

Minutes of the meeting of the W-150 Regional project Genetic Improvement of Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) for yield, Diseases Resistance, and Food Value

Holiday Inn
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
February 22 and 23, 2003

A. Registration and Introduction: 8:30 to 9:00AM.

Meeting at TARS-Mayaguez convened at 9:00AM on 02/22/03. W-150 and PCGC meetings on February 22 were held at the Isabela Station of the University of Puerto Rico.

Attendance:

1. Jim Beaver, University of Puerto Rico
2. Mark A. Brick, Colorado State University
3. Feiko H. Ferwerda, University of Puerto Rico
4. Margarita Fewerda-Licha, USDA-ARS, Puerto Rico
5. Ken Grafton, North Dakota State University
6. Phillip Griffiths, NYSAES, Cornell University
7. An N. Hang, Washington State University, Prosser
8. James D. Kelly, Michigan State University
9. Jim Myers, Oregon State University
10. Jim Nienhuis, University of Wisconsin
11. Juan Manuel Osorno, University of Puerto Rico
12. Marcial A. Pastor-Corrales (Talo), USDA-ARS, Beltsville
13. Shree Singh, University of Idaho, Kimberly
14. Jim Steadman, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
15. Dan Wahlquist, Syngenta/Rogers Seeds
16. Molly Welsh, USDA-ARS-WRPIS-NPGS, Pullman

B. Welcome: By the host and Chair Jim Beaver, Ricardo Geonaga (Director, USDA-ARS-TARS), and Carlos Ortiz (Assit. Dir. for Research, UPR Agric. Exp. Station).

C. Old Business

1. Minutes of the W-150 meetings in November 2002, in Fargo, North Dakota were approved with minor modifications.

Industry Report:

Dan Wahlquist, Rogers/Syngenta Seeds

The industry is going through a tremendous amount of change. All dry bean breeding in Syngenta is done by out sourcing through PROVITA, Ron Shellenberger, Kuna, Idaho. Ron Riley and Mike Wood left Syngenta in December 2002. Fresh market garden beans are moving along well, but processing industry is stagnant and being consolidated in which Wal-Mart and Cosco have big influence. Basic American Food and Syngenta formed AMERI SEED. Ron Riley went private forming BASIN SEEDS.

D. New Business

1. *Material Transfer Agreement (MTA, Jim Kelly).*

Jim Kelly reported that Michigan State University requires MTA for all bean germplasm requests to be used for use in crossing and evaluation. Jim Nienhuis/ Jim Myers suggested forming a three-member committee (Jim Kelly, Ken Grafton, and Mark Brick) to draft a document to facilitate germplasm inter-change and testing for consideration by the W-150 members in October 2003 meetings in Sacramento, CA. This document is intended to streamline the process and should facilitate national evaluation and use of germplasm and cultivars.

2. *USDA-ARS positions (Ricardo Geonaga):* For Mayaguez position, potential candidates are being invited for interviews. It is likely to fill the position before too long.

3. *Germplasm and germplasm utilization (Mark Brick, Jim Kelly).*

The workshop in conjunction with NDBC is planned (pending approval by the BIC coordinating committee) for October 27, to celebrate the *Phaseolus* taxonomy book recently published by George Freytag and Daniel Debouck.

4. *Common Bacterial Blight (Mildred Zapata).*

Evidence for existence of pathogenic variation in *Xanthomonas camptstris* pv. *phaseoli* among isolates from Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico using mRNA markers was presented. Also, proposals were made to name isolates collected from different species.

5. *Station Reports were presented.*

6. *Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN, An Hang).* An proposed to raise additional funds to support coordinating activities of the CDBN. It was proposed that public entry contributing institutions should be charged \$ 150/entry, private institutions \$ 300/entry, and each test location should be charged a flat fee of \$100 irrespective of the traits to be evaluated. Also, it was suggested that the chair of W-150 (Jim Beaver) should write a letter to the Director of Washington Agricultural Research Service to nominate An Hang the W-150 representative and provide the necessary funds to coordinate the CDBN, the most important national activity of W-150 that unites and helps us all.

7. *USDA-ARS- East Lansing Position (Jim Kelly).* George Hosfield has indicated that he intends to retire in next six months or so. There was a general consensus that we should lobby to fill the position in same general areas emphasizing breeding and genetics of seed processing and nutritional qualities. Jim Kelly agreed to draft a letter that will be used by NDBC, and state and regional commissions and representatives to lobby for filling the position at East Lansing, Michigan.

8. *USDA-ARS- Prosser.* It was decided to work with Tom Grebb to get funding increases for Phil Miklas to be able to maintain a viable research program for problems of national impact and travel funds to attend important regional and national meetings.

9. Election for new officers. Phillip Griffiths was nominated as the new secretary for W-150. New officers are:

Chair: Jim Beaver

Vice- Chair: Pastor-Corrales

Secretary: Phillips Griffiths

10. The next W-150 meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2003 from 9:00am to 5:00pm in Sacramento, California following the BIC meetings. The PCGC will meet from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Tuesday, October 28.

W-150 Meeting adjourned at Noon on February 22 when participants were invited to view the W-150 winter nurseries at the Isabela Research Station.

Following the W-150 meetings the PCGC was called to order. Jim Myers was elected the Chair of *Phaseolus* Germplasm Advisory Committee. Molly Welsh, current Secretary, chaired the meetings and Jim Nienhuis served as Secretary.

Many thanks to Jim Beaver, and the other members of the UP-Mayaguez for a great meeting.

Recorded by Shree Singh, W-150 Secretary.