

Soybean Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes Feb. 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order by chairman Silvia Cianzio

Members present were:

Silvia Cianzio, chair and Public Breeder North

Louise O'Donoghue, Canadian Breeder

Rusty Smith, exofficio, USDA Stoneville

Randall Nelson, exofficio Soybean Curator

Esther Peregrine, exofficio Assistant Curator

Visitors present:

Isvan Rajcan, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Aaron Lorenz, future soybean breeder at the University of Minnesota

Elections to replace members whose terms expired did not take place last year. Silvia will get the email list from David Grant and ask for nominations. Randy proposed a staggered election as outlined in the by-laws to maintain continuity of the committee. After nominations have been received, the committee will vote on new members in April and Esther will arrange a conference call in June or July to acquaint members with the functions of the committee and decide on a new chair to replace Silvia.

Silvia asked that an announcement be sent out via Soybase with the time of next year's meeting and stressing that the meeting is open to everyone. Having the option to be able to call in to next year's meeting was suggested as a way to involve those members who could not be physically present at the meeting.

Esther gave a report on the Germplasm Collection, which will be posted in Soybase.

Louise asked about donating public Canadian cultivars. There are very few early maturing public cultivars in the USDA collection. Esther will send storage applications to Louise and Istvan for donating seed. The Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) germplasm curator will also be contacted for information about recent Canadian cultivars and the possibility of referring seed requests for early cultivars to them.

Randy stated that he has not been actively pursuing adding more soybean germplasm to the collection because of funding restraints. Efforts to acquire more *Glycine soja* accessions have not been successful. Silvia suggested the committee advocate for better funding.

Protocol is being developed by ARS for adding transgenics to National Plant Germplasm System collections. Some of the first transgenics with expired patents are soybean cultivars. Randy envisioned having the seed grown at another location to avoid any contamination of the rest of the collection.

Rusty reported that the new hired technician from Stoneville, Matt Kirsch, would be coming to Urbana for training in seed processing.

Silvia suggested surveying the breeding community about maintaining large quantities of differentials or checks for soybean diseases; perhaps increasing their own seed but getting fresh seed from the collection every 5 years to make sure of the purity.

The evaluations that were conducted in Stoneville, MS; Urbana, IL; and Rosemont, MN still need to be analyzed for protein, oil, and fatty acids. Silvia will send a letter on behalf of the committee to Dr. Roy Scott recommending that NCAUR in Peoria, IL analyze these samples.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Peregrine,

Assistant Soybean Curator