

AGENDA
National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group
2017 Annual Conference
January 19-21, 2018
Wilmington, NC

Chairperson: Victor Njiti (Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi)

Friday January 19, 2018

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM: Sweetpotato Tour (\$40)

Saturday January 20, 2018

7:30 Registration (\$50)

8:00 Call to Order: Introductions, Announcements, Committee Assignments, State Reports

Physiology, Breeding, and Genetics:

Presiding: Zvezdana Pesic-VanEsbroeck

- 8:45 The Origin of Sweetpotato: What Do We Really Know?** Richard E. Miller (rickeltonmiller@gmail.com)
- 9:00 Identifying Seedling Root Architectural Trait Variability in Sweetpotato Germplasm.** Luis O. Duque, Department of Plant Science, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. (loduque@psu.edu)
- 9:15 Expression of a Putative Phosphate Transporter Gene in Sweetpotato 'Bayou Belle' Root Tips and Storage Root Variability under Experimental Manipulation of Phosphorus Status of Source Plants.** Arthur Villordon^{1*}, Jeffrey C. Gregorie¹, Veronica Mosquera², Michael Selvaraj³, and Don LaBonte⁴. ¹LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, ²CIP, Lima, Peru, ³CIAT, Cali, Colombia, ⁴School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (avillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)
- 9:30 Saccharum dohaeris: Sweetpotato Slip Attributes, Internal Sucrose Availability, and Storage Root Formation.** Arthur Q Villordon^{1*}, Jeffrey C. Gregorie¹, and Craig Henderson². ¹LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, ²Henderson RDE, Bright, VIC, Australia. (avillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)

9:45 Genomic and Phenotype Tools in Sweetpotato Breeding. Xiaofei Zhang*, Ken Pecota, Bode Olukolu, Ragy Ibrahim, Jeremy Machacek, Craig Yencho
Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (xzhang67@ncsu.edu)

10:00 Break (15 minutes)

Updates:

Presiding: Craig Yencho (North Carolina State University)

10:15 Sweetpotato Clean Plant Program in North Carolina 1998-2017. Zvezdana Pesic-VanEsbroeck, (zpesicvan@gmail.com)

10:30 Production of Sweetpotato Certified Seed in North Carolina. Christie V. Almeyda* and Tamara Abernethy, Micropropagation and Repository Unit, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (cvalmeyd@ncsu.edu)

10:45 The Sweetpotato Innovation Challenge, An Undergraduate Service-Learning Experience. Stephen L. Meyers^{1*}, Charles Freeman², Laura Downey², Michelle Garraway³, and Suzanne Schultz³. ¹ Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863, ²School of Human Sciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, ³Center for Community-Engaged Learning, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 3976. (stephen.meyers@msstate.edu)

11:00 Results of a USDA-NIFA-Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative Planning Grant. Stephen L. Meyers^{1*}, T. Casey Barickman², Alba J. Collart³, Jonathan Schultheis⁴, Tara Smith⁵, C. Scott Stoddard⁶, and Iveta Imre⁷. ¹Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863, ²North Mississippi Research and Extension Center- Horticultural Unit, Mississippi State University, Verona, MS 38879, ³Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, ⁴Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, ⁵LSU Agricultural Center Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, ⁶University of California Cooperative Extension, Merced, CA 95340, ⁷School of Mass Communication, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR 72204. (stephen.meyers@msstate.edu)

11:15 Update on the GT4SP Project: Genomic Tools for Sweetpotato Improvement. G. Craig Yencho, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (craig_yencho@ncsu.edu)

11:30 Lunch

Graduate Student Contest:

Presiding: Michelle McHargue (Lamb Weston)

