

NRSP-6 (Potato Genebank) Technical Advisory Committee Meeting June 21, 2005

Committee Members Present: J. Bamberg, C. Brown, W. De Jong (Vice-Chair), D. Douches (Chair), C-Y. Hu, M. Martin, C. Miller (Secretary), A. Mosley, S. Reiling, S. Slack, D. Spooner, R. Tarn

Others Present: Isabel Vales, Jeannie Miller, Susana Rigato, Christian Thill, Solomon Yilma

1. D. Douches called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM. The meeting agenda was distributed, introductions were made, and announcements were invited. Genebank documents were available for printing on the NRSP-6 website prior to the meeting.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed. Miller moved that the majority of business be accomplished on 21 June. Motion seconded by Tarn and approved.
3. Minutes of the 2004 TAC meeting were approved with no changes.
4. The Resolutions Committee was appointed (C. Brown [Chair], R. Tarn, C. Thill).
5. S. Slack reported on general administrative developments and prospects for the project, FY06-10. He also summarized basic recommendations from the ESCOP (Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy) Germplasm Task Force.
 - **The NRSP Review Committee** makes preliminary recommendations annually. Additionally, an external review takes place at the five-year rewrite interval. Responses to the Committee's recommendations are due June 24. Final decision will be made at the full meeting of the Experiment Station Section (ESS) in late September. NRSP-6 project has been recommended for approval for five years, at \$150,000 for FY '06 and decreasing to \$50,000/YR for years four and five. The NRSP germplasm groups are NRSP-6 and NRSP-5 (virus-free fruit trees). A coordinating committee representing ARS, CSREES, and ESCOP has been recommended to be established by an ESCOP Task Force; the Task Force report will be considered for approval at the ESS meeting as well. Miller inquired as to the composition of the committee. Slack indicated that there would be representation from each group, if the ESS approves the recommendation and ARS and CSREES are supportive, but couldn't presume specifics. Miller suggested that a representative from NRSP-6 (i.e., someone sympathetic to potatoes) should be included on the coordinating committee.
 - Extensive discussion followed. The Coordinating Committee would not impact operations of NRSP-6, except presumably through budget recommendations, – it would be more of a policy group on germplasm in the country and how it is coordinated across species. The assault on Hatch funds and the consequences of

their potential elimination were also discussed. Loss of Hatch funds would be devastating for long-term research such as public plant breeding programs. The importance of carefully constructed impact statements which can be easily understood by policy makers and consumers was underscored. The importance of educating the National Potato Council of the activities of NRSP-6 and its impact on the US potato industry was emphasized. Bamberg has been invited to make a presentation to the NPC Seed Seminar in December, where he will further educate this group on NRSP-6 activities. Douches suggested that articles in popular publications such as *Spudman*, *Potato Grower*, and *Potato Country* could be used to increase grower awareness and gain support. Slack is to contact John Keeling of the National Potato Council to invite representation by this body at the NRSP-6 annual meetings.

- Slack agreed to draft a response to the NRSP Review Committee recommendations for NRSP-6:

“The recommendation to renew NRSP-6 is appreciated, especially the recognition that NRSP-6 is meeting a critical genetic resource need nationally and internationally. Representation via Appendix E has been largely addressed and stakeholder communications will be directly addressed in annual reports, etc. We recognize the concern regarding the use of off-the-top funds as a support mechanism, independent of the quality and need for the NRSP-6 mission, and therefore feel that the acceptance and implementation of the ESCOP Task Force on Germplasm report is very important. NRSP-6 is quite concerned about the proposed reduction of funds for the next five-year period, but will work with all concerned funding entities to address program and user needs and direction in the funding period covered.”

Mosley moved and Miller seconded the acceptance of the response. Motion passed.

6. No additional comments from Regional Administrative Advisors (Reiling, Westerman, Hu).
7. Regional and ARS Tech Reports were presented by Brown, DeJong, Miller, Douches, and Mosley (see attached reports). It was evident that NRSP-6 germplasm plays a critical role in supporting potato research throughout the US, and that hobbyists, gardeners, and other consumers also benefit greatly from easy access to this material. The North Central Region is the biggest user of NRSP-6 material.
8. Tarn reported on Agriculture and Agrifoods Canada (report attached). Replacement for Dermot Lynch who retired at Lethbridge has been completed. The technical aspects of moving germplasm into Canada were discussed.

9. Genebank progress overview for 2004 – to the present was presented by Bamberg, Martin, and Spooner (reports attached). Spooner presented a complete report of his extensive research activities, which included a very productive stay at CIP. CIP officials were very cooperative in providing manpower and facilities for conducting his research. The political situation in South America is still preventing collection of additional materials. Spooner has concluded that European potatoes originated in Chile rather than Peru. He is Secretary of the Botanical Association of America, and is coordinating the meetings of three Solanaceae groups in Madison July 23 – 27, 2006. Bamberg provided an overview of genebank activities, including research and development which he believes are the core functions. This documentation adds value to the collection, resulting in greater service to stakeholders. Bamberg elaborated on budget items related to NRSP-6. **Slack is to contact Peter Bretting for clarification of NRSP-6-related items, including the new funding received by Madison, and how these funds are related to the reduction in off-the-top funding from the state experiment stations.**
- 10-14. Bretting's report from USDA, ARS NPGS NPL was distributed. No reports were received from: USDA, ARS potato NPL (Cameron); USDA, ARS Midwest Area; CSREES rep comments (Thro); APHIS and quarantine rep comments (Levy), as these entities were not represented at the meeting.

