

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee
Minutes of 2/14/2003 Meeting
202 Kottman Hall, OSU, Columbus Ohio

Present: Mr. John Armstrong, Dr. Jim Beuerlein, Mr. Jack Debolt, Dr. Anne Dorrance, Mr. Ron Fioritto, Dr. David Francis, Dr. Ron Hammond, Dr. Pat Lipps, Dr. Ray Miller, Ms. Jane New, Dr. Rich Pratt, Dr. John Allred, Dr. Clay Sneller, Dr. Steve St. Martin, Dr. D. Miller (via phone from Wooster)

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair Ray Miller at 9:30 AM

Dr. Stephen Myers welcomed the group and thanked all for their work

Following a motion by R. Hammond, seconded by D. Francis, minutes from the 9/19/2002 meeting were unanimously approved

Updates

Dr. Allred updated the committee on several budget issues and use of CVRDC information in communicating with the legislature

Foundation Seed Report (Jack Debolt)

J. Debolt distributed a report on foundation soybean and oat seed sales and production. A steep decline in soybean seed sales and orders were noted. Decline was primarily attributed to rapid transition to proprietary Roundup Ready soybean sales. There remains a niche market for conventional soybeans. A. Dorrance asked if brown-bagging was hurting sales of Ohio FG1; J. Debolt responded that he did not think that was a problem, that other market issues were responsible. J. Debolt noted that there was some new interest in food grade soybean cultivars and possible opportunities for OSU. R. Miller asked about a projection for 2003 sales; J. Debolt responded that he expected 2003 sales to be lower than 2002, despite introduction of several new RR OSU lines (no 2003 sales record as of 2/14/2003). J. Debolt noted a slight increase in oat sales, but sees little continued growth in oats, even if a new variety were available.

Ohio Seed Improvement Association Report (J. Armstrong)

J. Armstrong reported that the OSIA web site has been updated and that the OSIA will hold a research meeting on 3/4/2003. He then distributed a copy of the federal register with language pertaining to field testing GMO crops. He noted that the seed certification industry has concerns about evolving crop standards especially as they pertain to GMO content. Noted an AOSCA agency move from using genetic purity to "varieta" purity terminology for future seed certification purposes. In addition, the Federal Seed and Grain Inspection service is currently developing an ISO 9000 based program to audit and verify the presence or absence of GMOs in exported seed and grain.

Office of Technology Licensing (OTL; J. New, R. Miller)

Ray Miller related that OTL has revised guidelines for invention disclosure which were distributed. J. New said the goal is to make the process easier. The status of patenting the Rps8 gene was then discussed. J. New said that two provisional applications had been filed. These will be combined to create one final application. Likely to be 18 months before the US patent office responds, and perhaps 2-3 years before a patent is issued. J. New said that OTL has received a 3-month report from Access Technologies regarding licensing of the Rps8. All 3-month goals had been met by Access Technologies, and three development agreements had been completed and fees collected.

Roundup Ready (RR) Royalties and Marketing (R. Miller)

Four RR OSU lines were approved for release to AGRA for branding during the 2/2002 meeting. No foundation seed sales to date. R. Miller requested CVRDC input on royalty rates and what should be the next step with AGRA on royalty collection and marketing. This agreement involves OSU, Monsanto, and AGRA. J. New requested a copy of the Monsanto-OSU agreement and will contact Monsanto representatives to verify. J. Debolt noted that most RR seed has a \$1.95-\$2.25 originator royalty. J. Debolt suggested that OSU's royalty be set lower, to entice sales, and to reflect that the yield potential of the OSU RR lines is "average". J. Beuerlein moved, seconded by J. Armstrong, that the CVRDC recommend that the originator royalty on the OSU RR releases be set \$1.00 per unit. R. Fioritto mentioned that better RR germplasm is under development for release in the near future. These higher quality lines could have royalty rates comparable to current market rates. After discussion centering on the value of the OSU germplasm and markets, the motion was passed.

Release of OH607 (R. Pratt)

R. Pratt presented a proposal to release OH607 as a germplasm line. The merit of OH607 resides primarily in its Gray Leaf Spot and Northern Leaf Blight resistance. Other traits and the tropical origin of OH607 were noted. R. Pratt noted that OH607 was not a commercial grade inbred, rather improved germplasm. J. Debolt moved, seconded by R. Hammond, that the CVRDC recommend that the Director's office approve the release of OH607 as a germplasm release. The motion was passed.