MS Students

- 12:30 Palmer Amaranth Control in Sweetpotato within Reduced Tillage or Conventional Production Systems.** Stephen C. Smith*, Katie M. Jennings, and David W. Monks, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (scsmith7@ncsu.edu)
- 12:45 Developing a System to Objectify Sweetpotato Size and Shapes.** Amber Tsirnikas* and Michael D. Boyette, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (atsirni@ncsu.edu)
- 1:00 Small Scale Processing of Sweetpotato-Fruit Mixed Purees with High Phytonutrients Using a Continuous Flow Microwave System.** Morgan Caudill^{1*}, Van-Den Truong² and Josip Simunovic¹.¹Department of Food Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, ²USDA-ARS, SEA Food Science Research Unit. (mfcaudil@ncsu.edu)
- 1:15 Exploiting the Use of Biotechnology for Improving Sweetpotato Virus Disease Resistance.** Kyler Holmes*, Yan Meng, Chunquan Zhang, and Victor Njiti, Department of Biotechnology, Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS 39096.
- 1:30 Effects of Preharvest and Postharvest Treatments on Incidence and Severity of Internal Necrosis in 'Covington'.** Fernando Montero de Espinosa* and Jonathan R. Schultheis, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (fmonter@ncsu.edu)

PhD Students

- 1:45 Glycemic Index of Products Derived of Sweetpotato: Chips, Fries, Flour and Juice; Compared to Their Analog White Potato Products.** Sofia Feng* and Jonathan Allen. Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutritional Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, 27695. (sfeng4@ncsu.edu)
- 2:00 Preplant Phosphorous Timing Effect on Four Cultivars of Sweetpotato in Silt Loam.** Jeffrey C. Gregorie* and Arthur Q. Villordon, LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (cgregorie@agcenter.lsu.edu)
- 2:15 Evaluating the Effects of Spacing and Harvest Date on Yields of 'Bayou Belle' and 'Orleans' Sweetpotato Cultivars.** Theresa F. Arnold^{1*}, Don R. LaBonte², Arthur Q. Villordon¹, David H. Picha², and Tara P. Smith¹, LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, ²LSU AgCenter School of Plant

Environmental and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.
(tarnold@agcenter.lsu.edu)

2:30 Break (15 minutes)

2:45 Use of CRISPR/Cas System to Increase Yield and Nutrient Content in Sweetpotato. Samuel Acheampong^{1*}, Heiker W. Sederoff², George C. Yencho¹.
¹Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, ²Plant and Microbial Biology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (sacheam@ncsu.edu)

3:00 Browning and Acrylamide in Sweetpotato Fried Chips from Various Genotypes: Effects of Curing and Long-Term Storage. Xiao Qiu^{1*}, Rong Reynolds², Van-Den Truong^{1,2}, Suzanne Johanningsmeier^{1,2}, Kenneth Pecota³, Craig Yencho³, and Jason A. Osborne⁴.¹Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, ²USDA-ARS, Southeast Area, Food Science Research Unit, ³Department of Horticultural Science, ⁴Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (den.truong@ars.usda.gov)

3:15 Harvesting Scenarios and Economic Implications of Pre-Harvest Vine-Root Separation by the Sweetpotato Vine Puller-Chopper Machine. Anirudh Akula*, Justin A. Macialek, and Michael D. Boyette, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (aakula@ncsu.edu)

3:30 Origin and Evolution of Sweetpotato [*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam] Based on Nuclear Genes (β -*amylase* and ITS) Sequences Analyzed by Different Methods of Phylogenetic Tree Reconstruction. Stella Nhanala^{1*}, Szakacs², Bode Olukolu¹, Richard E. Miller³, G. Craig Yencho¹. ¹ Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, ² Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, ³ Hammond, LA 70401. (senhanal@ncsu.edu)

Pest Management I:

Presiding: Richard Miller

3:45 Preliminary Evaluations of Susceptibility/Resistance of Sweetpotato Cultivars to Black Rot, Caused by *Ceratocystis fimbriata*. Christopher A. Clark, Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (cclark@agcenter.lsu.edu)

