

National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes

Beltsville, MD

June 9, 2010

Participants: Ed Knipping, Lee Sommers, Peter Bretting, Tim Cupka, Jerry Arkin, AnnMarie Thro, Chet Boruff, Ed Kaleikau, Tom Burr, P.S. Benepal, Peter Tabor, Gary Pederson, Joe Colletti, and Eric Young

1. Ed Knipping - New Feed the Future joint USDA and State Department initiative on food security
 - o Funds will go to State Department, but will fund programs through USDA/NIFA
 - o US-AID will fund programs also
 - o There will be a research component
 - o Should be announced next week

2. Lee Sommers - Briefed new members on history and purpose of National Germplasm Coordinating Committee

3. **NPGS Update - Peter Bretting** (Powerpoint)
 - o GRIN Global should be done by early 2011
 - o Avocado collection in Miami is being backed up in Hilo, HI, due to disease threat, but has to be at Ft. Detrick two years in quarantine
 - o Capital investment strategy study is being started on the 4 plant introduction stations by ARS, these are pilot studies prior to doing the entire ARS infrastructure
 - o >250,000 accessions were distributed in 2009, 25% increase from '08
 - 2/3 domestic and 1/3 foreign, 2/3 public and 1/3 private researchers
 - o ~ \$3 Million new dollars in President's budget for NPGS
 - o Germplasm distributed to private firms is free but most companies will pay shipping costs
 - o Acquisition is being hampered now by countries that won't allow collecting, particularly South America and Africa

4. **RPIS and PGOCC Update** - Gary Pederson (Powerpoint)

5. AOSCA - Chet Boruff
 - o Began in 1919 with 13 states' and Canada's seed certifying agencies came together to coordinate and standardize certification
 - o These standards were adopted in Federal Seed Act
 - Programs
 - Trade stewardship
 - Quality audits
 - Carbon credit
 - Native plant certification
 - o 2009 14 Million farmers in 25 countries using biotech traits, 13 Million were in developing countries
 - o 33 approved traits now, by 2015 will be 124 traits with 50% of new ones coming from China
 - o How to handle biotech crops in certification is big challenge now
 - Bimolecular Standards Committee is working on this now
 - Certification is important for tracking IP and royalties

6. ASTA - Tim Cupka
 - o NCCPB - National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders
 - Primary goal is to increase number of traditional plant breeders
 - Working with UC Davis to identify all competencies needed for plant breeders
 - o National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee

- Goal to increase germplasm diversity in breeding programs to make greater gains
- As PVP's expire diversity of available germplasm will increase

7. NRSP-6 funding

- Questions from NRSP-RC
 - Why not charge fees for distribution
 - Is there a different funding model?
 - Why isn't there more characterization of germplasm
- ARS provides ~ 90% of NPGS funding, LGU system funds some of the 5 plant introduction station plus some in-kind support from host institutions
- Biggest users are agricultural experiment station scientists
- Regional stations have strong support, but NRSP-6 always has opposition
- NPGS policy does not allow fees and even if it did the administrative costs would greatly reduce the value of fees

8. [NIFA - AnnMarie](#) (Powerpoint)

- CRIS coding for plant breeding will be refined by adding a Field of Science called Breeding
- GIPB powerpoint and handout
 - Developing an on line assessment and rating tool for plant breeding capacity

9. NIFA-AFRI - ED ([Handout 1](#) and [Handout 2](#))

- Climate change area has RFA for CAP in cereal germplasm phenotyping

10. Impacts

- Consider a marketing op-ed piece for the ESCOP marketing effort focused on public impact tied back to NPGS
- Identify one impact from each region were NPGS played a significant role that would resonate with general public

11. Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be June, 2011 in Beltsville, Eric will poll group for best date.