 113-3, 115-4, 134-5, 142-4, 143-4 and 148-3) extracted from Souna 2 through to cross testing were recombined in 1969 to form Souna 3. This variety was released for general cultivation in 1972.

GAM PROGRAM

In 1970, Senegal launched a multidisciplinary (genetics, physiology, pathology, entomology and agronomy) program on millet improvement out of a determination to achieve self-sufficiency in food through diversification.

1. Dwarf Varieties

In case of traditional varieties only 15-20 % of the total dry matter is converted into grain whereas in case of maize like the ZM10 variety - 44 %, and 55 % PRE short strawed rice like the native Taichung variety. This is why the program for the improvement of millet developed in Senegal since 1970 has been orientated mainly towards the improvement of harvest index. This was achieved by crossing 29 African populations (8 from Upper Volta, 6 from Mali, 10 from Niger, 4 from Senegal and 1 from Chad) with three dwarf parents (23D₂B and 239D₂B from U.S.A., and I 472 from India).

In 1973, the synthetic GAM 73 was developed by recombining the morphological similar progenies derived from a cross I 472 X HK 1133. The characteristics of GAM 73 were-dwarf plant height (135 cm), longer ear head (44.5 cm), few effective tillers per plant (2.9) and high harvest index (41 %). By the middle of 1974, another synthetic GAM 75 of completely different plant architecture was developed by recombining morphological similar 15 F₄ progenies derived from a cross Tift 23D₂B X Aniata. Heads were more but much shorter of GAM 75 than GAM 73, to facilitate threshing with machines. Stems of GAM 75 were much more thinner than those of plants constituting the population GAM 73, resulting in reduced effort for the cutting of stems and ploughing at harvest (Bilquez 1974).

These two synthetics gave good results under irrigated and highly fertilized environments but could not compete with traditional varieties under farmers situation. These synthetics also had poor threshing percentage (55 %) as compared to other millet varieties (70 %).

2. Varieties of Different Maturity Cycles

Agroclimatic research by CNRA has shown that the millet having a vegetative cycle of 90 days, can be grown with at least a 80 % chance of success each year in the region of Bamby - Latitude 14°30' N, average rainfall 648 mm (Dancette 1974). The chance of success becomes 42 % when grown further north in the region of Louga (Latitude 15°30' N, average rainfall 481 mm) and only 26 % in the region of Podor (latitude 16°30' N, average rainfall 333 mm). In order to have 80 % of success each year, millet grown in the region of Louga must not have a vegetative cycle exceeding 75 days and for those grown in the region of Podor, a vegetative cycle not exceeding 60 days.

Based on above recommendations, attempts were made to produce 60, 75 and 90 days synthetics for different regions of the country. Based on combining ability tests, the parents were chosen from existing material for creating the synthetics of different maturity cycles. Only a few parents could be selected to form one of the each 60 and 75 days synthetics. Several lines were identified of 90 days maturity type which were tested for their combining ability through top cross testing. The selected parents were crossed in diallel mating system for the better estimation of genetic parameters and for selecting the parents with high general combining ability effects. The parents were selected to form seven 90 days synthetics (11 GAM SYN 90, 10 GAM SYN 90, GC5, VI 80-85, 5 GAM-3/4 Souna, 5 GAM - 3/4 EB and 4 GAM 3/4 HK). During 1981-82 off-season, these synthetics were in fourth generation of random mating. The value of these 90 days synthetics will be determined during coming rainy season.

The different generations of random mating of two ^{early/}maturing dwarf synthetics (60 and 75 days) were compared with Souna 3 (a tall 90 days synthetic) during 1977 to 1979. Early maturing synthetics could not produce equal yield as compared to Souna 3 even in the environments for which they were developed. A strong relationship was found between grain yield and length of cycle (C. Lambert 1980, personal communication).

