

**Report on the SATCRIS Workshops at
Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Mogadishu
from 7-23 November, 1988**

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Semi-Arid Tropical Crops Information Service

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

ICRISAT P.O., Patancheru 502 324, A.P., India

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4. List of Sr. Information Specialists met

**REPORT ON THE SATCRIS WORKSHOPS
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1. INTRODUCTION

An important objective of SATCRIS (enunciated in the project document,) is to sensitize users in Africa to SATCRIS resources, services, and capabilities. This is proposed to be achieved through series of travelling workshops in countries of Eastern Africa during 1988 and in Southern Africa during 1989. The participants to such workshops are recognized as researchers, scientists, academicians, extension workers, librarians, documentalists, and information scientists from agricultural research laboratories and universities. The workshops are aimed at :

- * improving awareness of scientists and other users to resources, services, and capabilities of SATCRIS;
- * identifying gaps in accessibility to information on five mandate crops of ICRISAT so that SATCRIS could explore ways and means to bridge this gap;
- * building contacts with libraries and documentation centers to develop and improve exchange relationships; and
- * identifying sources of conventional and nonconventional literature, and to explore formal and informal channels for ensuring the regular capture of such literature for the SATCRIS database.

2. SELECTION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR WORKSHOPS

Work started earnestly from the beginning of 1988 for conducting workshops in five countries of Eastern Africa - Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda. A provisional list of institutions to be contacted for the workshops was prepared. Names of institutions for this list were drawn from the mailing list of SATCRIS and tour reports of ICRISAT's scientists. This list was circulated among program leaders and other scientists of ICRISAT for their comments and changes and/or additions suggested by them were incorporated. The final list contained 21 target institutions in five selected countries of Eastern Africa. In each country a venue institution was identified and a request was made to it to

provide necessary logistic support for the workshop. All target institutions were solicited to participate in the workshops arranged at the venue institutions of their respective countries. The institutions belonging to Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia provided encouraging response to our invitation though some of them had to be contacted more than once for their views. From Sudan and Rwanda, however, response was poor and these countries were ultimately dropped from the list.

Venue and target institutions are listed in Appendix-1.

3. WORKSHOP TEAM

Two information scientists from SATCRIS who formed the team to conduct the workshops in three East African countries were P.K. Sinha, Senior Documentation Officer-II and R.G. Naidu, Documentation Officer.

4. METHODOLOGY

The following methods were adopted at the workshop to meet its objectives.

4.1 Methods adopted at the workshop

- * Every participant to the workshop was provided with a workshop kit at the time of registration (before start of the workshop) which contained the following documents:

- a list of literature searches carried out by SATCRIS over a period 1978 - Oct 1988;
- ICRISAT brochure;
- SATCRIS brochure ;
- Publication catalogue of ICRISAT; and
- SDI and on-line search request forms.

- * At the start of the workshop, SATCRIS was introduced to the participants and purpose of conducting the traveling workshops was explained. The existing resources, services, and capabilities of SATCRIS were shown to them through an audio-visual presentation of 20 minutes. This was followed by a discussion session in which procedures and operations involved in creation and maintenance of data base and rendering of

different types of information services by SATCRIS were explained and questions of the participants were answered with the help of overhead transparencies.

- * Participants were encouraged to make request for SATCRIS information services. They were helped in completing SDI and online search request forms and in selection of relevant items from the list of literature searches supplied in the workshop kit.
- * A request was made to the participants to contribute single copies of their formal and semi-formal publications to SATCRIS, if they relate to the five mandate crops of ICRISAT. It was explained that through its information services SATCRIS would be able to deliver these documents to the potential users.
- * SMIC publications and charts depicting operations and services of SATCRIS were displayed.

