

IR-1 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Lubbock, Texas

June 19, 1990

1990

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pavék at 8:20 AM, Tuesday, June 19, 1990.

Those in attendance:

IR-1 Project:

J.B. Bamberg
M.W. Martin

IR-1 Technical Committee:

F.I. Lauer
J.C. Miller, Jr.
A.R. Mosley
J.J. Pavék
R.L. Plaisted

IR-1 SAES Administrative Advisors

R.L. Lower
V.V. Volk
D. Smith

USDA/CSRS

D.R. Tompkins

USDA/APHIS

A.T. Tschanz

Industry Rep. to CAC

R.W. Hoopes

The minutes of the 1989 meeting were distributed. Revisions of the early draft were discussed. Lauer moved and Miller seconded the minutes be approved. Carried.

Reports from regional directors: Dudley Smith commented for the Southern region, Van Volk for the Western directors, and Richard Lower reported for North Central region. Each presented a summary of how IR-1 concerns are handled within their regions.

Lower also reported as IR-1 Administrative Advisor. The Committee of Nine has approved a budget of \$139,288 for FY 91, a slight reduction from the amount requested. He distributed a draft of the National Research Support Project, titled "Plant Genetic Resources". This NRSP includes IR-1, IR-2, W-006, NE-009, S-009, and NC-007. If this is approved by the Committee of Nine and Experiment Station Directors, it will be the framework for IR-1 administration. The goal is summarized as follows: A national research support project provides a framework for national coordination. An overall goal of national projects (as opposed to regional projects) is to provide a mechanism for obtaining secure, ongoing funding, in this case, for the plant genetic resources program. IR-1 may be the first of the six projects to come under this NRSP. All of these germplasm

collections would receive off-the-top funding from CSRS as is now the case only with IR projects.

Lower also reported on information he had received from Henry Shands for the NPGP system. A copy is attached to the minutes on file.

He also reported on the National Plant Genetic Resources Board activities. Funding, coordination, graduate training, patenting, vulnerability of collections, and germplasm exchange are topics being considered.

He commented on procedures under consideration for evaluation of genetically engineered material.

Dan Tompkins gave an overall view of budgets for the CSRS system and the National Research Initiative. The plant genome project was discussed.

Arnold Tschanz reported on APHIS organization and activities as they interact with IR-1 activities. He described the system for the introduction of potato germplasm and the interplay between APHIS and ARS in this activity.

Plaisted moved and Lauer seconded that Dr. Tschanz be encouraged to regularly attend the IR-1 meeting to represent APHIS in order to enhance communication with that agency. Carried.

The reports from the Regional Technical Representatives were presented. The Southern Region report was presented by Creighton Miller. Programs covered were those in Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Texas. He presented an overview of the Texas potato program as background for the Wednesday tour.

Plaisted reported on use of IR-1 stocks in the N.E. (copy attached).

Lauer distributed a summary of NC use of IR-1 stocks based extensively on the NCR 84 reports (copy attached).

Pavek distributed a report from Chuck Brown, commented on Mark Martin's activities and summarized his own research. Mosley followed with a discussion of activity in California, Colorado, and Oregon.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 1:00.

John Bamberg presented the report for the IR-1 project. He presented the personnel changes since the last meeting. The present array is part of personnel section of the attached report. The changes of John Bamberg to project leader and Max Martin to Admin. Project Assistant are the more significant changes. Other changes of significance are the move of the tissue culture maintenance to Sturgeon Bay, improvements in greenhouses, potting facilities, and seed storages.

After a discussion about a location for a backup storage of the collection, Lauer moved that the backup samples be stored at Madison. Miller seconded the motion. Carried.

There was a discussion of limitations on sending tubes of named varieties to persons who are not using them for research purposes. No policy guideline was forthcoming.

The problem of preserving the germplasm of single-genotype diploid PI's was presented. Lauer moved that the project bulk pollinate these PI's that are presently maintained as

clones. Carried. See the last paragraph on page 3 of the IR-1 report for greater detail of the situation and solution.

Miller moved that IR-1 provide \$500 as partial support for Ronald vanden Berg's services as a taxonomist this summer. Carried.