3. Genetic Pools and Constitution of Composites

In 1977, the dwarf lines available were regrouped to form the genetic pools - three pools based on maturity PS 60, PS 75 and PS 90, one (PS AC) based on architecture C and one (PSM) based on variable cycle and structure. These pools were allowed for two generations of random mating. To this group, three dwarf populations - 3/4 Haino Keiri, 3/4 Ex Bornu, and 3/4 Souna and two synthetics - GAM 73 and GAM 75 were also added. It was observed that the pool of 90 days - PS 90 was quite close to one of the dwarf population 3/4 Ex Bornu except for plant height and the length of leaf. In yield trials - PS 90 showed a potentiality of high yield production with better stability. The grain yield obtained was Y6 % of those of Souna 3 and one of the S₁ selection gave grain yield equal to Souna 3 in multilocation testing. This selection will be maintained through sibbing and further testing will be carried out. The population as such will be improved through recurrent selection.

Five hundred fifteen S_1 progenies derived from a genetic pool were tested against Sounn 3 and original genetic pool. The environment effect of plant height, straw weight, and ^{ear} length on grain weight have been studied by stepwise regression analysis which will be published shortly.

Attempts would be made to form composites based on S_1 performance over environments, derived from diverse genetic pools.

4. Creation of Inbred Lines

Two types of crosses and one S_1 of PS 90 have been exploited for the creation of lines during last three years. These are :

- i) Crosses between 23D2B and 13 African populations.
- ii) Crosses between 37 lines from SAM with 3/4 Haine Keiri, 3/4 Ex Barnu, 3/4 Souna, Nigerian and mid-late composites.

During 1979, 203 F_4 progenies were tested along with 3 checks - Sounn 3, NHB 3 and DM24. Sixteen F_4 progenies were retained for further testing during 1980. Four progenies - I-R-66, H24-38, H9-127 were found equally good yielder as Souna 3 coupled with better resistance to downy mildew. These entries along with a S_2 selection from PS 90 and the best identified material from ICRIERT were tested in multiple locations during 1981. The progeny H7-66 (6.4 % superior to Souna 3) was found equally good as Sounn 3 as in 1979 and 1980 tests. Two other entries - PS 90- S_2 40 and H9-127 were retained for further testing. The inbreeding depression due to selfing in new lines is being estimated.

The future activities relating to the creation of lines will be :

- Evaluation of F_4 and F_5 progenies derived from two types of crosses discussed earlier.
- Improvement of progenies themselves which have confirmed their superiority over Souna 3 during last two years.
- Development of synthetics by recombining selected progenies.

5. Architectural Studies

This project was started in 1979 with the following objectives :

- To compare the characteristics of traditional varieties in comparison to varieties actually selected.
- . To develop varieties from the best populations or their descendants .
- To define polymorphism and genetic organizations of populations.
- To determine factors associated with high yield.
- . To estimate the genetic parameters for various characters.
- To study the performance and stability of newly developed synthetics over years.

This project has 106 entries derived mainly from three sources :

- i) Collection of traditional varieties from five regions of Senegal, Niger, Mali, Sudan, Upper Volta and Nigeria.
- ii) Dwarf millet isolated from local populations of Senegal.
- iii) The tall and dwarf millet material created at research centers.

A trial of 106 such entries was planted from 1979 to 1981 at Bambo, Louga and Nioko. The visual observations on different sites indicated that the traditional material has high genetic diversity and good adaptation. The characteristics of ear heads were often very interesting even in highly downy mildew susceptible populations. We have observed a little smut and ergot and practically no Raghuva.

On certain populations S_3 's were produced which will be tested during coming season. The material selected will be utilized for the estimation of genetic parameters for various characters.

ICRISAT PROGRAM

The fundamental objective of ICRISAT millet improvement program is to increase the yield levels of millet of semi-arid farmers and to maintain it at higher level than they are today. To achieve this objective, multidisciplinary teams are working at ICRISAT Center, Patancheru, India and in six African countries - Niger, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Nigeria and Sudan. Scientists spread in different African countries work in close cooperation with the scientists in national program, regional program and the other ICRISAT programs. Moreover, the scientists based in country programs such as in Senegal have three responsibilities,

Regional/
National and International. The best material identified from regional and international programs used in national program for wider testing and/or for using in breeding programs.

