

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee
Minutes of September 19, 2002 Meeting
123 Williams Hall, OARDC, Wooster

Present: Mr. John Armstrong, Dr. Jim Beuerlein, Dr. Dick Cooper, Mr. Jack Debolt, Dr. Ann Dorrance, Mr. Ron Fioritto, Dr. David Francis, Mr. William Gault, Dr. Ron Hammond, Dr. Dan Herms, Dr. Pat Lipps, Mr. Tim Mendiola, Dr. Ray Miller, Ms. Jane New, Dr. Rich Pratt, Ms. Lisa Rooney, Dr. Joe Scheerens, Dr. Steve Slack, Dr. Clay Sneller, Dr. Steve St.Martin.

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair Dr. Ray Miller at 9:30 A.M.

- Following a motion by Dr. Jim Beuerlein, seconded by Dr. Ron Hammond, minutes from the February 12, 2002, meeting were unanimously approved.

Updates (Dr. Ray Miller)

- Dr. Miller reviewed the CVRDC web-site and highlighted the website's features including previous meeting minutes, germplasm release history, links to other sites, and graphics where public releases are listed. He requested the group submit electronic versions of public release notices, and requested the group suggest any needed revisions or suggestions for links to e.g. OSIA. He requested organizations confirm current links at the site (oardc.ohio-state.edu/cvrdc/) (also linked at the OARDC Centernet homepage).

Foundation Seed Report (Mr. Jack Debolt)

- Mr. Debolt of Ohio Foundation Seeds distributed the report for Wheat Foundation Seed. Sales have decreased the last few years due to poor grain market prices, but now have leveled off. Hopewell still is the most popular public wheat variety in the region. Dr. Miller inquired about impact of out-of-state advertisements; Mr. Debolt responded there had not been much impact on new sales. Mr. Debolt indicated there was still demand for public wheat varieties, because producers desire lower cost and many keep their own seed.

Ohio Seed Improvement Association (Mr. John Armstrong)

- Mr. Armstrong reported that wheat seed sales are good. The Missouri Seed Improvement Assn. also has seen strong sales. All wheat seed acres in Ohio entered for inspection in 2002 declined by 7% versus 2001 levels.
- Despite a latent surge in mature soybean acres entered for field inspection at OSIA, acres for year 2002 declined by 18% versus year 2001 levels. Monsanto has waived field inspection requirements for Roundup Ready® soybean.
- AOSCA is developing uniform guidelines for all agencies including 3rd parties and has sponsored a new Identify Preserved (IP) manual (CRC Press). The organization is under review and moving to an international focus. Ag Canada is moving forward with "one stop" seed and grain IP process verification by providing associated services that can distinguish by varietal purity vs. genetic purity standards. In the U.S., the Federal seed branch is relocating to North Carolina, apparently related to biotech-bioterrorism issues. They are developing an audit system for a non-GMO grain market. European ministries are closing government seed

certifying organizations and moving to accreditation. A mechanical seed standards mandate was narrowly defeated. Four states in the U.S. are certifying only on genetic purity (OH is one). Change to “mechanical” would have been costly.

NC-7 Report (Dr. David Francis)

- Dr. Francis gave the report concerning NC-7 (the technical advisory committee for the Ames, IA, USDA/ARS Plant Introduction station) for maize, ornamentals, cucurbits, sunflower and woody ornamental germplasm. The committee toured the station and the committee’s report cited Dr. Pratt’s GEM development of GEMS:0002 maize germplasm inbred. The next meeting will be in Ohio.
- A process is underway to establish international norms how germplasm is exchanged through an international treaty. The U.S. is not a signator. The USDA is concerned if we don’t participate we won’t be allowed in discussions. The treaty is more political than scientific according to Dr. Peter Bretting at USDA. The committee wrote Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, requesting the U.S. take a position allowing maximum flexibility (sign now)-- no action required. Some countries require exemptions, so the treaty will probably be toothless if the only things left are those as yet undiscovered.
- Mr. Armstrong added the Ohio Agribusiness Assoc. supports international proprietary rights, brown-bag certification, and registration of custom seed cleaners. The U.S. has not signed off because nothing is in place to protect originators’ (breeders) rights. He noted that U.S. germplasm stations send 1/2 of the germplasm requests overseas.

