

Minutes of the Meeting of the Technical Committee

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECT S-9, ON "NEW PLANTS"

Audubon Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, February 3, 1949.

Call for the meeting of the S-9 Technical Committee was sent to the Directors of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the Southern Region on December 29, 1948 by Administrative Adviser, R. D. Lewis. In his letter the Administrative Adviser requested the director of each interested station to designate a representative to serve on the technical committee.

Membership of the Technical Committee:

Administrative Adviser -- R. D. Lewis, Director, Texas Station, ex officio

Alabama -- Charles F. Simmons, Agronomy

Arkansas -- R. P. Bartholomew, Agronomy, (Assoc. Dir.)

Florida -- S. C. Litzenberger, Agronomy (Absent but had filed a statement  
of interest with the Adviser)

Georgia -- O. E. Sell, Pasture Specialist, Chairman

Kentucky -- L. M. Josephson, Agronomy (Absent)

Louisiana -- Julian O. Miller, Horticulture

Mississippi -- H. W. Bennett, Agronomy (Member, Executive Committee)

North Carolina -- R. L. Lovvorn, Agronomy, Secretary (Absent) W. E. Colwell  
(alternate) present

Oklahoma -- H. F. Murphy, Agronomy (Absent)

Puerto Rico -- E. Molinary Sales, Horticulture

South Carolina -- No one designated

Tennessee -- No one designated

Texas -- R. G. Reeves, Agronomy and Genetics

Virginia -- No one designated

U.S.D.A. -- C. O. Erlanson, BPISAE, Div. Plant Exploration and Introduction  
Howard P. Barss, Office of Experiment Stations (Advisory)

*Agr. Expt. Sta. Univ. of Puerto Rico  
Rio Padres P.R.*  
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Others Present:

Georgia -- C. C. Murray, Director

F. F. Cowart, Horticulture

Louisiana -- W. G. Taggart, Director

Ralph T. Brown, Horticulture

North Carolina -- W. E. Colwell

Puerto Rico -- J. Velez-Fortuno, Plant Breeding

U.S.D.A. -- J. O. Ware, Cotton Agronomist, BPISAE

The meeting was called to order by Technical Adviser R. D. Lewis who distributed a list of agenda for the meeting and asked Howard P. Barss to serve as secretary pro tem.

1. The functions of the Technical Committee, its responsibility and its relationships were presented by the Administrative Adviser. The nature of a cooperative regional project, the contributions which the cooperating states may make to it, the sources of funds which may be used in support of the regional project and participating experiment station projects were discussed. Attention was called to the useful pamphlet issued in August 1948 by the Committee of Nine under the title "Definition of Terms and Functions Related to the Organization and Administration of Cooperative Regional Projects with Special Reference to the Agricultural Research and Marketing Act". Each technical committee member should be familiar with the contents. The experiment station directors and the Office of Experiment Stations can supply copies.

2. The preliminary draft of Regional Project S-9, approved by the Committee of Nine in March 1948 was reviewed and discussed. It was pointed out that although an allotment of \$30,000 of 9b3 funds under the Research and Marketing Act had originally been included for the support of S-9 in the fiscal year 1949, the Committee of Nine had had to eliminate this item in view of the reduced funds finally appropriated by Congress. In November of 1948 the Southern Directors asked the Committee of Nine to allot \$15,000 for S-9 for the fiscal year 1950 and this appeared to be the figure on which the Technical Committee should base its budget considerations for the year ahead.

Bartholomew suggested that if other regional projects like the proposed Southern regional project on Small Grains should take over the handling of seedstocks of small grains introduced under S-9, the latter project would not have to be concerned about the maintenance of such seedstocks.

In the discussion that followed it was brought out that plans were being developed for such collaboration among various regional projects as would insure maximum service to agriculture and avoid useless duplication. Bartholomew was asked to formulate a paragraph relating to such relationships which might be inserted under Objective 3 of the outline for project S-9 in the section on "Procedure".

This, paragraph, as prepared by Lewis, accepted by Bartholomew as amended slightly during discussion, read as follows:

"Other technical committees concerned with regional research on specific crops have definite interests in the materials assembled in this 'New Plants' Regional Project S-9. The attention of their technical committees will be called to the availability of stocks of introduced and increased plants of possible significance to the furtherance of their projects. Responsibility for the evaluation and maintenance of these stocks can be transferred to the specific technical crop committee prepared to assume it. Technical committees are requested to indicate to the S-9 Technical Committee what germ plasma should be sought and assembled through the cooperative plant exploration activities of this project."

The project statement for S-9, with the above paragraph added and a few minor changes in line with Committee decisions, as well as budget proposals for 1950, was later approved by action of the Technical Committee. Corrected copy is attached as part of these minutes.

3. The status of similar "New Plants" projects in the other regions and of Bureau activities in support of these projects under BPISAE project RM:b lll financed by RMA 10b funds was summarized by Erlanson. On request Erlanson agreed to provide a copy of this summary for inclusion with the minutes of the meeting. Erlanson reported plans of the Bureau for possible future exploration. He stated that plans for an expedition into certain parts of China were being held up on account of the disturbed conditions in that area. Definite plans were being made, however, to explore the highlands of Ethiopia, one of the most important world sources of a variety of valuable crop plants.

4. The action of the Association of Southern Experiment Station Directors in reference to S-9 at their meeting on November 11, 1948 in Washington, as presented in the Administrative Adviser's letter of December 29 to Southern directors, was reviewed by Lewis.

