

Cotton Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 4:00-5:00
Hyatt Regency Downtown Dallas, Cotton Bowl Room

Members present: David Becker, Thomas Brooks, Todd Campbell (chair), Jane Dever, Steve Hague, Gerald Myers, Jodi Scheffler, Mauricio Ulloa, and Ted Wallace

Members absent: Jacob Rieff

Ex-officio members present: Lori Hinze (for Richard Percy), James Frelichowski, Johnie Jenkins, and Don Jones

Ex-officio members absent: Roy Scott and Peter Bretting

Guests: Fred Bourland, Jenny Clement, Dawn Deno, Amanda Gaudin, Jack McCarty, James Olvey, Roeloff Sikkens, Travis Witt, and Jing Yu

CCGC Chair B. Todd Campbell called the meeting to order at 4 PM

1. Roll call, introductions, and 2016 meeting minutes review

Following roll call and introductions, Dr. Campbell asked for verification that members received and reviewed 2016 meeting minutes electronically prior to the meeting with affirmative response from members. Gerald Myers made a motion to accept the minutes, Jodi Scheffler seconded, and minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Lori Hinze announced the retirement of Richard Percy as Supervisory Research Geneticist/Research Leader of the USDA-ARS Crop Germplasm Research Unit at Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center in College Station. Projected position Open/Close dates are January 23, 2017 through February 21, 2017.

2. Collection Status Report

James Frelichowski made available 2016 Germplasm Collection report which was sent electronically prior to meeting, and Todd Campbell noted no pre-submitted questions received. James Frelichowski gave a summary of the report highlights.

- a. Seed increases and characterization were conducted on-site in College Station at NCGC and at new counter-season nursery (CSN) in Liberia, Costa Rica. Over half the collection is described with descriptors and digital images, but continued progress is still hampered by limited space at CSN and on-site greenhouses.
- b. Distribution was lower than average, at 1,670 accessions from 78 orders. Jodi Scheffler shared that over 5,000 accessions have been sent to Pakistan, and their storage capability is improved. This collaboration is appreciated and used now for more than CLCV. Admission of new germplasm is slower because of admitting only conventionally bred cotton lines and testing them for AP.
- c. Database building continues in cooperation with Jing Yu and Dorrie Main at Washington State University.
- d. Gaps still exist in coverage of species or germplasm of specific geographic origins. Research and characterization of the NCGC will help prioritize future exchanges and collections to address these genetic gaps.
- e. The detailed and comprehensive Germplasm Collection report was made available to members, and several thanked Dr. Frelichowski for his efforts.

Todd Campbell shared information from Peter Bretting. Number of accessions in the national collection continues to grow, as does demand for information and germplasm. Budgets are down across the board, with \$44MM allocated for national germplasm collections. Challenges include ongoing and expanding space, capacity, and infrastructure; NPGS personnel retirements, crop wild relatives, and BMP to address AP for GE traits. Crop vulnerability statements are key priority on a national scale.

3. Winter Nursery Update

Don Jones reported on challenges establishing counter-season nursery in Costa Rica.

- a. Critical factors to successfully establishing the Costa Rica CSN were assistance from Jim Olvey and Bayer CropScience, \$500,000 start-up funding procured by Dan Upchurch, and hiring Alfonso Palafox.
- b. CWN permanent site is 10 km northwest of Liberia, Costa Rica. Liberia is easily accessible, and can be reached directly by air, instead of flying to San Jose. The facilities are an improvement from Tecoman, and the rent is half.
- c. Lifeline of \$500,000 from USDA is being invested, though the funding model makes it difficult to spend from CI – this has been a tremendous effort on the part of Don Jones.
- d. Phytosanitary issues remain difficult to navigate.
- e. Second season was planted by December 15, with one remnant in the ground by December 23, in spite of Hurricane Otto, the first hurricane in 150 years (or ever).
- f. It is critically important that CSN users follow instructions provided for preparing and shipping seed.
- g. Meeting with USDA NPL and Experiment Station Directors July 2016 was very frustrating. Users must pick up all operating costs. CSN needs \$100,000 in dedicated operating funds annually; Cotton Incorporated is willing to commit \$50,000, but NPL not ready to commit to the rest, so cotton remains the only major crop without dedicated USDA support for either CSN or database. Some ESD have expressed willingness to contribute. Dr. Jones is working to prevent projected deficits of \$70-77,000.

Jack McCarty asked about carrying over accessions that do not flower the first year, and CSN does have that capability. Several members thanked Dr. Jones for his winter nursery efforts and commented on the critical importance of a winter nursery to maintain both a viable germplasm collection and relevant public breeding programs.

4. New Cotton Crop Vulnerability Statement

Todd Campbell will contact members regarding updating the cotton crop vulnerability statement. The update does not need to be a detailed, peer-reviewed publication like the last one, but it does need to be updated.

The AP document ‘Procedures and BMP for GE Traits in Germplasm and Breeding Lines’ reviewed in the 2016 meeting is being processed and Policy and Procedures, and should be complete soon.

5. Next Cotton Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting/Other Discussion

The next CCGC meeting will be held in conjunction with the Beltwide Cotton Research Conference in San Antonio, Texas, January 2018. No further discussion was initiated.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.