Afternoon, Tues June 21

15. Mosley and staff presented an overview of the Oregon State University breeding program, followed by an extensive tour of laboratory, greenhouse, and field facilities and research plots.

Reconvened at 4:30

- 16-17. Secretary Miller reviewed most important points from the morning session which centered on the TAC's response to the NRSP Review Committee report. **Miller moved and Mosley seconded that Slack contact the NPC and enlist their support in identifying a representative of their choice to attend NRSP-6 meetings. Motion passed.** *Slack contacted John Keeling after the meeting, and Keeling recommended Don Sklarczyk of Johannesburg, MI to represent NPC on NRSP-6; Slack spoke to Sklarczyk and he has agreed to serve in this capacity (this would essentially be a voting technical representative).* A number of questions related to NRSP-6 cannot be resolved until future meetings of ESCOP/ESS are held. Spooner noted that Jack Hawke's 90th birthday was approaching, and provided a birthday card for all to sign.
18. Resolutions: the following motions were submitted by the Resolutions Committee and were unanimously approved in spirit:
- Whereas Dr. Alvin Mosley of Oregon State University has been an enthusiastic supporter of the NRSP-6 program for the entire tenure of his membership on the Technical Advisory Committee; and

Whereas, Dr. Mosley has provided leadership and a vision for the NRSP-6 program throughout the years; and

Whereas, Dr. Mosley has been an avid believer in the value of incorporation of new genetic variation in the potato breeding pool; and

Whereas Dr. Mosley has prolifically selected new named varieties with arrays of new traits needed by the industry; and

Whereas Dr. Mosley has promoted teamwork in his own institution and has modeled this teamwork by extensive sharing of resources; and

Whereas Dr. Mosley has presided over the creation of a statewide multi-location potato breeding program during his career at Oregon State University; and

Whereas he leaves this program with tremendous promise for the future upon his retirement; and

Whereas the potato breeding program at Oregon State University is another user of potato germplasm curated by the NRSP-6 program;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Technical Advisory Committee expresses extreme gratitude for his accomplishments, level-headed guidance and unflinching support over the years and wishes him every happiness and many years of good health in his post-retirement years.

- Whereas Jack Hawkes has made many taxonomic and germplasm contributions to the US potato genebank; and

Whereas he has had a long association with the potato genebank starting in 1958 and continuing through nine subsequent visits with the last in 1989; and

Whereas 470 of his collections account for about 10% of the current genebank seed population holdings with many additional stocks indirectly attributable to his efforts, ; and

Whereas the taxonomy used to organize and document the accessions for the past 55 years is, in large part, his creation; and

Whereas he has been a key participant in the potato inter-genebank association (APIC) including its inaugural meeting at Sturgeon Bay in 1991 and a subsequent meeting at the Vavilov Institute (VIR), St. Petersburg, Russia in 1994; and

Whereas on June 27, 2005 he celebrates his 90th birthday;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Technical Advisory Committee of the US Potato Genebank (NRSP-6, formerly IR-1), on behalf of all involved in the project, hereby recognizes Jack Hawkes for these many and outstanding contributions to the project, sends him warm and heartfelt greetings for his 90th birthday celebration, and wishes him health and happiness in the years ahead.

- Whereas, Dr. Alvin Mosley and his staff hosted the 2005 meeting of the NRSP-6 in Corvallis, Oregon, June 21-22; and

Whereas, the Oregon Potato Breeding Program staff arranged the excellent meeting facilities, refreshments and accommodations; and

Whereas, the Oregon Potato Breeding Program staff arranged a tour of their research facilities, and the Committee is most appreciative of the dinner and social events arranged;

Therefore, be it resolved that the NRSP-6 TAC express sincere thanks to the staff for arranging a highly successful and productive meeting.

- Whereas, Dr. Jeannie Miller, guest of NRSP-6, took, prepared, and forwarded minutes of the 2005 NRSP-6 meeting;

Therefore, be it resolved that members of the NRSP-6 TAC express sincere appreciation to Jeannie for her dedicated efforts.

19. Executives for coming year:

Secretary: C. Brown
Vice-Chair: C. Miller
Chair: W. De Jong

20. Venue for 2006: Ames, Iowa – precise site TBA. First week of June.

21. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM. Small, informal participant meetings were held on Wednesday morning, 22 June.

NOTE: Copies of reports mentioned in the minutes can be obtained from John Bamberg at nr6jb@ars-grin.gov or (920) 743-5406.