The ICRISAT program in Senegal started in 1977 with the following objectives :

- To develop and improve the varieties of 75 and 90 days to maturity in collaboration with ISRA scientists.
- To improve grain yield production, and its stability, grain size, harvest index, resistance to diseases and maintain the head length.
- In future, depending on the facilities available, the improvements would be made for resistances to drought, striga and insects.

1. Diversification of Genetic Base - GAM X Indian

This project was started in 1977 by introducing and evaluating the best ICRISAT material (mainly in form of Regional and International trials and nurseries) under the ecological conditions found in Senegal and subsequently by combining the selected ICRISAT material with the selected GAM material in order to take advantage of the genotic distance between those two types of material.

During 1977 and 1978, F_1 hybrids were produced between GAM and ICRISAT material. These F_1 hybrids were advanced by selfing. Several F_2 populations were backcrossed to GAM parent and then advanced by selfing. The principal results of the introduced material and crosses are summarized below.

The material introduced from ICRISAT Center, India was mainly of Indian, Nigerian and Ugandan origin. This material was tested for three years 1977 to 79. The Nigerian material had high yield potential coupled with better resistance to diseases, the Ugandan material was early with large head whereas the Indian introductions were highly tillering, thin stems and medium plant height with small earheads. ICRISAT material originated from Nigeria and Uganda had better general combining ability with 3/4 Hoino Keiri and 3/4 Ex Borro populations.

At the end of the pedigree selection (F_4 and F_5 stage), the selected progenies and the introduced itself were utilized in following three ways :

- i) For synthotics - Entries were selected based on combining ability test to form five synthetics. Two synthetics - IBV 8001 and IBV 8004 have given good performance in last two years multilocal tests. Beside grain yield, they were shorter in height, earlier in flowering, higher seed weight and better resistance to downy mildew as compared to local check - Sauna 3. It is interesting to note that the constituent parents for these two synthetics were direct introductions from ICRISAT Center, India.
- ii) For inbred lines - One of them IBV 8108 - medium plant height, less susceptible to diseases, and quite uniform has been selected for further exploitation.
- iii) For further crossing - 47 entries were selected and crossed in three groups : 11 tall entries diallel, 10 dwarf entries diallel and 27 entries were crossed with three testers with the objective of creating new genetic variability and to select the lines for developing new synthetics. These crosses were tested during 1981 and based on general combining ability effect, mean grain yield performance and other agronomic traits, parents were selected to form five synthetics. These synthotics will be tested during coming season.

Interestingly the crosses among dwarfs (140 - 190 cm plant height) exhibited better heterosis than the crosses among tall. The F_2 populations will be advanced through pedigree selection and in advanced generations, the parents will be selected for developing 75 and 90 days synthetics.

2. Diversification of Genetic Base - Senegalese X Non Senegalese

During 1977, large amount of genetic material from ICRISAT Center was introduced and is being used in first project - CAM x Indian. Since then several new germplasm lines were added to ICRISAT Center germplasm and breeding materials were generated with better resistance to diseases. On the other hand, the progress has been made in GAM material particularly for seed setting and resistance to downy mildew. To take advantage of improved material of ICRISAT and GAM, this second project on the diversification of genetic base was initiated in 1980. Unlike, the first project, large number of selected GAM lines including local landraces are being used in this project.

Genotypes from the large number of International and Regional trials and nurseries planted in Senegal during 1980 were selected with high yield and good level of resistance. The S_1 progenies from these were planted during the off-season 1980-81. Eight hundred and eighty two S_2 progenies derived from these were planted at Bambay and Niara during 1981 for screening against downy mildew and smut. Thirtytwo progenies of diverse origin based on maturity, height and bristleness were selected to use in this project.

