Committees named by Soybean Genetics Committee: National Plant Genetic Resources Board

Soybean Genetics Newsletter
IV. COMMITTEES NAMED BY SOYBEAN GENETICS COMMITTEE

Requests were received by the Soybean Genetics Committee to nominate candidates to serve on two committees that are concerned with soybean production research.

National Plant Genetic Resources Board

The National Plant Genetic Resources Board (NPGRB) requested three individuals in soybean research be designated as contact persons for soybean research. The NPGRB has responsibility for providing advice on national policies for soybeans. The individuals nominated to assist this board will serve only as contact people for the groups they represent. Individuals nominated are: T. Hymowitz for State Agricultural Experiment Stations; J. R. Wilcox for USDA-SEA; and H. B. Collins for private industry.

Soybean Germplasm Advisory Committee

This Committee was established at a meeting of the Soybean Genetics Committee at Ames, Iowa in March, 1979 in response to a generally believed need for a group which could function in the following ways:

1) To serve in an advisory capacity to the National Plant Germplasm Committee, to the Germplasm Resources Information Program, and to other national groups concerned with soybean germplasm.

2) To serve in an advisory capacity to the curators of the soybean germplasm collection and to promote and coordinate the worldwide procurement of soybean germplasm and programs concerning its maintenance, evaluation, and distribution.

3) To serve in an advisory capacity to research institutions, especially the USDA and the state agricultural universities, in fostering soybean germplasm programs.

The Committee consists of the curators and representatives of the evaluators and users of soybean germplasm. Current members in addition to curators E. E. Hartwig and R. L. Bernard are R. L. Nelson, USDA and University of Illinois, whose full-time assignment is germplasm evaluation and who is acting as chairman of the Committee; M. J. Sullivan, entomologist at Clemson University; S. M. Lim, USDA pathologist at the University of Illinois; C. W. Jennings,
breeder with Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Iowa; J. W. Lambert, breeder at the University of Minnesota; and C. Williams of Jacob Hartz Seed Company in Arkansas.

The Committee held its first meeting on February 19, 1980 in St. Louis, Missouri in conjunction with the national soybean breeders workshop. The organization, purpose, and functioning of the Committee was discussed, followed by a presentation of the Germplasm Resources Information Program by P. Callas and J. Scott of LISA, University of Colorado, and finally a discussion of the traits to be emphasized in soybean germplasm evaluation led by R. L. Nelson.

The Committee's procedures and policies are still in a formative state. The Committee has the option of meeting annually in conjunction with the annual soybean workshop, but since some of the members do not attend this meeting every year it was recommended that as much business as possible be conducted by mail. During the upcoming initial year of activity the Committee will function under the chairmanship of R. L. Nelson with assistance from the two curators. Approximately a year from now the Committee will consider the question of terms of office, election or selection of new members and officers, etc. Periodically it will assess the state of soybean germplasm and consider its inputs and where it might beneficially influence such matters. We invite all members of the soybean research community to convey to any Committee member any ideas they have concerning the Committee's area of interest.

R. L. Bernard
Research Geneticist

R. L. Nelson
Research Geneticist