4.2 Demonstration of CDS/ISIS

CDS/ISIS is a generalized information storage and retrieval microcomputer based system designed and developed by UNESCO to manage structured non-numerical data base. Its generalized design helps to manipulate an unlimited number of data bases each of which may have completely different data elements. CDS/ISIS is simple to use and supplied free of cost to libraries and documentation centers of developing countries by UNESCO. It runs on a IBM PC/XT or AT or compatible microcomputers under MS-DOS operating system. This package with a sample data base on striga was used to demonstrate a microcomputer based system which an institution could use to create its own data base and provide information retrieval service. It also provided a view to the participants of a specialized data base on striga which ICRISAT proposed to develop and provide to the users. CDS/ISIS was demonstrated during workshops at Addis Ababa and Nairobi. At Mogadishu due to nonavailability of a microcomputer at the workshop site, it could not be demonstrated. However, later at the Ministry of Agriculture, a demonstration was arranged for a select number of persons which included Research Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture.

4.3 Visit to selected Institutions

Selected institutions were visited to meet senior

researchers to make them aware of SATCRIS and its services. Leading libraries and documentation centers were also contacted to assess their potential to become nodal points in exchange of conventional and nonconventional information between ICRISAT and different institutions in Africa for benefit of end users. Appendix-2 lists the institutions visited in three countries where the traveling workshops were conducted.

5. WORKSHOP REPORT

5.1 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

First stoppage of our tour to three countries for the traveling workshop on SATCRIS was Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We reached here on 8-11-1988 and stayed till morning of 11-11-88. Our place of stay was the Guest house of ILCA. As originally planned, we conducted Workshop on 9-11-88 at ILCA besides visiting the following institutions on 8-11-88:

1. Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Addis Ababa;
2. Plant Genetic Research Center, Addis Ababa; and
3. Tendaho Agricultural Development Enterprise, Addis Ababa.

We had a plan to visit Sorghum Improvement Project of IAR at Nazereth on 10-11-88, but this programme was canceled as we were informed by senior researchers and information specialist from IAR that most of them belonged to that project. Instead, we spent the day in seeing facilities available at Library and Information services of ILCA. On request of Dr. B.R. Tripathi, In-Charge, Training Section, and Mr. B.K. Johri, Personnel Manager, both of ILCA, we arranged tape-slide presentation on SATCRIS which they attended along with their colleagues.

Mr. Michael Hailu, Head, Information, Library and Training, ILCA was our contact person for the workshop. We met him soon after reaching to ILCA and explained the methodology that we were to adopt for the workshop. He supported it and informed that mini-auditorium of ILCA was allotted for the workshop and other facilities required to conduct the workshop had been made available. He said that our visits to the selected institutions before the workshop would ensure better number of scientists as participants to the workshop.

5.1.1 Visit to Agricultural Research Institutes at Addis Ababa

5.1.1.1 Visit to the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Addis Ababa

Institute of Agricultural Research(IAR), Addis Ababa, is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia. We met Mr.

Helen Van Houten, the Information Adviser, and introduced SATCRIS to her. The purpose of conducting the SATCRIS workshop was also explained. She appreciated our effort and felt that the SATCRIS services would be of immense help to the Scientists of Ethiopia. She informed that the Scientists and the Information/Documentation Staff of IAR would be interested to attend the workshop to know about the SATCRIS services. She gave a brief description of information activities at the Ministry of Agriculture.

6.1.1.2. Visit to Plant Genetic Research Center (PGRC), Addis Ababa

At PGRC, we met its Deputy Director Dr. Abebe Demissie. He was aware of our earlier correspondence to Dr. Melaku Worede, Director, for participation of PGRC in the SATCRIS workshop. He informed that Scientists at PGRC use the SATCRIS services and they were all looking forward to know more about them through the SATCRIS workshop.

6.1.1.3 Visit to Tandaho Agricultural Development Enterprise (TADE)

The last visit of the day was to TADE, Addis Ababa. We could not meet the Director as he had gone for an official meeting to the Ministry of Agriculture. We were informed that TADE was conducting research mainly on cotton and as such, SATCRIS services were of not much relevance to them.