Mosley moved that the IR-1 committee strongly endorse Bamberg's proposal to convert the collection of foreign varieties to true seed to the extent possible. Carried.

Other proposals presented by Bamberg and approved by the committee are the following:

1. Cryopreservation of potato seeds by NSSL.
2. Request to PIO that no potato imports be assigned PI numbers until requested by IR-1. This will allow the Committee to pass judgement on all potential additions to the Collection.
3. Prioritization of virus elimination by Quarantine should be as follows: 1) unique wild collections, 2) clones imported by IR-1, 3) varieties, etc. imported by others.
4. IR-1 should not assume responsibility for maintenance of "curiosity" cultivars, eg odd shapes, colors, when the traits of interest are already present in the collection. Staff should refer requester to appropriate retail sources.
5. In the future, the publications section of the Annual Report will document relevant papers abstracted by CAB Potato Abstracts during its publication year. This will avoid the great amount of work needed to manually search research journals.
6. Any residual '90 funds should be used to improve the screenhouses, soil making system, or other priority operational needs of the Project.

Dudley Smith moved that the committee approve Bamberg's priority for bringing the GRIN records up to date, then decide whether to prepare a published revision of the catalog or prepare periodic addenda or photocopied updates. Carried.

Bamberg announced Jean Smejkal's and Margaret DeVaults's retirements the end of June 1990.

There was a discussion of the procedures followed in the introduction of tubers obtained during collection expeditions. The merits of early introduction into *in vitro* maintenance were considered. John Bamberg, Arnie Tschanz and the ARS representative responsible for the virus indexing and clean-up were encouraged to meet and to discuss the alternative procedures that might be followed. The limitations at ARS for numbers of clones that can be handled each year and their implications for expedition introductions were discussed.

The matter of inter-gene bank collaboration was considered and discussed at length. The matter of IR-1 maintenance of items which are not available for distribution - such as other gene bank accessions or U.S. protected varieties - was included in the discussion. The IR-1 policy of not maintaining such items was restated. Bamberg will prepare a draft of the Committee's responses to the collaboration proposal and send it to Dr. Shands and the Committee for approval before sending it to Huaman.

Dr. Tschanz explained his role at APHIS, the ARS role in virus detection and eradication, and the interaction of these two with IR-1 activity. Bamberg presented a priority of items needing virus "clean-up". This priority is presented in his letter of March 29, 1990 to Suzanne Hurtt (attached).

John Helgeson had requested that IR-1 distribute his fusion hybrids. The Committee approved only of such indirect help as making the IR-1 mailing list available.

Bamberg presented budget recommendations for 1992 and discussed changes in detail. Mosley moved that the proposed 1992 budget of \$152,355 be approved, including the specific items listed in the footnotes, such as the need for the vehicle and soil handling equipment. Seconded by Lauer. Carried. The 1990 expenditures were projected. Bamberg was complimented for his management of the project.

The Resolutions Committee report was given by Dudley Smith. He moved the following:

1. Whereas the National Research Support Project has been through several drafts and administrative discussion, and appears to have merits, the IR-1 Technical Committee at its 1990 meeting whole heartedly supports the concept and would look forward to participating in the NRSP program.
2. Whereas Creighton Miller, Doug Smallwood, and their staff provided excellent hospitality, an informative tour, and local arrangements for the annual meeting, the IR-1 project expresses its appreciation for their efforts.
3. Whereas Jean E. Smejkal has provided over 35 years of dedicated service to the Interregional Potato Introduction Station and has provided numerous innovations in the maintenance, distribution, and use of potato germplasm, both nationally and internationally; the IR-1 Technical Committee at its 1990 meeting commends her and extends appreciation for her many contributions. Furthermore, the IR-1 project wishes her a long and successful retirement.

All resolutions were carried with special commentary from the IR-1 project personnel about Jean Smejkal's contributions.

Lauer moved that Mosley be nominated secretary, that Plaisted become Vice Chairman, and Miller become Chairman. Seconded and Carried.

It was agreed to meet in 1991 at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin during the first two weeks of August.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 PM.

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