

Soybean Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes Feb. 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order by chairman Silva Cianzio.

Members present were:

Istvan Rajcan, Canadian Breeder
Vince Pantalone, Public Breeder South
Jeff Thompson, Private Breeder North
Rusty Smith, exofficio, USDA Stoneville
Randall Nelson, exofficio Soybean Curator
Esther Peregrine, exofficio Assistant Curator
Roy Scott, exofficio, USDA National Programs

Visitors present:

Albert Santoz, Bayer, North Carolina
Blair Buckley, LSU Ag. Center
Franco Muniz, Matagroso, Brazil

The minutes from 2013 were approved.

Esther Peregrine was voted to be the permanent secretary.

Subcommittee reports:

Acquisitions

Randy Nelson has contacted several commercial companies and no transgenic contamination has ever been found in seed from the USDA Collection. It was suggested requiring a statement from donors certifying that seed was tested and found to be non-transgenic when samples are submitted to the National Plant Germplasm System. Roy Scott reported that the USDA has a committee developing policy about how to handle transgenics.

No new acquisitions are being pursued because resources for maintaining the current collection are limited.

Evaluations

Frogeye Leaf Spot differentials used by Dan Phillips need to be tested to make sure they are correct. Silvia suggested asking the soybean community if maintaining large quantities of

differential or check seeds for several soybean diseases (Phytophthora, SDS, Charcoal rot) is worth doing. Roy Scott suggested that researchers include the costs for increasing seed when writing grants. Roy was going to check on the feasibility of getting pathogen collections backed up at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP), Ft. Collins, CO.

Chemical analysis of protein, oil, and fatty acids is no longer being done by the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) lab in Peoria. Roy will take the lead to discuss possible funding of these important analyses for evaluation trials by USB.

Operations

Rusty Smith reported that he has hired another technical to help with the germplasm work in Stoneville, MS. A technician is still being sought for the Urbana, IL location.

Mark Bohning and Gorm Emberland who were employees with NPGS in Beltsville both passed away in 2013. Partly due to their loss and also because of the government shutdown in the fall of 2013, the new GRIN Global has not been released yet but should be soon.

The genotyping of 19,652 *G. max* and *G. soja* accessions with 52,041 SNPs was completed by Perry Cregan and Qijian Song in Beltsville, MD. These data are now available through SoyBase. Using these data 6198 *G. max* and 499 *G. soja* were found to be 99.9% similar to at least one other accession. Many of these were phenotypically different. Additional testing is planned.

Henry Nguyen asked to step down from the committee due to a conflict in meeting times with the USB group. Because of poor attendance by the more specialized positions of pathologist, nematologist/entomologist/pathologist, and physiologist/molecular geneticist/biochemist/genomicist/cytogeneticist, a proposal was made to change the bylaws to have a soybean breeder with an interest in these areas fill those positions. Jeff Thompson was willing to serve as a soybean breeder with a pathologist interest for a 3 year position. Revised by-laws will be emailed to the members present and the final revision emailed to the entire committee for a vote.

New committee members:

Louise O'Donoghue, from Cérom, Quebec will replace Istvan Rajcan as the Canadian breeder.

The other vacant positions on the committee still need replacements to be voted on. Nominations for new members were:

Don Kyle, with Pioneer Seeds in Princeton, IL Private Breeder North

Andrew Scaboo, University of Missouri, Public breeder South

Lillian Miranda, Bayer, Private Breeder South

Silvia will solicit additional nominations from the committee and submit them to Soybase for voting. Once committee members have been selected they will be assigned to subcommittees.

Having the option to be able to call in to next year's meeting was suggested as a possible way to involve those members who could not be physically present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Peregrine

Assistant Soybean Curator