4:00 Characterizing Sources of Resistance and Fungicides to Control Black Rot Disease Caused by *Ceratocystis fimbriata* in North Carolina. Camilo H. Parada-Rojas*, Hunter Collins, and Lina Quesada-Ocampo, Department of Entomology and

Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.
(chparada@ncsu.edu)

- 4:15 The Effect of Environmental Conditions and Wounding on Disease Progression of Sweetpotato Black Rot Caused by *Ceratocystis fimbriate*.** Madison Stahr* and Lina Quesada-Ocampo, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.
(mnstahr@ncsu.edu)
- 4:30 Evaluation of New Nematicides on Sweetpotatoes in California.** C. Scott Stoddard¹* and Antoon Ploeg². ¹University of California Cooperative Extension, Merced, CA 95340, ²Department of Nematology, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521. (cstoddard@ucan.edu)
- 4:45 Evaluation of Nematicides for Control of Root Knot Nematodes in Sweetpotato.** Hunter Collins* and Lina Quesada-Ocampo, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (shcollin@ncsu.edu)

Crop Management:

Presiding: Arthur Villordon (Louisiana State University)

- 5:00 Development of an Automatic Transplanting Machine for Sweetpotatoes and Related Plug Transplant System in Camargue, France.** Jérôme Grangier¹ and Philippe Vernier². ¹EARL les GLAIS, Mas d'Aloué, 1970 Route d'Avignon, 13150 Tarascon, France, ²CIRAD, Ave Agropolis, 34398 Montpellier, France.
(philippe.vernier@cirad.fr)
- 5:15 Comparison of a Double-Row and Single-Row Planting System in the Virgin Islands.** Thomas W. Zimmerman*, Stafford MA Crossman, and Carlos Montilla, University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingshill, VI 00850.
(tzimmer@uvi.edu)
- 5:30 Evaluation of the Response of Three Improved Sweetpotato Varieties (Beauregard, Bonita, Covington) to Three Different Fertilizer Regimes.** Aldaine Gordon¹, Michelle Sherwood¹ and Elizabeth Johnson²*. ¹Bodles Research Station, Research and Development Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, St. Catherine, Jamaica.
²Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Hope Gardens, Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies. (elizabeth.johnson@iica.int)

Poster Presentations:

- 5:45 Incidence of *Salmonella* in Sweetpotato Fields Utilizing Improved Detection Methods.** Lurdes Siberio¹, Taejo Kim², Juan L. Silva¹, Stephen Meyers³, and Jeff

Main³. ¹Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, ²Food and Nutrition Department, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI 54751, ³Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (lurdes.siberio@gmail.com)

Sunday January 21, 2018

7:55 Call to Order

Post-Harvest, Processing and Marketing

Presiding: David Picha (Louisiana State University)

8:00 15 Years of Sweetpotato Research and Development at the USDA-ARS Food Science Research Unit. Van-Den Truong, USDA-ARS, SEA Food Science Research Unit, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (den.truong@ars.usda.gov)

8:15 Sweetpotato: A Potential Feedstock for Production of Natural Colorants Using Red Yeast Fermentation. Michelle Enuha, Destiny Crockett, Lydia Batey, Ananda K. Nanjundaswamy*, Keerthi Mandyam, and Victor Njiti, Alcorn State University (ananda@alcorn.edu).

8:30 Composition and Quality Evaluation of Sweetpotato Smoothie Formulations. Tran Thi Dinh¹ and David Picha^{2*}, ¹Department of Food Processing Technology, Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Hanoi, Vietnam and ²School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, LSU Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (dpicha@agcenter.lsu.edu)

8:45 Effect of Cultivar, Ethephon, Flooding, and Storage Duration on Sweetpotato Internal Necrosis. Peter J. Dittmar¹, Jonathan R. Schultheis^{2*}, Katherine M. Jennings², David W. Monks², Chen Jiang², and Stephen Meyers³. ¹Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, ²Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27609, ³Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (jonathan_schultheis@ncsu.edu)

