

Minutes of the 7th
RTWG Germplasm/Rice Crop Advisory Committee Meeting

February 24, 1988

The 7th meeting of this committee was held February 24, 1988, at Stoneville, MS, in conjunction with the annual Rice Breeders' Conference. Members present were J. Neil Rutger (Chair), C. N. Bollich, R. H. Dilday, B. R. Jackson, F. N. Lee, M. A. Marchetti, J. F. Robinson, D. E. Groth, and D. H. Smith. Guests present included Jan Leach, K. A. K. Moldenhauer, F. Jodari, P. K. Bollich, J. W. Stansel, B. D. Webb, J. E. Scott, T. Miller, D. Jones, and M. Milam.

1. Minutes of the 6th meeting.

The minutes of the 6th meeting were approved as distributed by mail on December 7, 1987.

2. Funding for Evaluation.

R. H. Dilday reported that he has received ARS funds for evaluation of the rice collection. The accompanying instruction noted that he, utilizing advice from the CAC, was to utilize the funds as needed and appropriate in order to get the evaluations done. Also, it was noted that these funds are not to be used for fragmented evaluation of the rice collection, but rather for a complete evaluation of the collection for specific characteristics.

In the ensuing discussion some members of the CAC commented that routine evaluation of the entire 15,000-entry collection was not the best course of action. Rather, specific objectives need to be defined, and the priority of evaluation should start with current U.S. varieties and work backwards through other U.S. varieties and prominent international varieties.

Agronomic characteristics for evaluation are listed in Table 1.

3. Priorities for disease evaluation, especially bacterial leaf blight.

F. N. Lee reported the recommendations of the subcommittee, consisting of himself as Chair and Groth and Marchetti, as other members. Their recommendations, with annotated changes from the 1983 prioritizations, are given in the attached Table 2.

Jan Leach, plant pathologist from Kansas State University, reported on the research she has done on the bacterial leaf blight organism (Xanthomonas campestris oryzae). She has used RFLP analysis to differentiate foreign races of the organism and to compare these with two isolates from Texas/Louisiana.

Following the above two presentations, much discussion ensued on how evaluation efforts should proceed for bacterial leaf blight. Finally, Bollich moved, and Lee seconded, the following motion: The CAC recommends that the evaluation efforts on bacterial leaf blight be directed at (1) obtaining more knowledge on technology and procedures for evaluating the disease on U.S. rices, (2)

determination of the race spectrum of bacterial leaf blight isolates in the U.S., (3) evaluation of bacterial leaf blight reaction of prominent U.S. and international rice varieties, and (4) identification of additional, i.e., beyond Pecos, sources of resistance to the U.S. isolates. Passed.

Subsequent discussion centered on how to implement the above recommendation. A subcommittee was appointed to develop the implementation plan: Marchetti (Chair), Lee, Groth and Dilday from the CAC, plus Stansel and Whitney. The subcommittee was urged to draw upon additional expertise as they deemed appropriate, for example, Leach of Kansas State, and Gonzales and Jones from Texas A&M. Because of the imminence of the rice season, the subcommittee is to report its recommendations by March 15, to Rutgers as Chair of the CAC and to Dilday as holder of the evaluation funds.

At this juncture the question arose of why bacterial leaf blight should be designated as priority 5 (low), especially in view of the concerns and uncertainty about the disease which had occupied the discussion for the last 1 1/2 hours. In still more discussion, it was agreed that bacterial leaf blight was a very high priority item relative to U.S. rice production in 1988, but that the CAC was unenthusiastic about routine evaluations of the entire U.S. collection for bacterial leaf blight. These discussions culminated with another motion by Bollich, seconded by Lee, that: Routine and systematic evaluation of the entire U.S. collection probably does not need to be pursued until or unless bacterial leaf blight has been determined to be a major threat to U.S. rice production. Passed.

Some members of the rice CAC expressed reservations about the concept of routine evaluations of germplasm collections, no matter what the crop. These members felt that the evaluation objectives should be clearly defined and that en masse evaluations, just because funds were available, were not considered to be of the highest importance. However, other members noted that when funds were made available many other Crop Advisory committees had enthusiastically accepted the challenge and recommended a routine evaluation of their collection for agronomic and disease data.

4. Entry of description data into GRIN.

Jackson moved, and it was seconded, that: Rice researchers should be encouraged to enter their evaluation data into GRIN on at least an annual basis. Passed.

It was further agreed that an appropriate use of evaluation funds would be to engage personnel to enter existing reams of evaluation data into GRIN. Also, to crack the password codes that have led to non-accessability of data entered in GRIN some years back (hire a 16-year old computer hacker??).

5. Time and place of the next meeting.

The 8th meeting of the CAC will be on June 27, 1988, at the Rice Technical Working Group meeting in Davis, CA. Agenda items will be circulated with the meeting notice.