5.1.2 Workshop at ILCA

SATCRIS Workshop was conducted at the mini-auditorium of the International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA) on 9.11.88. It started at 0900 hrs and continued till 1430 hrs with a tea break of 20 minutes in between. The workshop was attended by 32 participants from all the major agricultural research institutions of Ethiopia. Some of the participants came from institutions located as far as 500 kms away from Addis Ababa. The institute-wise distribution of the participants is shown in the table below:

Table-1

S.No.	Name of Institution	No. of participants
1.	Plant Genetic Research Center, Addis Ababa	7
2.	A.A.D.C., Addis Ababa	1
3.	ILCA, Addis Ababa	11
4.	Alemaya University of Agriculture	2
5.	Institute of Agricultural Research	11
Total		32

The participants consisted of scientists, researchers, extension Workers, librarians, and documentalists(see Table-2)

Table-2

1.	Librarians/Documentalists	8
2.	Informative Scientists	3
3.	Scientists	17
4.	Extension Workers	4
	Total	32

The Workshop was presided over by Mr. Michael Mailu and conducted by P.K. Sinha. While welcoming the participants, Mr. Mailu emphasized the importance of information for research work and pleaded to scientists to avail information services of SATCRIS to satisfy their information needs on Sorghum, Millets, Chickpea, Pigeonpea and Groundnut. During question hour, participants inquired about pricing policy, conversion and selection of records from CABI and AGRIS databases for downloading them to the SATCRIS database, abstracting and indexing policy, and facility for training at ICRISAT for librarians and documentalists. They took keen interest in demonstration of CDS/ISIS and asked questions on methodology for creation of Field Definition Table, Field Select Table and report formats. Some of the participants who had used SDI service of SATCRIS, suggested for a change in SDI output format. They felt that feedback system should be simplified so that the cost of mailing feedback forms to SATCRIS every month could be avoided. Many of them enrolled themselves as users of SATCRIS services by completing SDI and literature search forms.

It was pointed out by some of them that the SATCRIS Workshop provided first time an opportunity to the Librarians and the Scientists to discuss their common problems.

5.2 Nairobi, Kenya

We reached Nairobi, Kenya on 11 November 1988 and stayed till 18.11.88 at the Guest house, ICIPE, Duduville. SATCRIS workshop was conducted as scheduled at ICIPE on 14.11.88.

5.2.1 Visit to Agricultural Institution, University and Libraries

During our stay, the following institutions at Nairobi

were visited by us on the dates shown against them:

1. Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) Library 11 Nov. 1988
2. Meeting with ICIPE project leader 15 Nov. 1988
3. National Agricultural Documentation Center 15 Nov. 1988
4. University of Nairobi Library 15 Nov. 1988

5.2.1.1 Visit to Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Nairobi

KARI library is one among the big Agricultural libraries of Kenya. It receives ICRISAT publications and uses SATCRIS services. Our visit to this library and discussions with Mr K.N. Daniel, Librarian helped us to know about the state in which most of the agricultural libraries and information centers exist in Kenya. KARI library, like most other libraries in Kenya, is not able to expand its resources and provide information services due to shortage of fund and trained manpower. Journals and books are received mostly through gratis. To meet information requirements of its scientists, KARI is relying mostly on free services provided by IARCs, CABI, FAO, etc. Mr. Daniel was of the view that SATCRIS could play an important role in meeting information requirements of Agricultural scientists in Kenya. He said that KARI could help to locate the relevant non conventional literature and supply them to SATCRIS.

5.2.1.2 Visit to the National Agricultural Documentation Center(NADC), Nairobi

On 15.11.88 we paid a visit to the National Agricultural Documentation Center (NADC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi. This Center acts as input center to AGRIS. Being an input Center, NADC receives AGRIS tapes every month but it is unable to utilize it to provide information service of any sort to its scientists due to non availability of Computer facility. CABI has extended its SDI Service to NADC almost free of cost. A library attached with NADC serves as a depository of documents produced at the Ministry of Agriculture. The Head, NADC and other senior documentalists, whom we met, expressed desire to cooperate with ICRISAT/SATCRIS to serve agricultural scientists in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. NADC is ready to locate and supply nonconventional documents to SATCRIS once a formal permission of the Director in the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya is obtained. NADC was represented in the SATCRIS workshop by two of its staff members.