Pest Management II:

Presiding: Camilo Parada (North Carolina State University)

9:00 Evaluating Soil Insect Damage in Commercial Sweetpotato Varieties in Louisiana. Tara P. Smith^{1*}, Jeffrey C. Gregorie¹, Teresa F. Arnold¹.¹LSU Agricultural Center Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (tsmith@agcenter.lsu.edu)

9:15 Impact of Variety Selection and Insecticide Thresholds on Yield and Insect Damage. Fred Musser^{1*}, Stephen Meyers², and Jeff Main². ¹Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, ²Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (fm61@msstate.edu)

9:30 The Efficacy of the Fungus *Beauveria bassiana* as a Biological Control Agent against the Sweetpotato Weevil (*Cylas formicarius*) on Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*) in Jamaica. Alex Sybron¹, Michelle Sherwood¹ and Elizabeth Johnson^{2*}. ¹Bodles Research Station, Research and Development Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, St. Catherine, Jamaica. ²Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Hope Gardens, Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies (elizabeth.johnson@iica.int)

9:45 Break (15 minutes)

10:00 Sweetpotato Tolerance to Pre-Plant Burndown and POST-Direct Applications of Glufosinate. Mark W. Shankle*, Stephen L. Meyers, Trevor F. Garrett, and Jeff L. Main. Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (mark.shankle@msstate.edu)

10:15 Evaluation of Herbicide Regimes for Sweetpotatoes in Ontario Canada. Melanie Filotas, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, OMAF-Simcoe Resource Centre, Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 4K3. (melanie.filotas@ontario.ca)

NSCG Annual Business Meeting:

10:30 Old and New Business and Awards
Victor Njiti (Alcorn State University)

12:00 Adjourn/Lunch

RESOLUTIONS

National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group (NSCG) February 3-4, 2017 Mobile, AL

Whereas, the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group (NSCG) has had a very productive, beneficial, and enjoyable meeting during February 3-4, 2017 at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama, in association with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) and the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science (SRASHS); and

Whereas the meeting was opened with a welcome and words of encouragement and thanks from our SERA Advisor, Dr. David Monks, Assistant Director, North Carolina State University; and

Whereas Melanie Filotas, Chair, with the assistance of Stephen Meyers, Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Report, Jeff Main, master of projection and Section Chairs, Arthur Villordon (Physiology, Breeding and Genetics), Raja Reddy (Plant and Slip Production), Scott Stoddard and Chris Clark (Pest Management), Den Truong (Postharvest, Processing and Marketing), Stephen Meyers (NSCG Variety Trial), and Mark Shankle and Jeff Main (Student Competition), have conducted the business and affairs of this meeting with a high degree of professionalism and efficiency; and

Whereas the first annual National Research Impact Award was presented along with a plaque and a \$500 honorarium provided by support from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group and corporate sponsor Lamb Weston, and whereas the judging committee consisted of Mark Shankle, chair with committee members Raja Reddy, Jonathan Schultheis, and Tara Smith;

Whereas Dr. Michael Boyette, Ag Engineering at North Carolina State University was presented with the first annual National Research Impact Award in honor of his development and dissemination of negative horizontal ventilation and other postharvest technologies that have greatly benefitted the North Carolina and national sweetpotato industry; and

Whereas the Student Competition, which included eight presentations, was greatly facilitated by the assistance of volunteer judges from the NSCG; and

Whereas the 2017 winners of the NSCG Student Competition for the Ph.D. level were Favio Herrera, (1st place, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center) and Anirudh Akula (2nd place, North Carolina State University), and for the MS level Stephen Smith (1st place, North Carolina State University);

Whereas sweetpotato is such an engaging and rewarding subject for discussion and collaboration that it can attract long-retired scientists such as Wayne McLaurin and Stan Kays out of hibernation;

