

Minutes of the Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee

February 21, 2005

North American Grain Congress, Reno NV

Dr. Jeff Dahlberg called the meeting to order. Names and addresses of the attendees are attached.

Minutes from the December 10, 2003 at the ASTA meeting had been made available to the Committee and the minutes were approved.

Dr. John Erpelding provided a Curator's report. Regeneration efforts are continuing. Dr. Erpelding indicated that 3000 accessions have been increased in the past several years. Increases of 500 accessions were taking place in Puerto Rico along with an additional 800 in St. Croix. He is also working on screening the collection for anthracnose, downy mildew and other diseases. Descriptors are being formalized and will be added to the collection.

Dr. Gary Pederson handed out a report about activities from Griffin. 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 (see handout). Progress has been made in moving the sorghum inventory into -18 C freezer storage. Germination testing of the collection is also taking place. A series of Observations from Dr. Jeff Pedersen was added to the collection. These observations include chemical and nutritional information on photoperiod insensitive accessions.

Dr. Kay Simmons gave a brief report concerning efforts taking place at the National Program level. Dr. Simmons informed the committee about the work taking place with the National Plant Disease Recovery Act and what the ARS is doing with this. Work is being conducted at Fort Detrick to sequence pathogens for quick identification. Dr. Simmons passed out documentation as to the impact of the President's proposed cuts to the ARS budget and the impact that might have on sorghum research (see handout).

Dr. Steve Kresovich was unable to attend the meeting because of flight cancellations from New York and Dr. Dahlberg asked Dr. John Burke to provide an update on the Sorghum Genome Initiative. Dr. Burke passed out the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held at the Plant Genome meetings in San Diego. They were also working on a White Paper that will be shared with members of the sorghum community outlining the approaches to sequencing sorghum. Drs. Kresovich and Burke are coordinating these efforts. There was also discussion concerning the makeup of the Executive Committee and how this will be structured in the future. Some discussion took place on the development of the sorghum panel that is being proposed for use by the genomics community. It was suggested that the panel be sent to the committee for their input and Dr. Kresovich will be asked to send the updated panel to Dr. Dahlberg for distributions.

Dr. Dahlberg provided an update of the Germplasm Chairs Meeting in Beltsville. From that meeting a request was made to update the Sorghum and Millet Vulnerability Statement and this was done and sent to the ARS in September 2004. Dr. Dahlberg thanked the committee for their input to this document.

Drs. Bill Rooney and Mitch Tuinstra gave an update on the Public Licensing/MTA proposals that their respective Universities were working on. Dr. Gebisa Ejeta also provided information on their work in this area. It seemed from the discussion that excellent progress has been made in these areas and that things are in place to ensure exchange of germplasm in the future.

Research Reports: Reports from the four proposals from the 2003-2004 funding cycle were provided to the committee before the meeting and one additional reports were provided at the meeting (see handouts).

2004-2005 Research Requests: Five requests were made to the Committee for recommendation to the ARS for funding. They included: Phenotypic characterization of Sorghum bicolor: Carotenoid endosperm content by Fernandez et al, Cornell and Texas A&M; Growout of 8000 accessions of sorghum for photoperiod rating and regeneration, Franks, USDA-ARS; Evaluating sorghum germplasm to identify new sources of resistance to insect pests, Huang, USDA-ARS; Screening photoperiod insensitive and converted sorghums to confirm Pathotype 3 SDM resistance and determine response to new pathotype, Odvody et al, Texas A&M; and, Advanced backcross germplasm of a cross between the elite line Tx623 and P.I. 536008: Development of introgression lines and evaluation for grain yield components and grain quality, Klein et al., USDA-ARS and Texas A&M. These five proposals total a request of \$47,500.00.

Other Business:

Dr. Dahlberg asked Drs. Bill Rooney and Darrell Rosenow to update committee on the Sorghum Conversion Program. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is reviewing the program and Dr. Rooney has submitted a proposal to Texas A&M concerning the program. Dr. Dahlberg asked for a copy of the proposal to see if we could assist in finding funding for the continuation of the program. Dr. Rosenow indicated that 25 new converted lines were ready for release.

The next scheduled meeting will either be at the proposed Drought Conference in Lubbock, Texas in the Fall or at the ASTA meeting in Chicago in December.

Dr. Dahlberg moved to close the meeting. Dr. Tuinstra seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jeff Dahlberg

Germplasm Meeting Attendees

John Erpelding (2)	Ramasamy Peruonal
Tom Crawford	Mitch Tuinstra (1)
Gebisa Ejeta (1)	Clint Magill
Seriba Katile	Niaba Teme
Darrell Rosenow (2)	Yinghua Huang
David Thomas	Charles Leamons
Kay Simmons (2)	Leon Clement
Kay Porter (1)	Hugo Zorrilla (1)
Cleve Franks	Bill Rooney (1)
Bob Klein (2)	Jeff Pedersen (1)
Gary Pederson (2)	John Burke
Jeff Noel	John Yohe (2)
Gary Peterson (1)	Jeff Dahlberg (1)
Gary Odvody (1)	

¹2005 Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee Members

²2005 Ad Hoc Members of Sorghum and Millet Germplasm Committee