

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

Embassy Suites  
Sacramento, California  
October 29, 2003

Meeting convened at 1.40pm

**A. Registration and Introductions**

**Attendance:**

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B. Welcome by Chair Marcial Pastor-Corrales (Talo)

### C. Old Business

1. Minutes of the W-150 meeting in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2003 were approved.

2. Comments by Tom Grebb, National Dry Bean Council:

George Hosfield is retiring, but it appears that the USDA position will be re-filled. There are efforts to push for re-newed support of the Sclerotinia Initiative. There is a new health initiative out of Michigan State being headed by the bean/cowpea CRSP.

US dry bean health alliance has \$1.5 million from USAID, to concentrate on Africa in particular (CRIS will be responsible for RFPs).

### Industry Reports:

Chet Kurowski, Harris Moran Seed Co.

Snap beans are becoming multi-use for processing and fresh market, and there is a trend towards one breeder for fresh and processing varieties. Steve Magnusson is being offered early retirement, and if taken, it is unlikely that this position will be refilled.

Ron Riley: Basin Seeds  
Nothing to report

Ken Kmiecik, Seminis Seeds

Snap bean industry concentrated to within a core of 200 miles, with constant change and consolidation. There is a movement towards commodity crops due to influence of major

distributors, such as, WalMart. PVP and patents continue to be issues, and while acreage has remained stable, yields have increased. There is a concern over the lack of public programs, although it is encouraging that the Oegon and NY programs are being continued.

Dan Walquist, Syngenta Vegetable Seeds

George Kotch has assumed the position as Director of Research for all vegetable crops. Roxanne Mainz has returned to breeding from field marketing, and is now responsible for processing snap beans.

ADM is looking for a new breeder in Idaho.

### **New Business:**

1. A committee should be set up to oversee the renewal of the W-150 project.
2. Changes in seed importation requirements by APHIS are becoming prohibitive, and carrying seeds into the country will be extremely difficult or not possible in the future. A phytosanitary certificate and an import permit will be necessary. As of July 2002, a permit has been necessary from Canada – USA.
3. US legume genomics initiative steering committee has been formed.
4. Issues with dry bean industry include: consolidation of distributors, exchange rate has been a factor increasing some exports, concern over conflict of international research with domestic interest by grower groups, China is producing more dry beans due to the low cost of soybeans.
5. Station Reports were presented.
6. An Hang has agreed to continue overseeing the cooperative dry bean nursery for 3 more years, but does not currently have a technician to support this and needs contributing institutions to pay the entry fees.
7. Tim Porch has assumed the USDA bean breeding position in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and has submitted his 5 year plan. The primary focuses of his research will concentrate on heat tolerance, conversion of tropical traits into temperate germplasm and common bacterial blight.
8. The bean rust nursery is now very small, and more collaboration will be necessary. There is a new project on soybean rust that is inflicting significant damage in Brazil.
9. Dr. Lin provided an update on the status of NRI grants:
  - Ted Wilson is now retired, and interviews for new deputy administrator are being undertaken
  - Hopeful of a Dec 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for first round of funding

-Delay due to inclusion of IFAFS, now up to 20% of money will be for integrated activities although the RFPs are unlikely to change significantly.

-six new areas are now within each program, and the average NRI grant of \$160K for 2 years will now have a \$300K minimum.

-movement towards electronic proposal submissions in 2005.

-funded projects may be less than 10% of submissions

10. Jim Nienhuis proposed that the next W-150 meeting should be held at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, which Jim Beaver and Tim Porch agreed to.

11. Election of new officers. Tim Porch was nominated as the new secretary for W-150.

New officers are:

Chair: Shree Singh

Vice-Chair: Phillip Griffiths

Secretary: Tim Porch

12. The committee to oversee the W-150 proposal was formed.

Committee members are:

Jim Nienhuis

Jim Beaver

Shree Singh

Bob Gilbertson

Mark Ubersax

**W-150 meeting adjourned at 5.30pm on October 29, 2003.**

Many thanks to Paul Gepts, and other members of the BIC organization committee in Sacramento for a great meeting.

Recorded by Phillip D. Griffiths, W-150 Secretary