Now therefore be it resolved that the NSCG and its members express our sincere thanks for all of the abovementioned contributions, which serve the greater good of the sweetpotato community in the United States, Canada, and globally; and

Whereas Robert Mwanga, Maria Andrade, Jan Low, and Howarth Bouis were honored with the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa in October, 2016 (<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/index.cfm?nodeID=88652&audienceID=1>) in recognition of their efforts to use biofortification of sweetpotato to fight vitamin A deficiency in East Africa, therefore be it resolved that the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group hereby extends its heartfelt congratulations for their well-deserved recognition.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Chris Clark, Jonathan Schultheis, and Chris Johnson, February 4, 2017.

**2017 Minutes of the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Meeting
February 3-4, 2017
Mobile, AL**

Melanie Filotas, Chairperson

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Called to order by Melanie Filotas at 1:40 PM.

Melanie Filotas asked those in attendance to review the 2016 business meeting minutes. Scott Stoddard motioned to approve the minutes; David Picha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Melanie Filotas thanked Stephen Meyers for his work as Secretary/Treasurer/Proceedings Editor, Jeff Main for his work on AV, and members of the Resolution and Nomination Committees.

Melanie Filotas acknowledged and introduced MS for the award portion of the business meeting. Mark Shankle thanked the students for well-prepared presentations and the faculty who helped them prepare. The graduate student paper competition included five PhD and three MS presentations. The award-winning presentations were as follows:

MS Level

1st Place

Impact of Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) Removal on Sweetpotato Yield and Quality. Stephen Smith*, Katie Jennings, and David Monks, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.

PhD Level

1st Place

Viral Distribution Titters of SPVG, SPVC, SPFMV and SPV2 (Potyviridae) in 'Beauregard' Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*). Herrera Favio* and C.A. Clark, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

2nd Place

On-field Sweetpotato Skin Strength Enhancement as a Result of Main Stem--Root Separation by the Harvest-Assist Vine Puller-Chopper Machine. Anirudh Akula*, J.A. Macialek and M.D. Boyette, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

After chairing the Graduate Student Contest for several years, Mark Shankle was stepping down. Michelle McHargue was nominated to succeed Mark and was elected unanimously.

Mark Shankle spoke about the new National Research Impact Award and recognized the award committee of Raja Reddy, Jonathan Schultheis, Tara Smith, and Mark Shankle. The award was sponsored by Lamb Weston. Mark read from the letters of support and outlined the accomplishment of the award winner- Mike Boyette, who received a standing ovation. Mike gave a brief speech of gratitude for the help of others and the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group.

Melanie Filotas called on the Resolutions Committee. Chris Clark read the submission proposed for 2017. Jonathan Schultheis motioned to accept the Resolutions as written, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Melanie Filotas asked the group to reassess the role of the Secretary/Treasurer/Proceedings Editor, which is a very time consuming role in the weeks immediately prior to the annual meeting.

Tara Smith opened the floor to suggestions on the processing and handling of content for the annual report.

Craig Yencho thought it best to be consistent with one person; Ken Pecota agreed. It was suggested that the variety trial data would be processed solely by the editor while the remaining content would be received and edited by the chairperson, and Craig Yencho retracted his statement.

Scott Stoddard motioned that the chair would format titles, abstracts, and state reports (before submitting to the editor). The Secretary/Treasurer would lead variety trial efforts and assemble results. He/she would also print reports, but would no longer be responsible for preparing the program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Melanie Filotas turned the floor over to Scott Stoddard for the Nomination Committee report. The committee consisted of Scott Stoddard, Tara Smith, and Stephen Meyers. The Nomination Committee nominated Mike Boyette for Chair-Elect. Victor Njiti made a motion to accept the nomination, David Picha seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next order of business was discussing the location for the 2018 National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Meeting. The Southern Region ASHS meeting will be held in Jacksonville, FL; the National Sweet Potato Convention will be held in Wilmington, NC. Tara Smith suggested Wilmington would provide a great opportunity to meet with producers. Jonathan Schultheis voiced concerns that the sweetpotato group makes up a good number of the SR-ASHS abstracts and that

meeting with the National Sweet Potato Convention does not allow for an abstract which justifies attendance for some people.

