

Minutes  
13th Rice CAC/RTWG Germplasm meeting  
Little Rock, AR  
February 23, 1992

The 13th meeting of the Rice Crop Advisory Committee/RTWG Germplasm Committee was held at Little Rock, AR. Members present were John Bernhardt, Harold Bockelman (curator), Mark Bohning (CAC facilitator), Bob Dilday (chairman), Ken Grubenman, Dwight Kanter, Fleet Lee, Steve Linscombe, Carl Johnson, Tony Marchetti and Shannon Pinson. Other participants were: Hank Beachell, L.E. Dathoff, C.W. Deren, Austine Eke, Jean French, Kenneth Gravois, Don Groth, David Hillman, Bert Hoff, Kirk Johnson, Anna Myers McClung, Kent S. McKenzie, Dave Mackill, John Mann, H. Marshall, W.L. Mayhew, Mohammad Mostafari, Joe Musick, Jim Oard, Jerry Opella, John Robinson, J. Neil Rutger, Thomas A. Salt, Gene Sarreal, Bill Webb, and James R. Webster. Agenda items were:

- 1) Minutes of the 12th meeting: The minutes were accepted with no corrections or additions.
- 2) Report on the genetics resource provisions in the 1990 Farm Bill: Neil Rutger reported that there were three areas of activity included in the bill: (1) research on germplasm utilization and storage of germplasm, (2) coordination of genetic resources with other programs, and (3) make material available to the industry. Culmination of the studies resulted in the formation of the U.S. National Genetics Resources Program and the National Genetics Resources Council which is composed of 2/3 scientists and 1/3 public members. Major funding increases were recommended so the goals could be accomplished but appropriations have not been approved.
- 3) Plant Exploration: Christopher Deren discussed an exploration proposal dealing with rice germplasm collection in Southeast Asia to determine if the Rice CAC would recommend a collection trip to this area. The committee suggested that additional information be gathered in three areas: (1) new germplasm that would be collected in Southeast Asia since IRRI has previously collected in the area; (2) export approval since countries in this region are reluctant to allow germplasm out of their countries and (3) cooperators must be found that are familiar with rice in the area.
- 4) Report on the Rice Working Collection: Bob Dilday reported that an additional 6,000 accessions that had either low seed amounts or no plant characteristics describing the accession were part of a grow-out for seed rejuvenation and plant evaluation for agronomic traits. The information will be entered into the GRIN system. Harold Bockelman reported that 51 new PI numbers were assigned and an additional 50 PI entries were regenerated and returned to the collection. Efforts were being made to correct data dealing with the "origin" of an accession. Gene French reported on rice plant introductions into the U.S. Approximately 1300 accessions have been introduced from 1988 through 1991. However, only 206 accessions can be grown in quarantine at one time at Beltsville, MD and additional greenhouse space would be required to increase this number. Plant introduction (PI) numbers are not assigned at the

quarantine site because accessions could be lost or seed may not be provided to the working collection at Aberdeen, ID by the requester. The committee recommended that a subsample of each accession be collected and sent to Aberdeen for safe keeping, rejuvenation and evaluation if needed. The committee recommended that all requestors of foreign rice germplasm provide seed to the working collection. The committee was also concerned about rice germplasm that was being brought into the country by private citizens that is outside of the introduction system. It was suggested that promotional efforts to educate the public on the dangers of importing foreign pests.

- 5) Report on the Germplasm Resources Information Network: Mark Bohning reported that a new computer system was purchased at a cost of \$650,000 to replace the 12 year old system. The new system should give better access to the data bank including phone connections and file compatibility. The system will house other data bases. There will be a two year period needed to convert the software and transfer the data to the new system. Mark requested that any changes that are needed in the system be made as soon as possible so they can be incorporated into the new system.
- 6) Report on Plant Variety Protection: Tom Salt provided a list of required traits for U.S. and International systems and for plant protection. A full disclosure on breeding history, traits and uniformity must be made to protect breeders rights. In addition, varietal traits must be stable for 18 years. A major problem in the U.S. is that the breeder has the responsibility to decide and prove if the variety is unique rather than a government agency doing the job. In Europe, the opposite is true. Three years are required to prove that the variety is unique but one year of data can be provided by the breeder. The European system requires 0.5 kg seed, then a sample is removed from the bag each year and planted in the same field for multiple years. Carl Johnston mentioned that the traits do not separate the varieties at this time and he requested a sub committee be appointed to evaluate the list and eliminate unnecessary plant characteristics and add missing traits. Neil Rutger gave a brief history of plant protection and pointed out that a list was revised and adopted by the committee previously and that all of the data requested on the form was not needed. Tom Salt distributed a list of minimum requirements of characteristics that were developed by the International Committee on Variety Protection. Bob Dilday appointed a committee to evaluate the present list of rice traits and eliminate any traits that are not necessary or add additional traits that are needed. The committee, chaired by Carl Johnston is composed of Steve Linscombe, Kenneth Gravois, John Bernhardt and Don Groth.
- 7) New CAC members: Fleet Lee announced that he, Toni Marchetti, Ken Grubenman and Carl Johnson were scheduled to rotate off the Rice Crop Advisory Committee. Committee members and others attending the meeting thanked them for their 10 years of service. Fleet nominated Bill Webb, Kent McKenzie, Kenneth Gravois and David Hillman to fill the vacancies. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob Dilday was renominated for chairman by Toni Marchetti and the nomination was seconded by Fleet Lee. Bob was elected by acclamation.

- 8) Other Business: Bob Dilday distributed information dealing with CAC Rationale, Responsibility and Organization. Also he reported that funding for Planning and Design had being provided for a National Rice Germplasm Evaluation and Enhancement Center at Stuttgart, AR. Carl Johnston suggested that the rotational system be changed to four two year terms rather than three two year terms and additional members be added to the committee. The recommendation was taken under consideration.