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Crop Advisory Committees

Soybean Genetics Newsletter

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V. CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The function of Crop Advisory Committees is to serve their crop commodity groups and provide expert advice to individuals or organizations, such as the National Plant Genetics Resources Board, the National Plant Germplasm Committee, the Agricultural Research Service, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and others on technical matters relating to plant germplasm, its breeding, and effective utilization.

Duties and responsibilities:

1. Develop and provide a strategic overview of the total national scientific efforts in the study of and utilization of germplasm of specific crops or group of crops and recommend cooperative approaches for improvements in the germplasm management system where needs are apparent.

2. Assess the adequacy of the germplasm base for a specified crop or group of crops and make recommendations to appropriate governmental and private agencies for broadening and strengthening each base via additional exploration, collection, acquisition of private collections, and evaluation.

3. Assess progress in each crop through breeding and the role germplasm resources might play in improving traits of economic importance.

4. Suggest guidelines for the effective regeneration, increase, distribution, evaluation, and utilization of plant introductions and other accessions in each crop or group of crops.

5. Consider needs for fundamental and applied studies on each crop and make suggestions on promising research approaches and enhancement opportunities.

6. Assess the impact of biotechnology and genetic engineering on germplasm resource needs and utilization in their respective crops.

7. Monitor staffing and support requirements for research efforts relating to plant germplasm activities on individual crops, or groups of crops, and provide suggestions for training, staffing, and support needs.

8. Develop a better understanding of international germplasm activities on the crop(s) in question, identifying and describing implications for science and agriculture in the United States or in those institutions abroad that receive major support from this country.

9. Provide means for commodity groups to voice opinions on need for plant
germplasm resources, their improvement and utilization to those individuals responsible for these areas at the national level.

10. Assist variety review boards with respect to new variety developments and breeding progress in their respective crops.

11. Encourage the development and utilization of newsletters and/or reports giving a description of germplasm available for their crops.

12. Develop concise reports when requested by the NPGRB or the NPCC on ongoing germplasm activities, resource needs, and action plans for each crop or group of crops.