Proposal to market OSU soybean lines 'Kottman' and 'Darby' in Morocco and Turkey

Underwood Agribusiness Associates (UAA; Kennewick, WA) and Ruff's seed farms (RSF; Amanda, OH) have proposed to market 'Kottman' and 'Darby' in Morocco and Turkey. RSF would be the genetic supplier. RSF is already licenses to market 'Resnik' in Morocco. R. Miller read CVRDC guidelines on international release of OSU material. Discussion included: 1) The license request is for 'Kottman' and 'Darby' public soybeans released in 1999 and 1998, respectively. 2) Because these varieties are conventional and non-food grade, there is little Ohio or Midwest

production. A February 2003 report from Ohio Foundation Seeds shows that only 197 bags of 'Kottman' have been ordered for the 2003 growing season and no 'Darby' has been ordered. 3) RSF will export small quantities of Purple Stain-free seed to Morocco and Turkey, where the seed will be produced. Because of strict government policies regarding Purple Stain, all seed must be produced in the country of use (ie., cannot be imported from the US). All seed produced will be fore domestic production. 4) UAA will market the seed to soybean producers, who will receive the seed from their respective governments. 5) Most grain produced will be used domestically. Little will be exported; minimal quantities compared to exports from S. America. 6) OSU will receive a portion of royalties collected by UAA from seed sales.

D. Francis motioned, J. Allred amended, and R. Fioritto seconded a motion that the CVRDC recommend that the Director's office approve an agreement, as amended by the Office of Technology Licensing, between OARDC, UAA, and RSF to exclusively market 'Darby' and 'Kottman' soybean cultivars in Morocco and Turkey. The motion was passed.

J. Debolt mentioned that a grower in Nebraska had requested seed of two OSU lines for testing in Kyrgyzstan as part of a farmer-to-farmer program sponsored by the Winrock foundation (AR). Both lines are registered and seed should be supplied for research to any interested party. Advice was voiced that a Material Transfer Agreement should be obtained.

Release of HS98-3754 and HS98-3755 (S. St. Martin)

S. St. Martin presented a proposal for release of two OSU soybean lines suitable for the food grade market. Comparisons to 'Ohio FG1' and conventional checks were made. Improved yield relative to FG1 was noted as well as later maturity that should enhance seed quality. Partial resistance to Sclerotinia Stem Rot was also noted. Branded release to promote marker development while allowing naming the lines in a fashion that recognizes OSU was discussed. Discussion included: 1) previous release of 'Ohio FG3' as a public variety that shows few sales; 2) the importance of a single seed producer to work with the soy food industry to gain acceptance of the new varieties. D. Francis moved, seconded by J. Beuerlein, that the CVRDC recommend that the Director's office approve the release of HS98-3754 and HS98-3755 as branded varieties. The motion passed. J. Beuerlein moved, seconded by R. Pratt, that the CVRDC recommend that HS98-3754 be renamed 'Ohio FG4' and HS98-3755 be renamed 'Ohio FG5'. The motion passed.

Release of 'Shenandoah' Pear Cultivar (D. Miller from Wooster)

D. Miller presented a proposal for the joint release of 'Shenandoah' pear by the USDA-ARS and the OARDC. The history of the development of the cultivar and the cooperation of the USDA-ARS and OARDC were outlined. The cultivars has good horticultural traits, good winter hardiness, blooms later than Bartlett which is beneficial in Ohio, and has good resistance to Fire Blight, as well as other desirable traits. R.

Miller stated that CVRDC policy requires presentation of data and statistical analyses to support release. D. Miller related data over the phone to support release. A. Dorrance moved, and J. Beuerlein seconded, that the CVRDC recommend that the Director's office approve the joint release of 'Shenandoah' pear with the USDA-ARS. The motion passed.

Soybean Germplasm Update (R. Fioritto)

R Fioritto updated the CVRDC that OSU is developing new germplasm with the Rps8 gene. Marker data and progeny tests will be performed shortly to identify lines that are homozygous for Rps8. At that time, a germplasm release will be prepared so germplasm can be made available to soybean breeders this spring or summer. The CVRDC will need to evaluate the release data via email or phone.

R. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by C. Sneller.