5.2.1.3 Visit to the Library of University of Nairobi

We visited the library of Nairobi University in the afternoon of 15 Nov. Though ICRISAT publications were not seen in the library, we were informed that College of Agriculture Library received them regularly. We had a brief meeting with library staff in which SATCRIS and its services were introduced through tape-slide presentation. The Deputy Librarian present in the meeting commended SATCRIS for the initiative it had taken to introduce its services to the Kenyan scientists. She informed that copies of nonconventional documents acquired in the library of Nairobi University could be provided to SATCRIS once an agreement for such cooperation was reached.

Nairobi University Library was represented in the SATCRIS workshop by two of its staff members.

5.2.2 Workshop at ICIPE, Nairobi

ICIPE, Nairobi was the venue of SATCRIS workshop in Kenya. It was organized on 14.11.88 from 0900 hrs till 1430 hrs. A total of 18 participants represented 8 major agricultural research centers in Kenya (See Table-3).

TABLE - 3

Sl.No.	Institute	Participants
1.	ICIPE, Nairobi	7
2.	Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi	1
3.	National Agricultural Research Center, Kitale	1
4.	Univeristy of Nairobi	2
5.	Kenya Agriculture Research Institute, Nairobi	2
6.	National Dryland Farming Research Center, Machakos	5
Total		18

The participants specialized in diverse fields as shown in Table - 4.

S.No.	Participants	No.
1.	Millet Breeder	1
2.	Pulses Breeder	1
3.	Sorghum Breeder	1
4.	Research Officer, Plant Genetic Resources	1
5.	Groundnut Breeder	1
6.	Agronomist	1
7.	Agriculture Economist	1
8.	Research Scientist, Insect Behaviour	1
9.	Post Doctoral Fellow, Live-stock Ticks	1
10.	Entomologists	1
11.	Librarian, Documentalist and Information Scientist	8
Total		18

The workshop was presided over by Mr. S M Nsubuga, Librarian, ICIPE and conducted by P K Sinha. During the course of discussion, participants felt that

- Workshops of this type should be arranged often and at more than one place in Kenya.
- Workshops should have participation of scientists/researchers in better number
- If possible, SATCRIS should cover more crops than just five mandated to ICRISAT;
- SDI output format of SATCRIS should be revised to make it simpler and easy to handle; and
- Possibility of training to librarians and documentalists at ICRISAT/SATCRIS may be considered.

Participants took keen interest in the demonstration of CDS/ISIS. Some of them wanted to know the source in Kenya through which this package could be obtained. Mr. Nsubuga informed the agency as:

INFOTERRA
 UNEP
 P O Box - 30552. Nairobi. Kenya.

5.3 At Mogadishu, Somalia

We reached Mogadishu, Somalia on 18.11.88. Mr. Hussain Mao Haji who was once a trainee at ICRISAT and now a research coordinator in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu, was at the airport to receive us. We stayed in Mogadishu till 20.11.88.

5.3.1 Workshop at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu

SATCRIS workshop was conducted in the lecture theatre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu on 17.11.88 from 0900 hrs till 1430 hrs. Dr. Omer Haji Duale, the Director of Research in the Ministry was kind enough to supervise arrangements for the workshop personally. The workshop was conducted entirely with the help of overhead transparencies as the lecture theatre had no facility to turn it dark for tape-slide presentation. The workshop had 23 participants from 6 organizations of Somalia. The institute-wise distribution of the participants is shown in Table - 5.

TABLE - 5

S.No.	Institute	No. of participants
1.	Central Agricultural Research Station, Afgoi	12
2.	Bonka Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Mogadishu	4
3.	Planning Dept., Ministry of Agriculture	1
4.	Faculty of Agriculture, Somalia National University	3
5.	Agricultural Research Institute, Mogadishu	1
6.	Research Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Mogadishu	2
Total		23