Update on Royalty Collections, License Agreements and Provisional Patents (Ms. Jane New)

- Dr. Miller reminded the committee that the Rps-8 containing soybean germplasm release passed by an 11 to 1 vote. This happened after the February 12, 2002 meeting and was conducted by e-mail vote.
- Ms. New, Office for Technology Licensing, reported currently 14 out of 16 license and options agreements came out of the College of Food Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). In 1997 there were 3 invention disclosures (14% of university total). Royalties were \$147,000 (7% of the total university royalties). In 2002 there were 3 invention disclosures, 11% of total. Royalties attributable to the CFAES amounted to \$288,000; 36% of university, and 3 technique patents and 2 licenses.
- Negotiations with ACESS are on-going. They are close to signing off, and OTF will call for feedback on the agreement; it is essentially the same as that used for CYS-TEX.
- Ms. New indicated we now have 100% compliance on tomato licensing agreements. Organizations have paid back royalties. Dr. Francis inquired about disbursement. Ms. New indicated they are in process and she will follow-up; ongoing systems to monitor compliance have not been in place.
- Dr. Cooper inquired about how compliance is monitored at OSIA. Mr. Armstrong described the process at OSIA as being an honor system based on declaration; out-of-state oversight is at the mercy of other state agencies, audits are conducted when necessary. This is in contrast with the “trait stewardship” approach of Monsanto. Monsanto has done audits--they want everything tracked– names of all purchases, and planters must be reported.
- Dr. Miller asked OSU researchers about future products with possibilities for revenue

generation.

- > Dr. Dorrance gave an update on Rps-8 and indicated 4 isolates can overcome the PI source of the gene (out of 51).
- > Dr. Scheerens mentioned a pending strawberry release but a California parent in the parental cross may restrict patenting.
- > Dr. Herms reported on the status of the birch cultivar. Release has been held up by problems with asexual propagation. Dr. Dan Struve may help with propagation methods. The cultivar, with proposed name 'Secret Centennial' trademark was rejected.
- > Dr. Pratt described the nature of his program as being similar to David Francis program in some respects. He requested follow-up on a past patent with ICI Seeds concerning MCDV QTL mapping. An ongoing gray leaf spot QTL project with a South African parent is governed by an M.T.A. Concerns regarding cost - benefit analysis may not lead to patent protection.
- > Dr. Clay Sneller indicated a private company may wish to help develop a gene for disease resistance in Freedom wheat. He is sending sister lines of an OSU release to Canada (with MTAs) for possible variety approval.
- > Dr. Steve St. Martin has been approached regarding marketing soybeans in Morocco by Ruff seeds. They received an agreement several years ago (Resnick var.), but no export took place. Now requesting Kottman exclusive. He sent a bag of seed for testing.

Release of Soybean Germplasm (Dr. Richard Cooper)

- Dr. Cooper presented a proposal to release 10 breeding lines (semi-dwarf). He reviewed data and indicated release would add germplasm to working collection in Urbana and seed storage in Ft. Collins. Dr. Dorrance indicated she felt the release would be appropriate if Dr. Cooper would consider removing *P. infestans* data. Dr. Dorrance proposed a motion to accept proposal to release as public germplasm with removal of the column showing the *Phytophthora* response. Dr. Pratt seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Cooper discussed benefits of semi-dwarfs and the site-specific concept.

Release of Tomato Germplasm (Dr. David Francis)

- Dr. Francis proposed release of OX323 and OX325. The hybrids display good yield and fruit quality characteristics. He read testimonials from other evaluators. Both have good field holding capabilities and he proposed releasing both and letting the market sort out which they prefer. Dr. Francis indicated the following companies provided data from trials: Land O'Lakes (2), Furman Foods (1+ data), Red Gold (1), Seminis (1). He discussed potential release, royalties, etc..
- Dr. Hammond proposed a motion to release OX323 as a branded release; seconded by Dr. Cooper. Motion was unanimously approved.
- Dr. Hammond proposed a motion to release OH 325 as a branded release; Dr. Pratt seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Pratt mentioned the G.H. Stringfield Lectures and W.R. Findley Recognition dinner held recently. The group thanks Dr. Pratt for his leadership on this event.

A motion that the meeting be adjourned was made by Mr. Armstrong; seconded by Dr. Lipps. The meeting was adjourned 1:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dr. Richard Pratt.