Cotton Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 5, 2015

5:30-6:15

San Antonio Marriott Hotel, Conference room 13-14

Members present: Ted Wallace, Steve Hague, Jane Dever, David Becker, Jodi Scheffler, B. Todd Campbell, Mauricio Ulloa

Ex officio members present: Richard Percy, James Frelichowski, Johnie Jenkins, Don Jones

CGC Chair Mauricio Ulloa called the meeting to order.

1) Don Jones provided an update on the Cotton Winter Nursery.

**Current**

 Currently in Tecoman, Mexico only the exotic NAM seed increase

 5,600 one hill units, observed December 5th

 1st shipment planted in late October had 60% germination – investigating cause

 Selfing started about two weeks ago

 2nd shipment planted December 4-6, – no germination results

**Future**

 Three visits made in 2014 to Liberia, Costa Rica area.

 On-site visits to Monsanto and Bayer CropScience research stations were greatly appreciated and informative.

 Initial visit to Costa Rica Seeds (CRS) made last fall

 Another visit is scheduled for late January, 2015 to follow-up meeting with CRS – they have managed cotton nurseries some years ago and more recently soybean winter nursery

 USDA provided one-time $500k funds to Cotton Incorporated to establish a counter season nursery for the maintenance of the National Cotton Germplasm Collection.

Several members thanked Dr. Jones for his winter nursery efforts and commented on the critical importance of a winter nursery to maintain both a viable germplasm collection and relevant public breeding programs.

2) Members and guests introduced themselves.

3) James Frelichowski provided a 2014 collection status report to members and provided a brief overview. Main items of note in the report included: a) the digital characterization efforts which are being collected and uploaded into CottonGen database, b) continued high demand for germplasm both domestic and abroad, and c) the collection of accessions from Puerto Rico. It was noted that, without a counter season winter nursery in 2014/15, the ability to replenish new seed stocks and continue digital characterization of the collection were both severely diminished. The lack of a counter season winter nursery also negatively impacts the collection’s ability to maintain and replenish seed stocks of photoperiodic accessions.

The committee thanked Dr. Frelichowski and Percy for their efforts in 2014; especially the continued digital characterization if the collection. Several members noted the necessity of a counter season winter nursery for the future of the cotton germplasm collection.

4) Richard Percy noted that USDA-ARS was in the process of developing an ‘across crop’ best practice guideline for managing the adventitious presence (AP) of transgenes in germplasm collections and breeding programs. It is hoped that the document will be publicly available in 2015.

5) Mauricio Ulloa noted that the committee needed to consider updating membership. It was noted that one industry member needed to be replaced (Dr. Bhatti, Monsanto Company). A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add Dr. Tom Brooks (Americot Inc.). It was also noted that, since Dr. Ulloa had served 5 years, a new Chair needed to be elected. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to elect Dr. B. Todd Campbell (USDA-ARS, Florence, SC) as Chair. The committee also noted that a new Vice-Chair needed to be elected at a later date.

6) Mauricio Ulloa noted the committee needed to develop an updated Cotton Vulnerability Statement. Efforts began in 2014, but need to be accelerated in 2015. Ulloa and Campbell will soon establish a plan to develop an updated statement.

7) Several members noted the need for more than one committee meeting during the year. Several ideas were noted that included establishing teleconference meetings in addition to the traditional CGC meeting at Beltwide.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15.