Sixty Senegalese genotypes were selected or collected - 12 GAM lines, 34 germplasm collections maintained by GAM, 10 lines selected from the ORSTOM collection by ICRISAT, and 24 landraces collected by us during 1981.

The thirty two non-senegalese best identified materials were crossed with the senegalese 60 entries during the off-season 1981-82. The F_1 hybrids will be evaluated during the coming rainy season. The material will be advanced through modified pedigree selection and the progenies will be selected to form 75 and 90 days synthetics.

In 1984, the first and second projects will be merged and from the selected material, 75 and 90 days composites will be formed which will be improved through recurrent selection. By then we hope to start looking for potential restorer lines and the development of male-sterile in a suitable African background.

*** Improvement of Synthetics

This project was started in 1981 with the aim of improving two synthetics - Souma 3 and IBV 8004 through recurrent selection. Souma 3 is one of the best and the only released variety in Senegal. It is highly susceptible to downy mildew ^{and} ~~possesses~~ variation for several characters like stem thickness and seed size. IBV 8004 is a new synthetic developed by recombining Souma 3, 700516 (Nigeria), Seroro 2A and Seroro 14 (Uganda). It has given good performance during last two years in multilocal trials. IBV 8004 is highly variable because of its diverse parental constitution and needs improvement for acceptable uniformity. Attempts would be made to improve them for resistance against diseases and for harvest index. First cycle of recurrent selection was initiated during 1981-82 off-season by producing over 350 S_1 's from

each of the synthetic. These S₁ progenies will be evaluated during the coming rainy season. The selected S₁'s (40 to 50) will be recombined during 1982-83 off-season. Since recurrent selection through S₁ testing requires two years to complete a cycle, the future improvements would be made through half-sib testing.

4. Breeding for Disease Resistance

Major diseases in Senegal are downy mildew (Sclerospora graminicola), smut (Tolyposporium penicillariae) and ergot (Claviceps fusiformis). Occurrence of these three diseases was reported in 1963 by Bouriquet. We have observed downy mildew and smut almost everywhere in farmers' fields during 1980 and 81. Occurrence of ergot is observed only on late plantings or in specific years. Improvement of existing varieties and breeding material against downy mildew and smut is one of our breeding objectives.

This project is being initiated in 1981 in collaboration with GAM pathologist and breeder. Natural sources of resistance are available and introduced in the form of International and Regional disease nurseries. At present, we are not able to select the material effectively under uniformly high disease pressure due to lack of artificial disease nursery. However, the selected material under natural environment is utilized in our breeding program.

Attempts will be made to create an artificial disease nursery where the material can be screened for downy mildew as well as smut.

MULTILOCATIONAL YIELD TRIAL

As in other breeding programs, the advanced entries are tested in 5 to 6 trials at 3 to 4 locations every year. The entries which prove superiority in these trials are tested rigorously in a Joint trial. This trial includes the host material identified by different breeders working in Senegal. In the coming rainy season, few or all entries will also be tested by the millet pathologist, physiologist, entomologist and agronomist working at Bambey. Efforts will be made to explore the possibilities for cooperation with the Food Technology Institute at Dakar for testing the elite material for nutritional and cooking quality. The best material from this are being advanced for demonstration in Senegal and for regional testing.

In the first joint trial (1981), the entries included five progeny varieties from GAM, four synthetics and one experimental variety from ICRISAT and two checks - Souna 3 and farmers local. This trial was conducted in four locations - Louga, Bambo, Darou and Niore, spread over north to south central region of Senegal.

