

Minutes of the 6th  
RTWG Germplasm/Rice Crop Advisory Committee Meeting

November 30, 1987

The 6th meeting of this committee was held November 30, 1987, at Atlanta, GA, during the American Society of Agronomy Meeting. Members present were J. N. Rutger (Chairman), R. H. Dilday, C. W. Johnson, F. N. Lee, C. F. Murphy, C. L. Pope, D. H. Smith, and A. K. Stoner. Guests present were T. T. Chang, S. A. Eberhardt, P. J. Fitzgerald, T. H. Johnston, K. A. K. Moldenhauer, E. A. Nowick, and S. S. Virmani.

1. Minutes of 5th meeting.

It was noted that the minutes of the 5th meeting had been distributed by mail on February 27, 1987.

2. Report on Brazil rice collection trip.

Elaine Nowick reported on the collection trip that she and Don Groth made to the Amazon in Brazil earlier this year. The principal objective was to collect wild species of *Oryza* as possible sources of resistance to rice water weevil. A total of 32 *Oryza* populations, representing four species (*O. latifolia*, *O. alta*, *O. glumaepatula*, and *O. grandiglumis*, plus one *Leersia hexandra* and one *Luzeola* spp., were collected. At least 100 seeds of each population were collected. Groth is growing these at Crowley on his quarantine permit. Following discussion on availability of these species, a motion passed that, "Whenever the lines clear the quarantine nursery, 100 seeds (or less if this is not possible) of each line will be sent to D. H. Smith for assignment of P.I. numbers and entry into the National Plant Germplasm System."

3. Bacterial leaf blight in the U.S.

A statement on "Bacterial leaf blight in Texas," prepared by M. A. Marchetti, was distributed (one copy enclosed for each location: Bollich, Johnson, Dilday, Jackson, Robinson, and Pope. Please share with others at your location.)

In the discussion that followed, C. F. Murphy noted that a lot of progress had been made since the disease was first found in June 1987. Since additional funding for rice germplasm evaluation is anticipated in the current fiscal year, Murphy urged that the U.S. rice collection be screened for bacterial leaf blight reaction. Actual screening might be contracted at Kansas State or Frederick, MD. Fleet Lee noted that bacterial leaf blight screening was considered priority 5 (low) in the original evaluation plan prepared in 1983, but that was before the disease was known to be in the

U.S. Considerable discussion ensued on whether it would be necessary to screen the entire collection, now at 17,000-plus entries. It was finally decided that the priorities and costs in the evaluation plan should be reconsidered, at a half-day meeting of the committee to be held in conjunction with the breeder's planning meeting at Stoneville in late February 1988. (Subsequent to the present meeting, Rutgers appointed a subcommittee consisting of the pathologists on the committee, Lee, Groth, Marchetti, and with Lee as chair, to consider priorities for disease evaluation and to present these priorities at the late February meeting of the committee.)

4. Report on rejuvenation of the collection.

T. H. Johnston reported that the 3-year rejuvenation effort has been completed and most of the data is in GRIN. The rejuvenation effort also included evaluation for 11 agronomic characters:

- Days to 50% heading
- Plant type/culm angle
- Plant height
- Panicle type
- Grain type
- Hull pubescence
- Hull color
- Sterile lemma color
- Awning
- Lodging resistance
- Seed coat color

5. Status of GRIN

Stoner and Smith noted that a GRIN demonstration was being conducted at the meetings. A sample of the output (one copy enclosed for each location) was distributed, Smith urged everyone interested to visit the demonstration to learn how to access GRIN. Efforts to make the system more "user-friendly" are continuing.

In the discussion, Lee inquired whether data that he has on portions of the collection should be entered now. Stoner noted that this can be done, and furthermore that the origin of the data can be flagged so that the user will know if it was collected in Arkansas in 1987, or Texas in 1986, etc. Left unresolved was the matter of how many entries should be evaluated before the data are entered into GRIN. This will be another topic for the February meeting.

6. Access to the rice germplasm collection at Beltsville.

Dave Smith reviewed the circumstances under which a private breeding firm, which was just starting rice breeding

programs, was allowed to obtain some 3,000 entries last spring. He received a request from the firm for 3,000 entries, but did not have enough help to fill the request for several months. Since that would have been too late for the 1987 season, and since Smith knew the requestor to be a reputable breeder, Smith allowed them - under close supervision - to take seed from the storeroom. The Committee expressed uneasiness over this procedure, and Smith agreed to contact the committee chair for guidance if such unusual requests recur.

7. New introductions.

As in recent years, Dave Smith will provide a list of new PI's to the committee chair in early 1988, who will distribute the list to the committee. It is anticipated that the list will show 100-125 new foreign introductions for 1987.

8. IBPGR list of rice varieties available for exchange from China.

Henry Shands provided subject list of some 1,000 varieties to the committee (one copy enclosed for each location). T. T. Chang also received a copy; he will go through it and note the varieties that are already in the IRRI collection, and send this to the chair. At the February meeting the chair will collate the requests from members for Dave Smith, who will then submit a seed request to China and/or IRRI.

9. Next meeting: February 1988.

A half-day meeting of the committee will be scheduled in conjunction with the breeder's planning meeting in Stoneville, to discuss:

Reconsideration of Evaluation Plan priorities and costs (re item 3 above)

Minimum number of evaluations for entry into GRIN (re item 5 above)

Exact time of the meeting will be announced by mail as soon as it is scheduled.

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