

Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee
Minutes of February 12, 2002, Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Ray Miller at 9:25 AM. Members present were John Armstrong, Jim Beuerlein, Dick Cooper, Jack Debolt, Anne Dorrance, Ron Fioritto, David Francis, Bill Gault, Dan Herms, Pat Lipps, Ray Miller, Stephen Myers, Jane New, Rich Pratt, Steve St. Martin, and Clay Sneller.

1. On motion (made by Jack Debolt and seconded by Jim Beuerlein), the minutes of the Sept. 11, 2001, meeting were approved, unanimously.
2. **Introduction**
Stephen Myers greeted the Committee and acknowledged Jane New, OSU-Office for Technology Licensing.
3. **Updates (Ray Miller).**
 - S** A hard copy of the September 11, 2001 minutes, slightly edited, have been distributed to plant industry groups for their information.
 - S** The Committee's web site <www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/cvrdc/> will eventually have minutes for the last two years. Bonnie Franks, who maintains the site, is in the process of posting notices for previously released varieties. By consensus of the Committee, only public releases should be posted at this site, not branded, exclusive, or patented releases. This decision is because posting release notices constitutes publication and thus may jeopardize patenting, should that step be desired.
 - S** Steve Slack has sent a letter to Susie Calhoon, of the Ohio Soybean Council, on his decision to terminate negotiations with Areco Semillas to license Ohio FG1 in Argentina. The process of educating industry on international use of OARDC germplasm was initiated with Miller's presentation at the OSIA Seed School. The Ohio Soybean Council and OSIA will continue this effort. The U.S. Patent Office has recently questioned the novelty of patented varieties in cases where the variety has been previously published, via release notice or registration article. There is a one-year deadline for the patent application after first publication.
4. **Office of Technology Licensing (Jane New)**
 - S** Brice Nelson has left to take a position at the University of Michigan, and last week David Allen left his position. Thus, interim people are in place at the OTL. A search committee is in place for a new director. Ms. New is still handling technology from the College of FAES as well as other areas.
5. **Product Transfer Agreements (Ray Miller)**
 - S** Dr. Miller discussed the recently signed agreement required by Pioneer for testing its varieties. The agreement was signed by Vice President Moser and covers any performance tests, including disease testing. There is a provision to allow use of Pioneer varieties as checks if desired.
6. **Access Plant Technology (John Gerard)**
 - S** John Gerard spoke at the invitation of the Committee on his company, Access Plant Technology. The company prefers to handle patented material. Gerard answered many questions, and further discussion took place after he departed. Jane New emphasized that inventions must be disclosed to OTL as a first step. Her office can assist in obtaining a provisional patent, a process that can often be done quickly.
7. **Foundation Seed Report (Jack Debolt)**
 - S** Foundation seed sales of soybeans and oats continue to decline, with soybean sales this spring two-thirds below last year's totals. It seems likely that only a handful of public soybean and oat varieties will be in foundation seed production this year.
8. **Ohio Seed Improvement Association Report (John Armstrong)**
 - S** Seed School was well attended in January. The 2003 Seed School will take place January 9 and 10. Certified seed directories are now available on the OSIA web site. OSIA has been using ads via DTN to promote varieties. Policy changes by Monsanto may have a large impact on OSIA's inspection

activities and revenues. Specifically, the company no longer requires field inspection of Roundup Ready® soybeans. OSIA will do some specialty quality assurance inspection for wheat. The OSIA Research Committee will request research proposals in the next few days.

9. **Release of USDA-ARS Soybean Variety** (Dick Cooper)
S Data on soybean line HC94-1065 were reviewed and discussed. This variety is a group III semidwarf. A motion and second that the line be approved as a public release was passed. Dr. Cooper proposed the name 'Summit'.

10. **Release of Soybean Varieties** (Ron Fioritto)
S Data on four Roundup Ready® soybean lines (HF9667-2-4, HF9670-3-10, HF9667-2-15, and HF9665-2-15) were presented and discussed. These lines feature *Phytophthora* resistance, particularly two of the lines that have a two- or three-gene combination that is probably unique to the industry. Two of the lines also have unusually high seed protein contents. Motion for public release of these four lines was considered but voted down. Next, on motion by Anne Dorrance, seconded by David Francis, the four lines were approved for release to AGRA as branded varieties.
S A conventional soybean line designated HF98-023, was considered. This line has strong resistance to *Phytophthora* (two genes, Rps1k and Rps3a) and has outyielded other early group III public varieties. A motion to release HF98-023 as a public variety was passed. Mr. Fioritto suggested the name 'Liberty'.

11. **Release of Tomato Lines** (David Francis)
S Two parental (open-pollinated) lines, 987034.1 and 981670.22 were described. Both have excellent quality and very good partial resistance to bacterial tan spot. Yield of 981670.22 is similar to that of commercial hybrids. Dr. Francis proposed release through a materials transfer agreement. A motion for release was approved. Francis indicated that the numbers of the lines would be shortened, 987034.1 to 9834 and 981670.22 to 9816.
S Dr. Francis also proposed release of Ohio Bicentennial Tomato, a Roma line that showed excellent consumer acceptance in taste panels conducted by Joe Scheerens. A motion for release, was passed. A commercial partner and 2002 seed increase will be sought.

12. **Release of Ohio Bicentennial Birch (Dan Herms)**
S Dr. Herms described a proposal to release a variety from seed derived from parent trees that had been selected under severe pressure for bronze birch borer damage. These materials should have faster growth than other insect-resistant paper birches. Dr. Herms expressed concern about the potential competition this release might generate for the other recent insect-resistant birch, Secret Sentinel. A motion was approved to release Ohio Bicentennial Birch, contingent on review of the existing agreement with the licensee of Secret Sentinel.

13. **Release of Maize Germplasm Line** (Rich Pratt)
S The inbred line, FS8A(S):S09-43-2, derives from the work of the OARDC corn breeding project in conjunction with long-standing Germplasm Enhancement of Maize (GEM) project. The line will contribute diversity to the corn breeding industry and features relatively good yield and low grain moisture. It will probably be used as breeding material, not as a parent of commercial hybrids. A motion for release was approved.

14. **Release of Phaseolus Germplasm** (Rich Pratt)
S A set of 8 backcross-derived (BC2 and BC3) lines was developed by Rich Pratt over a period of nearly 20 years. These lines have genetic material from tepary bean (*Phaseolus acutifolius*) in a background that is primarily common bean (*P. vulgaris*). The lines offer diversity and improved yield over the recurrent parent. They have shown good cookability as well. The lines will be a unique source of germplasm to bean breeders. A motion to release these lines was approved.