The performance data based on mean over four locations are presented below :

Joint trial - 1981

N ^o	Entry	Grain yield t/ha	Plant height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	50 % Bloom	Grain weight (g)	Downy mildew (%)	Smut (%)
1	IBV 8001	2.33	248	32.7	50.6	8.3	5.1	10.9
2	IBV 8004	2.30	247	37.0	51.1	7.7	5.1	10.0
3	H7-66	2.26	228	44.4	49.4	8.1	3.3	11.2
4	ICMS 7819	2.22	226	31.5	50.7	8.6	4.5	9.8
5	LOCAL	2.20	283	56.0	54.3	6.4	12.6	5.9
6	PS90-S ₂ -40	2.12	146	30.2	51.1	7.3	4.0	16.4
7	SOUNA 3	2.12	274	55.1	53.4	7.4	16.1	5.8
8	H9-127	2.10	169	43.4	51.1	7.4	3.0	16.5
9	D ₂ -BB78	2.02	157	37.4	44.4	7.1	5.0	19.6
10	H24-38	1.99	230	40.8	47.0	7.6	8.6	13.1
11	IBV 781.5	1.74	159	34.6	48.8	7.7	7.5	18.9
12	H4-24	1.44	173	45.5	55.9	6.5	3.8	30.2
	Grand Mean	2.22	212	40.8	50.3	7.5	6.5	12.3
	S. E. of Mean	0.08	3.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.3	1.1
	C. G. at 5 %	0.23	8.2	2.0	0.9	0.4	3.6	5.1
	C. V. %	19.6	6.9	8.6	3.2	8.1	96.9	63.1

The highest yielding entry was synthetic IBV 8001 (9.9 % superior to Souna 3), followed by IBV 8004 (8.5 %), H7 - 66 (6.4 %) and ICMS 7819 (4.7 %). All the above four entries were shorter in plant height, earlier in flowering, higher seed weight, and better resistance to downy mildew as compared to Souna 3 and farmers variety. On the other hand, Souna 3 and farmers variety had better resistance to smut and longer ear head.

During 1980, the season started very late and was quite different from 1981. However these four entries - IBV 8004, IBV 8001, H7-66 and ICMS 7819 were 41, 31, 21 and 12 % superior to Souma 3 in terms of grain yield production. The good performance of IBV 8001, IEV 8004 and H7-66 was also confirmed by the results obtained by the physiologists of CNRA. These entries starting from 1382 will be tested in a regional trial organized by Sahelian Institute (CILSS).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The millet improvement program at Bambey (Senegal) started as early as in 1931 with the aim of producing inbred lines by following continued selfing in traditional varieties. In 1949, the inbred lines derived from population 165 were compared with the original population and found that the inbred lines were 20 % less yielding than the original population. Recurrent selection work was started in 1961 to improve the traditional varieties. This program led to the development of synthetic Souma 3 which was released in 1972 for general cultivation.

The concept of developing dwarf varieties for a better distribution of photosynthate into grain and straw than the existing varieties was developed in late sixties. A multidisciplinary team including breeder, physiologist, pathologist, entomologist and agronomist started in 1970 with the aim to improve grain yield production and its stability for intensive agriculture. This team crossed various African traditional varieties with the dwarf parents from United States of America and India to produce dwarf synthetics. By 1974, two synthetics - GAM 73 and GAM 75 of different architecture were developed. The selected material from this project was utilized for developing 60, 75 and 90 days synthetics for different regions of the country. During 1976, the genetic base was diversified by introducing African and Indian material. The material is being currently used for the development of new inbred lines and composites. The genetic architecture of traditional varieties and geographically diverse populations is under study. The selected populations and newly created composites will be improved through recurrent selection.

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) started its program in 1977 with the prime objective of strengthening the national program. In collaboration with I.S.R.A. (Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles) scientists, ICRISAT utilized the best ISRA material and local landraces in crossing with the best

material from ICRISAT Regional and International programs for developing 75 and 90 days synthetics. Recently the recurrent selection program for improving two synthetics - Souma 3 and IBV 8004 and the breeding for disease resistance were initiated.

WC have identified three varieties - IBV 8001, IBV 8004 and H7-66 superior or equally good yielders as the best released variety Souma 3 and coupled with better resistance to diseases. More testing is needed before the varieties could be recommended for release.

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