

Minutes of the NRSP-6 TAC Committee June 6, 2006

Attendees

C. Y. Hu (Western Rep), Walter De Jong (Northeast), Max Martin, Steve Slack, Don Sklarczyk Gary Kinard, John Bamberg, Dave Spooner, Creighton Miller Southern), Jr., Steve Reilling , Murali Bandla,

John Bamberg made a presentation to National Potato Council in the past year.

Jorge “Coco” Abad will replace Suzanne Hurtt shortly.

Jeff Stark was selected to be the Western Rep, but declined in the end. Many members assumed that Isabel Vales was the rep. The West goes unrepresented this time.

Richard Guthrie will be representing the Southern Region as AA.

Agenda approved

Last year’s minutes approved

Resolution Committee established

Chuck Brown, Creighton Miller

Dave Spooner

Listed Projects and activities which are also in the report. Reciprocity issue for collecting is still not resolved. Nobody is collecting in Andean Countries.

Discussed single point of origin of potato from Northern Brevicaule complex. This means that the ancestry of all cultivated potato is from this source.

Subcontinent Indian landraces are of Chilean origin.

Domingo Ríos is in Tenerife and in charge of the Canaries potato germplasm.

Mexican landraces are recent based on lack of linguistic, archaeological, written records.

We discussed the ownership debates over germplasm with no new conclusions.

John Bamberg discussed his report.

The monthly reports were discussed and most members indicated that were informative.

Collecting: considering whether we should put more effort into collecting in hard to reach places.

Max Martin is in charge of disease abatement. PSTV. They use Agdia to test for it.

PSTV material might be better discarded.

Materials that come from off-station should be grown off-site first, particularly in regard to PSTV.

Jesse Schartner is engaged in germination research. Apomictic phenomena are being studied as well .

Late fruit maturation is an occasional issue. Fruit remains small with corolla attached.

Evaluation: Goal is to make tools and opportunities for other researchers. Mutants. Nutritional issues. Anti-cancer factors, antioxidants, potassium. In other words, promote the good things about potato.

Frost resistance. Finishing that project. Sharing with CIP colleagues.

Developmental mutants. One example is development of sepals instead of the flower. Might be useful as a tool for studying floral developing.

Tuber pH in exotic species is a project. Effects on disease resistance, processing quality.

Solanum microdontum was chosen as a taxon for multiplexing study.

Use of neutral markers may not be the best markers to use. Sequence related to function will displace this in the future.

Is it hypothetically possible that a bioinformaticist should be functioning in collaboration with vast sequence resources.

For instance, determining the sequence of genes important in carbohydrate metabolism.

A discussion of the acceptance of transgenics ensued. No one seems to know how transgenic potato will become acceptable in North America, but it is on track for commercialization in India and China.

2005 was high point with a total of 20,000 units distributed.

Association of potato intergenebank collaborators (APIC) initiatives. John Bamberg traveled to CIP to reinvigorate this activity.

Walter De Jong reported on Northeast Region see Annual report.

Creighton Miller reported on Southern Region see Annual report.

We discussed the value of $4x-2x$ crosses that were originally seen as a means of inserting wild species genes into tetraploid germplasm.

$4x-2x$ crosses have fallen by the wayside due to the difficulty of obtaining several combined traits and a high rate of $2n$ pollen production combined with fecundity.

Steve Slack made several comments on administrative matters.

Should we allow visitor participants at the meeting without them having official function.

One of the issues is who pays for it. The experiment station directors may not pay for official delegates or visitors.

There is an effort to remove formula funds and make them national competitive funds. As projects end the money will be siphoned into a competitive grant system. Multistate projects would go from 25% to 50% and become competitively funded.

House has indicated its support not to change the system. How many cycles will it have to go through before it is lost. Agricultural funding has not had an increase in twenty years.

NIH has a big hook to hang things on. Like Cancer.

Ag Research has many agendas with many groups pitching their topic of interest.

Don Sklarczyk reported on the history of the NPC and NPPB.

The National Potato Council has John Keeling and two staff members. Growers are all volunteer based made up of five vice presidents. The organization is heavily dependent on grower volunteers.

Levies to support these organization are 1.5 cents and 2.0 cents for NPC and NPPB, respectively. NPC seeks funds from other sources. Friends of the Industry. NPC can get grants. Du Pont supplies \$10 k per year. Very active group. Make sure that committees are very active.

NPC tries to provide one voice for the potato industry. John has interacted on the new farm bill. Specialty crops group was formed. Cohesive voice for specialty crops in the new farm bill. Would like to see funding equity 50% comes from specialty crops and only 3% of farm payments comes back. Like to see more money to come back into development and research programs.

NPPB has to make sure that anything they do is not construed as lobbying because they are under federal oversight.

Budget Talk

The reduction of funding means that there will be a conversion of personnel to Federal employment. Also the manner in which funding will be offset by federal funds is unscheduled.

Removing employees from state positions means they are terminated from that position, and placement in a federal appointment means that they start a new job. There is no way to make all forms of remuneration equivalent. NRSP-6 funding of travel costs may need to be reduced. It is never in the budget.

Meeting in Sturgeon Bay in 2007. June 19 and 20. Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dave Douches was elected secretary for 2007.

Secretary's Review

1. Advocate that NRSP-6 study the possible change in activities (additional activities) in relation to the availability of extensive sequence once the potato genome is fully sequenced.
2. Description of single point of origin research lead to clarification of implications for germplasm workers.
3. Whether potato in higher latitudes comes from Andes or Southern Chile is still an active area of debate. There are implications on germplasm improvement.
4. Discussion of what to do with PSTV infected material.
5. Discussion of retirement of Suzanne Hurtt and accession to the position of Jorge Abad.
6. NPC and NPPB are important organizations that do a lot with small number of staff. We are grateful that they do that.
7. Emphasize that Quarantine servicing of potato germplasm needs is good, and in vitro introduction immediately and clean up service and facilitated a number of research goals. We would like Jorge Abad to come to our meetings
8. Budget discussions center on how to adjust to funding reductions that may or may not be made up for by ARS increases.

Resolution:

Whereas the NRSP-6 committee enjoyed wonderful hospitality and facilities; and

Whereas Candice Gardner was an exemplary host; and

Whereas all participants learned a great deal and was able to impart knowledge in a comfortable and beautiful setting; and

Whereas the tour of facilities was well-organized and technically rich; and

Whereas the staff that carries out the research and curatorial activities does an outstanding job; and

Whereas David Spooner is a pre-eminent world authority on potato taxonomy and John Bamberg is an outstanding researcher and curator of North America's Potato Germplasm Collection; and

Whereas Bob Westerman served as Administrative Advisor from the Southern

Be it hereby resolved

That TAC expresses its gratitude and sincere appreciation to all these individuals.

A motion "That the national potato council representative be an official voting member of the TAC." By Creighton Miller seconded by Walter De Jong. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Brown
Secretary 2006