**Sugarcane Crop Germplasm Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

June 8, 2011

**Attendants (arranged alphabetically):**

Davidson, Wayne Kimbeng, Collins

Gravois, Kenneth Legendre, Ben

Grisham, Michael P. Maroon-Lango, Clarissa

Hale, Anna Mock, Ray

Hoy, Jeff Nagai, Chifumi

Irey, Mike Pontif, Michael

Jackson, Windell Shine, Jim

**Listening In by Teleconference:**

Comstock, Jack Sood, Shushma

Ellis, Dave Wisler, Gail

Da Silva, Jorge

Introductions – Sugarcane Crop Germplasm Committee

Minutes – Motion to approve by Jeff Hoy and seconded by Windell Jackson. Approved

Update on Breeding Positions – Jack Comstock gave an update on the breeding position at Canal Point (see e-mail). A peanut breeder from Dawson, GA is highly regarded and considering the transfer. A decision must be made by June 30th. Next, Anna Hale gave an update on the breeding position at the USDA in Houma. The position description is written and in process for advertisement. Dr. Gail Wisler says by September hopefully ARS will have signed off on it. The position has been approved by Dr. Wisler.

Mike Grisham provided a progress report on 2010 funded CGC project (see handout). Mike’s group screened 83 accessions that included two commercial cultivars for mosaic. There was more Sugarcane mosaic virus than Sorghum mosaic virus. If and accession was positive, those were assayed with PCR with products to RFLP to distinguish strains of mosaic. *Miscanthus sinense* had a + mosaic that did not match any form of common strains of sorghum mosaic.

World Collection Report (Miami) – Tomas Ayala-Silva (Handout)

In Tomas’ absence, Anna Hale presented the update.

Clarissa Maroon-Lango: Quarantine Update (Handout)

* New test incorporated and improvements in on-going testing
* Sugarcane streak viruses (use group PCR test). Use of amplification of the NAD5 gene. RT-PCR test to detect Fiji, streak mosaic virus, and sugarcane striate mosaic virus and sugarcane yellow leaf virus.
* Importation and Quarantine activities.
  + 21 accessions released from Quarantine in June 2010; 164 clones are currently housed in the quarantine facilities; there are 55 mericlones from a total of 40 clones that were imported and reported diseased since 1994.
  + Space is really limited; quota is approximately 60 per year. If mericlones are “clean” this will clear up space for many of the affected clones.

Jim Shine thanked Clarissa for the progress made on moving clones through the quarantine house and the improvements in disease detection.

Dave Ellis – National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation – Fort Collins, Colorado. (Handout). Backup of clones via cryo-preservation (see paragraph)

* Clonal collection represents 25% of their group’s effort and has an interest in exploring its use for sugarcane.
* Mandate opportunity to backup other clonal crops, such as sugarcane.
* Dave has 30 clones from Clarissa and has extracted meristems for shoot culture establishment for preservation.
* With this backup system, we could avoid reentering clones that have already passed through quarantine.
* HARC can help provide tissue culture sources for testing the system.

Ray Mock (ARS) – U. S. National Plant Germplasm System (Handout)

* Budget cuts and other summaries prepared by Peter Bretting

Ray Mock – National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, MD (Handout)

* Plant Exchange Office
* GRIN Global should go on-line in 2012
* Mark Bohning wants copy of minutes to post on the CGC web site.
* Follow up - Crop vulnerability reports for Sugarcane should be updated
* [www.ARS-GRIN.Gov](http://www.ARS-GRIN.Gov) to Plant germplasm to CGC to Crops (Here you will find CGC rosters, minutes and the crop vulnerability reports)

The CGC group acknowledged the retirement of Dr. Tom Tew and the work that he devoted to the sugarcane CGC.

Importation of Fuzz – disease transmission (Continuing report of work)

* No new leaf scald data from Jeff Hoy because infected clones did not flower; he reported that there is some mosaic infected clones on the LSU carts and information may be obtained with this disease.
* Ray Mock suggested preparing as detailed a report as possible for both industry and APHIS to move forward on any changes to seed import regulations.

Issues to resolve –

* Pathologists have conferred with Clarissa; there are very practical issues to address in order to complete the project.
* Ray Mock has received healthy seed to perform germination studies on bleach and fumigation (Methyl Bromide) treatments. MBr provided good results, slightly higher germination than 10% bleach.
* Other work with de-fuzzed seed did not indicate much improvement compared to seed with fuzz.

Consensus of the group was that surface sterilization should be sufficient to handle diseases. Jim Shine asked if we could move forward with changing the regulations for fuzz import. Clarissa says we need a science-based report. Could ISSCT pathologists provide an opinion via letter? We would also need to provide a good literature review – the lack of information regarding seed transmission of disease proves our point.

If we continue the YLS work in Florida, it provides the greatest risk of seed transmission. Canal Point had 2 positives out of 1000 for YLS, but the GH did not have insect proof screening.

Jack Comstock and Mike Grisham will begin a report for the group. Need an update to committee by February / March 2012!

Nomination of committee members

See GRIN for committee listing.

Motion to maintain officers as is by Jim Shine and second from Windell Jackson. Motion approved.

Adjourn.