

Minutes of the Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee  
December 6, 2008 (2-4:00 PM)  
ASTA Meeting, Chicago, IL

Dr. Jeff Dahlberg called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Names and addresses of the attendees are attached. Dr. Dahlberg indicated that Drs. Ejeta, Kresovich and Rooney had contacted him and could not attend the meeting.

Minutes from the December 6, 2007 at the ASTA meeting had been made available to the Committee and Gary Pederson moved to accept the minutes, amended with two small corrections and Ken Kofoid seconded. The minutes were approved.

Dr. John Erpelding provided a Curator's report (see attached pdf file).

Dr. Gary Pederson handed out a report about activities from Griffin (see attached pdf file). The report outlined activities on-going at the station and the work that is being conducted to further enhance both the sorghum and millet collection. Sorghum continues to be one of their most active collections and Dr. Pederson and his group is making excellent progress in moving everything over into -18 C long-term storage. Both germinations testing and backup with NCGRP continue. Dr. Pederson delayed his discussion concerning the efforts with ICRISAT to evaluate duplications till later in the meeting.

Dr. Peter Bretting gave a brief report concerning efforts taking place at the National Program level (report was circulated to members prior to meeting and attached).

Dr. Dave Ellis provided an update of the activities at NCGRP in Fort Collins (see pdf file). Dr. Dahlberg had asked if anyone has replaced Dr. Henry Shands and this position has not been filled yet. Dr. Dahlberg expressed concern that the ARS was trying to replace Dr. Shands' position with a Research Scientist/Leader and was skeptical that a RL could direct the lab and conduct research effectively. He felt that this position was too important to the germplasm system and needed to be filled with a Director whose' responsibility would be to manage and promote the activities of the site.

Dr. Dahlberg gave a brief update on some of the research taking place on with the sorghum genome. There looks like there may be some interest in NSF funding to support some of the work on sorghum. Sequence data are available and being used by various groups.

Drs. Dahlberg and Pederson provided an update on the Sorghum Conservation Strategy. Dr. Pederson has received an Excel file from ICRISAT with their passport and descriptor data and they are working to evaluate the duplicates within the program (see comments in attached pdf file). Bottom line is that this will be a long, slow process; however, this is providing some useful information on the collections. Dr. Dahlberg expressed his frustration and the lack of leadership from ICRISAT in moving the strategy forward. Updated descriptors have been completed and are in need of publication, but there seems to be little feedback on when and who might publish

this. Dr. Dahlberg felt that perhaps the SMGC might be more aggressive with moving the strategy forward and will evaluate how this might be accomplished.

Research Reports: Reports from the proposals from the 2007-2008 funding cycle were provided to the committee before the meeting.

2008-2009 Research Requests: Three requests were made to the Committee for recommendation to the ARS for funding. Voting members of the committee were asked to submit their priorities to Dr. Dahlberg.

Dr. Dahlberg brought up that several committee members were scheduled to be off the committee this year. They were Drs. Dahlberg, Gary Peterson, A. B. Maunder, Gary Odvody, and Mr. Larry McDowell. Drs. Dahlberg and Peterson agreed to serve another term. Dr. Dahlberg will follow up with the other members. Dr. Cleve Franks will replace Dr. Jerry O'Rear as the representative from Advanta. Also, Dr. Roger Monk will replace Dr. Yilma Kebede as the Rep from Pioneer. Dr. Dahlberg indicated that Dr. Kebede has accepted a position with the Gates Foundation and he felt that Dr. Kebede should remain on the Committee, as it will bring a new prospective to the group.

The next scheduled meeting will be held at the ASTA meeting in Chicago in December 09.

Dr. Dahlberg moved to close the meeting. Dr. Kofoid seconded and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

Minutes taken by and submitted by Jeff Dahlberg

### Germplasm Meeting Attendees

Jeff Dahlberg (1)	John Erpelding (2)
Gary Peterson (1)	Gary Pederson (2)
Jeff Pedersen (1)	Peter Bretting (2)
Ken Kofoid (1)	Dave Ellis (2)
Cleve Franks (1)	Charles Miller representing Fred Miller (2)
Roger Monkc(1)	

<sup>1</sup>2008 Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee Members

<sup>2</sup>2008 Ex officio Members of Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee