

NRSP-6 TAC 2007 MINUTES

Peninsular Agricultural Research Station (PARS)
U.S. Potato Genebank (USPG)
Sturgeon Bay, WI
June 21, 2007

Creighton Miller, Chair, NRSP-6 TAC '07.
Chuck Brown, Vice Chair, NRSP-6 TAC '07 (absent)
David Douches, Secretary, NRSP-6 TAC '07 (absent); Isabel Vales acted as Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

Attendance

Attendance was poor this year due to budget constrains, travel cancellations and/or conflicts with other responsibilities.

Present: Ed Ashworth, John Bamberg, C. Y. Hu, Molly Jahn, Max Martin, Creighton Miller, Jiwan Palta, Phil Simon, Richard Tarn, Christian Thill, Gail Wisler, Isabel Vales

Absent: Chuck Brown, David Douches, Shelley Jansky, David Spooner, CSREES and APHIS not represented.

Morning Session

Preliminaries:

1. Welcome, introductions, announcements, distribution of documents
2. The 2007 agenda was distributed. No additions were made and the agenda was approved.
3. The 2006 minutes were distributed. Only a small modification was made: Learned that Hu is both Lead Administrative Advisor to NRSP-6 and Western Region Administrative Advisor. The minutes were approved as distributed. Isabel Vales moved acceptance and Creighton Miller seconded.
4. A Resolutions Committee was appointed by Miller, with by C.Y. Hu as Chair.

Pressing Issues:

- Interaction with CIP
 - o Getting materials was resolved
 - o APHIS/Quarantine problems have been resolved
- Personnel issues – quick overview
- Budgets. Where are we? What are the future plans?

Tour:

A tour of the USPG and PARS facilities (laboratories, greenhouse and field) started at 8:35 a.m. A handout with the names of staff members was distributed:

- Bamberg, ARS Lead Scientist and NRSP-6 Project Leader
- Martin, UW Academic Staff and NRSP-6 Project Assistant
- Stoneman, ARS Technician
- Schartner, ARS Technician
- Fernandez, UW Classified
- Del Rio, UW Academic Staff
- Temporary Workers and Students
- Associated Professional Staff:
 - David Spooner: ARS Taxonomist, Collector and Herbarium Manager
 - Shelley Jansky: ARS, germplasm evaluator and enhancer
 - Phil Simon: ARS Research Leader
 - Jiwan Palta: Formal Cooperative Agreement, research & U.WI Breeder

Afternoon Session

(Reports and Comments)

Coordination of Genebanks/Intergene Bank - John Bamberg

- In 1970s, CIP suggested cooperation.
- In the 1990s, linkages between banks were established, and there was a coordination of holdings. There has been little activity during the past few years.
- In 2005 there was a resurrection of global diversity.
- Collaborations continue with the CIP and German/Dutch potato collections. Some projects involve in situ work – collections and surveys are important.
- A cooperative agreement with CIP to have student exchanges would be good, and this is in the works.
- Important aspects related to coordination of Genebanks are to avoid duplication and to foster interaction and information sharing.

5/6. Report from Lead Administrative Advisor to NRSP-6 – C.Y. Hu

- Hu will host the Western Regional meeting in Hawaii in March.
- Four centers hold germplasm in addition to NRSP-5 and NRSP-6
 - Geneva, NY
 - Experiment, GA
 - Ames, IA
 - Pullman, WA
- Funding for the four above mentioned centers is regional.
- NRSP-6 funding comes from the federal level. NRSP-6 funding is evaluated by the National Germplasm Review Committee. The recommendations are to restore funds at the 05-06 level (\$150,000). Funding for NRSP6 is on the agenda for the July regional meeting. Funding depends on voting which will take place in September.

Ching Yuan Hu, Ph.D. (7/20/07) – written report:

The NRSP Review Committee met on June 6, 2007 in Kansas City to discuss NRSP budget proposals. Committee members present were Lee Sommers (CO), Chair and W

rep; Marshall Martin (IN), NC rep; Bill Vinson (WV), NE rep; Craig Nessler (VA), S rep; Al Parks (Prairie View A&M), ARD rep; Larry Miller, CSREES rep; Eric Young, S Executive Director; Mike Harrington, W Executive Director; and , Don Latham (IA), Stakeholder rep.

During the Western Directors Joint Summer Meeting (July 16-18), Lee Sommers made a presentation on NRSP budget recommendations which the committee will be submitting to the Experiment Station Section at its September annual meeting in Philadelphia. The following is an excerpt from Lee's report on NRSP6:

“NRSP-6. Inter-Regional Potato Introduction Project. The amount requested for FY08 was \$110,000. This project is an essential component of the National Plant Germplasm System, and the funding request is consistent with maintaining ongoing support from the SAES for the project. Motion by Nessler to accept budget request. Second by Latham. Motion passed”.

I anticipate the NRSP Review Committee recommendations will be approved by the directors attending the ESS meeting. I spoke to Lee about NRSP6 budget request this morning. He indicated it is too late to make a request to change our budget proposal; but suggested us to submit a budget next year at the level of 2006 funding (\$150K). I will work with John to prepare FY09 NRSP-6 budget proposal in January.

Issues to discuss: recover some costs (for example shipping and handling). Probably not necessary. Recipients pay for shipping if a fast delivery is requested. Shipping and handling costs will be difficult to manage through the USDA-ARS system.

Molly Jahn, Dean of the WI College of Agriculture, should be the Lead Administrative Advisor for this group, but since she is new to the group, Hu agreed to remain as the Lead AA for two more years.

11. Budget Report and Outlook - Bamberg

- From the Director's office: USDA does not have a budget for 2007.
- The presidents' budget does not include special grants. Special grants CSREES disappeared, which was a major setback for participating states. \$160 mill. moved into formula funds (Hatch funds)
- Now working on a new appropriation bill, farm bill
- Congress wants to move formula funds into multi-state competitive research.
- New initiative: CREATE 21 (Creative Research and Teaching)
- Special grants will not go away, but the Chair of the House Committee can reduce them. For next year, they'll reduce them to half. This will be discussed in September.

9. Additional Genebank Staff and Resources Report— John Bamberg and Jiwan Palta

- Funding looks good. It will probably go back to the \$150,000 level.
- The Dept. of Horticulture will reduce FTE by 1/3. The general feeling was that the interactions and synergy between USDA-ARS researchers and the university has been excellent, and it will be sad to see it decline due to budgetary issues.
- Some money was received at the end of the year and will continue at the same level.

- Annual report can be downloaded from the Web.

Introductions – stocks from the SW

B classification – Spooner was appointed to head collection and classification

Preservation – Virus PSTV

Part B. Evaluation

International collaborations

Nutrition

Tools – Germplasm, mutants

Alfonso del Rio – diversity impact

E. Distribution of materials: normal year

F. Visitors from China, from media

Useful findings – There are lots of potato varieties with exotic germplasm

Section 5. Continue

Section 6. Publications. Note: publications should be requested from collaborations/germplasm recipients

Set up parameters, metrics will be useful to reflect damage if funding is disrupted.

Formal Cooperative Agreements - Jiwan Palta

- Cooperative studies resulted in 2 NRI grants funded and training of several students.
- Research Topics: Cold tolerance and acclimation from biochemical and genetic perspectives
- Cooperative agreement under way to study GA and tuberization, tuber acidity, P, genetics of tuber calcium and carbosypeptidase acidity.
- Cooperation with CIP – trips

10. Collections and Taxonomy – John Bamberg

- CIP trips – able to collect again
- There are prospects about collecting in Peru.
- Engaging and showing benefit sharing are important

12/13. USDA, ARS Potato NPL – Gail Wisler

- Grants from USDA, ARS, and NPC resolved.
- The idea of expanding membership to include more breeders and the private sector was positively received.
- Potato cyst nematode discussion

8. Agriculture/Agrifood Canada. - Richard Tarn

- Richard is the PI for the potato breeding program.
- Participated in Canada Plant Resources Project. 132 accessions: 54 Canadian bred varieties. Working closely with seeds of diversity. They identified heirloom varieties of importance.
- Standard clones used in pathology as disease resistance checks
- Breeding lines of importance

- An annual newsletter is prepared. Check the web page 'Potato Research Center'

GRINCA: Canadian version of GRIN

45 requests (511 units)

Most materials are in vitro

Personal information should not be disclosed

Official minutes should contain a synthesis of the reports

Technical reports are for internal communication and follow mission aspects

7. Regional and ARS Tech. Rep. Reports (posted on Genebank web site)

Western Region: Isabel Vales

Southern Region: Creighton Miller

North Central Region: Christian Thill

National Program Staff Report: Gail Wisler

Canada: Richard Tarn

Statistics

Report status of orders/research

Needs/advise

16. Review and Approve Resolutions. Chris Thill moved to approve and Tarn seconded. Motion passed.

17. Elect New Officers and Set next Meeting date

Chuck Brown, Vice Chair to Chair in 2008

David Douches, Secretary to Vice Chair in 2008

Isabel Vales, Acting Secretary to Secretary in 2008

Christian Thill moved to approve and Palta seconded. Motion passed.

2008 location: Cornell. Thill moved acceptance of meeting location and Gail seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Resolutions:

Resolution #1.

WHEREAS, Dr. Steven Slack served as North Central Region Administrative Advisor and the Lead Administrative Advisor to the NRSP-6 Potato Germplasm Project; and

WHEREAS, he conscientiously provided liaison between the project and the USDA/NC Regional Association, as well as Experiment Station Section; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that NRSP-6 TAC expresses highest appreciation for Dr. Slack's leadership and many contributions to the NRSP-6 and the development and use of potato species, and be it further

RESOLVED, that an original of this resolution be provided to Dr. Steven Slack, and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Resolution #2.

WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Reiling served as Northeast Region Administrative Advisor to the NRSP-6 Potato Germplasm Project; and

WHEREAS, he conscientiously provided liaison between the project and the USDA/NE Regional Director's Association, be it

RESOLVED, that NRSP-6 TAC expresses highest appreciation for Dr. Reiling's leadership and many contributions to the NRSP-6 and the development and use of potato species, and be it further

RESOLVED, that an original of this resolution be provided to Dr. Steve Reiling, and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Resolution #3.

WHEREAS, the NRSP-6 TAC met at the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, Sturgeon By, WI, June 21-22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, those attending were educated and stimulated by meetings and the station tour; and

WHEREAS, the location for the meeting was outstanding and the accommodations were both compatible and conducive to effective interaction resulting in a successful meeting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the NRSP-6 TAC expresses its appreciation to Dr. John Bamberg and Mr. Max Martin for arranging the facilities and coordinating the meeting and the station tour, and be it further

RESOLVED, that an original of this resolution be provided to Dr. John Bamberg and that a copy be filed as part of the official minutes of this meeting.