MS said abstracts from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group (NSCG) meetings were put in the report so that presenters would have an abstract. Craig Yencho said the Convention should be well-attended and a great opportunity and added that there should be lots of industry represented and the cost would not be very expensive.

Tara Smith asked if there was an opportunity to tour sweetpotato facilities. Craig Yencho, Jonathan Schultheis, and Mike Boyette said that would be doable for the NSCG. If the USDA-NIFA-SCRI planning grant proposal were funded, it would require a meeting time, perhaps Monday morning on the educational program of the Convention. Scott Stoddard motioned to meet in collaboration with the National Sweet Potato Convention. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Craig Yencho stated that 2016 was a big year for the sweetpotato globally as a team of researchers consisting of Maria Andrade, Howarth Bouis, Jan Low, and Robert Mwanga were awarded the World Food Prize for their sweetpotato biofortification efforts. Melanie Filotas suggested adding this information the Resolutions.

Melanie Filotas turned the floor over to David Picha to talk about the 75 Year Compendium of Sweetpotato Research. He apologized for the lack of progress on this effort and stated that chapters would be due before the end of the year. The compendium would need to be printed by mid-2018 at an estimated cost of \$5 to \$10/bulletin.

Michelle McHargue asked how much of this information was available online. David Picha responded, "almost nothing." David said he would send the chapter leaders a scanned copy from the compendium of 25 years ago. Tara Smith stated she thinks it needs to happen. Mark Shankle asked what happens to funds from the Excellence in Multi-State Research Award if they are not used.

Roger Crickenberger stated that the award consisted of \$15,000 (\$5,000 for travel to Washington D.C. to receive the award and \$10,000 in programmatic funds). He told the group to be sure to use the funds where they will have the best benefit. He spoke with Eric Young, Executive Director of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations, and he stated the funds will be reverted back to North Carolina State University (NCSU) if they are not used in a timely manner. The \$10,000 must be spent by September 30, 2018 by invoicing NCSU for expenditures.

Craig Yencho asked if the funds could be used for awards. Roger stated that he would ask administration. David Monks stated it is difficult to keep a pot of money opened. Jonathan Schultheis suggested the funds could be used for next year's meeting (bus tour, etc.).

Mark Shankle asked if NSCG could invoice NCSU for a future purchase (AKA pre-bill). Roger stated that doing so would be difficult.

Melanie Filotas summarized suggestions for spending the award money. David Monks, upon looking into it further, stated that using the funds for a bus would be okay; using the funds for awards was not.

Tara Smith asked about using funds for visiting scientists. Chris Clark proposed a committee to spend funds consisting of David Picha, Don LaBonte, Jonathan Schultheis, and Stephen Meyers. Don LaBonte suggested a production manual as a complement to the 25 year compendium.

Melanie Filotas feared the group was proposing a lot of effort in a short period of time. David Picha stated there would be some overlap of the two efforts, but did not know a time frame. He was uncertain one production publication could capture all the production issues for the entire United States and Canada. Tara Smith said they did something similar for the Sweetpotato book.

David Monks stated that some science may not make it into a production guide. Stephen Meyers gave a Secretary-Treasurer Report.

Melanie Filotas handed the gavel to Victor Njiti, the incoming NSCG Chairperson. Victor stated he was looking forward to a good meeting in 2018.

Jonathan Schultheis asked the group to give Melanie Filotas a hand, those in attendance did so.

A motion was made to adjourn, was seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

This report respectfully submitted by Stephen L. Meyers with additional content provided by Melanie Filotas.