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USDA Soybean Germplasm Collection

Soybean Genetics Newsletter

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The Collection has continued to grow during the past year with over 300 added to the available list for the Urbana collection and over 1500 new introductions (mostly from the Soviet Union) grown at Urbana in 1979. The decade from 1970 to 1979 has been a very active one with the following numbers of introductions received from the indicated countries of origin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Introductions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Korea</td>
<td>2338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>1522 (incl. 762 originally from China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asia</td>
<td>18 (Thailand, Pakistan, Nepal, Hong Kong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Europe</td>
<td>47 (Yugoslavia, Sweden, Poland, Hungary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Africa</td>
<td>28 (Nigeria, Rhodesia, S. Africa, Cameroun, Sierra Leone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The exact number added to the Collection will differ from the above because of duplications, sublining, and inviable seeds.

A major project underway is the preparation of a complete numerical list of soybean introductions, their origin, foreign variety name, and our classification as to maturity group. This should be available in a few months and will be the first time such a list has been available outside of the annually published "Plant Inventory" which is cumbersome to use, since it includes all crops and lists what is introduced but not what is being maintained.

Plans have been made for the general agronomic evaluation of northern germplasm introduced after 1960 (PI numbers higher than 266,807) which includes all those not in the evaluation reports of 1965 to 1969. Tests of the 00 to IV germplasm will be conducted in 1980 with a second rep in 1981. The 363 entries of Groups 00 and 0 will be grown in Minnesota by Jean Lambert (a Group 000 will be split off), the 791 entries of late IV maturity will be grown at Lexington, Kentucky by James Orf, and the remaining 1616 entries (Groups I, II, III, and early IV) will be grown at Urbana, Illinois by Randall Nelson. As soon as chemical analyses of the seeds from the 1981 crop are completed, the data will
be compiled and reports made available, probably in early to mid-1982.

This renewed evaluation effort has been made possible by the establish-
ment of the new USDA position at the University of Illinois emphasizing germ-
plasm evaluation, utilization, and development and now occupied by R. L.
Nelson. We are also especially indebted to Dr. Lambert at the University of
Minnesota and Dr. Orf at the University of Kentucky for their willingness to
devote a considerable amount of effort to germplasm evaluation.

Since some confusion has arisen, it should be pointed out that Nelson's
assignment is the evaluation and utilization of germplasm. The maintenance
and distribution of seeds is handled by the curators, Hartwig and Bernard, and
requests for seeds should be addressed to them.

The germplasm lists and reports below are available from

Dr. R. L. Bernard, USDA
Turner Hall - Agronomy
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801

Those marked with an asterisk are available from

Dr. E. E. Hartwig, USDA
Delta Branch Experiment Station
Stoneville, MS 38776

Checklists giving name and maturity group (extra copies available to
use in making requests for large numbers of strains):

1) Checklist of U.S. and Canadian varieties (00 to IV), January 1980.
2) Checklist of FC and PI strains (00 to IV), January 1980.
*3) Checklist of varieties and FC and PI strains (V to X).

Evaluation reports giving origin of strains and descriptive, agronomic,
and seed composition data:

1) Varieties, Groups 00 to IV, 1970.
2) Varieties and FC and PI strains, Groups 00 to 0, 1965.
3) Varieties and FC and PI strains, Groups I to II, 1966.
4) Varieties and FC and PI strains, Groups III to IV, 1969.
*5) Varieties and FC and PI strains, Groups V to X, 1975.
5) Recent additions, varieties and PI, Groups 00 to IV, 1970.

R. L. Bernard
Research Geneticist

R. L. Nelson
Research Geneticist