

Minutes from Tomato CGC meeting on February 2, 2018 on a Conference Call

Meeting Attendees:

- Rich Ozminkowski Jr
- Barbara Liedl
- Gary Kinard
- Joanne Labate
- Felix Serquen
- David Francis
- Roger Chetelat
- Jim Augustine
- Jasmine Lopez
- Sam Hutton
- Dilip Panthee
- John Snyder
- Jit Baral
- Phyllis Himmel

Not present: John Stommel, Majid Foolad

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm ET by Rich Ozminkowski, Chair

1. Chairs opening report:

- Plans are in place to have our next CGC meeting in April.
- We still do not have a crop vulnerability statement (CVS) and as such it is unlikely we will get any germplasm evaluation funds until we have provided the CVS.
- An updated roster for the Tomato CGC was sent for posting to the CGC website.

2. NPGL report from Gary Kinard: The report was provided and below are the highlights

- USDA has an agency wide hiring freeze with funding currently following “fiscal restraint” until the budget is finalized since budget changes/cuts will be retroactive. However, they have had a new taxonomist position filled.
- Work on GRIN Global has focused on the user interface to allow for various screen sizes and mobile devices. Kinard reported CIP and CIMMYT are using GRIN Global with other groups are looking towards using it which will move towards global conservation and use of resources. A point was raised that the new GRIN database system isn't as efficient as the old system and were there ways to report these problems. Kinard clarified that the GRIN Global system is a totally different system and ask such the Simple Search text box in GRIN Global is not a true Google search of the whole system. The Advanced Search text box is more like the old GRIN system but it still isn't the same. Kinard asked that we forward examples of these issues to him to help improve the system. Himmel appreciated the updated function.
- Germplasm Evaluation Proposals will come out after the budget has pass and there will be very little time to prepare the proposals for characterization and evaluation of germplasm.

3. TGRC report from Roger Chetelat: The report was provided and below are the highlights

- In 2017 TGRC received more than 440 new lines, most of these are BIL from D. Zamir which were grown out in the field last summer. Unfortunately a number of these were unfruitful and will need to be grown in the greenhouse and hand pollinated. These lines are similar to the

introgression lines but have more mapped recombination events and markers. One new accession of *S. pennellii* LA2963 was also received because it was used in mapping work but it is unclear where it originated from.

- Maintenance work happened for 1500 lines including 974 seed increases with most of the time and space focused on wild species. Over 650 germination tests were undertaken with mostly good results. The major problems were trials with species that have strong seed dormancy.
- TGRC is doing more work with pathogen testing. For instance everything gets tested twice for PotatoSTV.
- More backups have been sent to Fort Collins, CO as well as Svalbard, Norway.
- Last year 6,000 accessions were sent out (see report for details). It was pointed out they may have to drop some accessions not requested in the future to be able to maintain the collection being requested.
- The database side of TGRC is being maintained in-house and the integration seems to be working with GRIN Global. Unfortunately their database person at TGRC will be retiring and they are hoping to hire someone into that position. The group discussed this situation and offered to support Roger if he needed us.
- Research at TGRC continues on introgressing *S. sitiens* and studying reproductive barriers.
- Endowment fund raising wrapped up last year and will help buffer support for the center.

4. **PGRU report from Joanne Labate:** The report was provided and below are the highlights

- Currently maintain 6,600 tomato accessions of which most are cultivated.
- Distribution of tomato germplasm was provided in Table 2 of their report. Tomato was their 2nd highest crop distributed from their center with 1,800 tomato lines sent out last year.
- In the last five years, 273 tomato accessions were re-generated. Last year they switched their methods of choosing what to grow out. Unfortunately last year was a bad year for growing.
- Changes have been made in how they are handling seed in-house. They currently hold the distribution samples at 5C with the majority of the seed being held at -20C. This is more efficient as the staff can easily get to the 5C and are going into the -20C area less often.
- Seed testing has moved and also quit giving a discount to PGRU. Now PGRU sends their lines for germination testing to Fort Collins.
- In 2017, PGRU collected characterization data using field book software. They felt this helped them getting the information entered with less chance of mix-ups. It also can collect images. Joanne asked there were any traits (descriptor list) that should be added, updated or prioritized and asked for input from the CGC. Rich asked the CGC to send suggestions directly to Joanne.
- The public website is up and Joanne is on the advisory committee. They are working to improve both the public and curator sections of the website.
- There are three vacant positions due to the hiring freeze (curator, farm manager and field tech positions). They were able to hire seasonal workers for 3-6 months, but don't know if they will be able to do this in the future.
- The cooperative agreement with TGRC was awarded by Peter Bretting going thru PGRU's project before being sent to TGRC at Davis.
- Dolly Baker from White House Farm contacted Joanne to see if PGRU were interested in her germplasm and thus is bringing it to the CGC for advice. There are a couple of cherry tomatoes the grower had developed. A list of lines with photos was provided but the group had concern

about how adding these to the collection would affect maintenance of the whole collection. Additional concerns were if some of these selections were out of a hybrid and if any of these lines had origins from outside of the US because the USDA would not be able to accept them then. The group decided it was not effective to take the collection as a whole.

5. **Updating the Trait Priority List:** Rich said the last time we did an update of the trait priority list was *(four)* years ago, so perhaps it is time to re-evaluate. The group discussed various traits, but it was suggested that we do a ranking based on points similar to what we did *(four)* years ago with the ability to add new items during this voting. Rich requested contact information on anyone else that should be added for this be sent in the next three weeks. David Francis asked if there will be a discussion to move things up or down after the voting and that standards be set for what is high/low. Others asked if there was a way to add a ranking (High, Medium and Low) as well which could help identify things that were High causing significant crop loss, little or no genetics available or deployed, etc. Watch for the email to vote to update the Trait Priority List.
6. **Crop Vulnerability Statement Progress:** Sam Hutton said he would send out a revised draft of the CVS because the group had worked on this and should consider working on this as a priority this year. Gary Kinard reiterated the request from the NPGS to have this document from our CGC. Joanne Labate stated this is in their new five year plan to get completed. However, both she and Gary stated that our CGC will probably not get any grant funds from NPGS if we don't have this completed.
7. **2018 TBRT:** David Francis sent out an email during this conference call with details on the next TBRT to be held in Wooster, OH April 4-6, 2018. Rich stated he planned to use April 5th (Thursday) night for a CGC meeting to work on the updated priority trait list and crop vulnerability statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted by B. E. Liedl