In the discussion that followed on the action of the Southern directors with reference to the possible selection of the U. S. Plant Introduction Station at Savannah, Ga. as temporary headquarters for S-9, it was held that this action was in effect permissive rather than mandatory. The disadvantages of using a Federal station such as that at Savannah for a primary station for a regional project was brought out. It was pointed out that it was more satisfactory for the primary station for a regional "New Plants" project to be located at a State agricultural experiment station, especially where 9b3 funds are to be used.

5. The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, according to Erlanson, was prepared to assist in paying the salary of a coordinator for S-9 and aid in other ways, regardless of the decision of the Technical Committee as to the location of the primary station or headquarters for the proposed coordinator. However, funds are not available for a coordinator before July 1, 1949.

6. Specific proposals for 1949-50 were considered by the Technical Committee.

Possible central seed storage to serve all regions was the first subject discussed. Erlanson indicated that the Northeastern Technical Committee for NE-9 had first suggested setting up seed storage facilities at Glenn Dale where their primary station is located. A study of the situation disclosed that it would be necessary to construct a new building there. It was learned, however, that a good building already constructed at the U. S. Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, MD., only a few miles away from Glenn Dale could be readily transformed to provide ample seed storage facilities, not only for the northeast region but for other regions if desired. The facilities for necessary temperature and humidity control at various levels would be provided. The NE-9 Technical Committee had approved the use of such facilities and the Bureau had put in an item of \$25,000 covering the cost of providing such seed storage facilities at Beltsville in its request for 1949-50 under Bureau project RM: b lll. It was manifest that funds for needed seed storage

in the Southern region could not be provided within the proposed allotment of 9b3 funds for S-9 for the fiscal year 1950. On motion by Simmons, seconded by Bennett, it was voted that the proposed central seed storage facilities to be provided by BPISAE at Beltsville be used for seed storage by the Southern region under S-9 (temporarily at least).

Participation in a national coordinating and advisory committee to serve all regions in connections with their "New Plants" cooperative programs, as provided in Objective 5 of the S-9 project outline, was approved by vote of the Committee on motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Murray. The representatives of S-9 in a meeting of such a National Committee, will consist of the Administrative Adviser, the Chairman of the Technical Committee, and one additional Technical Committee member as well as the head of the regional primary station, when appointed. By vote H. W. Bennett was designated as the additional member to serve on the National Committee.

Lists of plants for future introduction or distribution of interest to the different Southern states, were given orally by each representatives of the Committee. The Administrative Adviser placed these lists on the blackboard. The number of items listed proved to be astonishingly large. It was proposed that forms be prepared on which each state might indicate the types of materials desired, with preferential listing. These would be assembled by the Chairman of the Technical Committee and transmitted to the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction for its guidance.

7. Organization of the Technical Committee for S-9. On nomination from the floor, O. E. Sell of the Georgia Experiment Station, was elected chairman and R. L. Lovvorn of the North Carolina Experiment Station, was elected secretary. It was understood that these men would serve with indefinite term of office. It was voted to have an Executive Committee to carry out special responsibilities placed upon it by the Technical Committee, this Executive Committee to consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, and one other member of the Technical Committee. It was assumed that the Administrative Adviser would serve *ex officio* on the Executive Committee. H. W. Bennett of the Mississippi Experiment Station, was elected as member of the Executive Committee. It was also understood, according to Lewis, that the regional coordinator, when appointed, would sit with the Executive Committee.

8. Budget for 1949-50. Chairman O. E. Sell presided over the meeting during the budget discussion.

Travel Trust Fund. It was voted to allot \$1,500 of the proposed \$15,000 budget of 9b3 funds for S-9 to the Texas station for a travel trust fund for the Technical Committee. (Condition of this fund was to be reviewed before the end of the year and any surplus re-assigned by the executive (or technical) committee).

Primary Station at Experiment, Georgia. After considerable discussion of several locations offered for the establishment of the primary station or coordinator's headquarters for the region, a majority of the technical committee members present voted to locate the primary station for S-9 at the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Experiment, Georgia.

Coordinator's salary. It was agreed to seek the appointment of a coordinator of P-4 Grade, with \$2,600 or about half his salary, to be paid from 9b3 funds allotted to the Georgia station for the S-9 Primary Station, the remainder to be paid by BPISAE from 10b funds allotted to the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction for project RM: b lll. It was indicated that it would be desirable for the Government to pay enough of the salary of the coordinator to permit him to qualify for Federal retirement benefits.

Expenses of the Primary Station. It was voted that the remainder of the proposed 9b3 allotment for S-9, \$10,900 be allocated to the Georgia Experiment Station for use, along with such station funds as may be made available, toward meeting the expenses of the coordinator in setting up and operating the primary station. All of the proposed 9b3 allotment to S-9 for 1950 would thus be allotted toward the support of the primary station at Experiment, Georgia, except for the \$1,500 trust fund allotted to the Texas station. The Administrative Adviser called attention to the fact that station projects covering these activities would have to be prepared by the respective stations and approved by the proper authorities before they would be entitled to receive any 9b3 funds that might finally be approved by the Committee of Nine for use under S-9.

In the discussion of the best way to use 9b3 funds for the benefit of the region, it was pointed out that dividing available funds into small allocations to different states would tend to dissipate them in a manner unlikely to bring substantial results of value to the region as a whole. It was felt to be wiser to concentrate whatever funds are allotted on major undertakings which the technical committee considers to be of wide regional importance. The representatives of several states stated that their stations would cooperate in the work of the regional project without allocations to them of 9b3 funds. For the present it was deemed essential to put everything into hiring a coordinator and getting the primary station established and functioning. The Director of the Georgia Station estimated that his station would contribute in the neighborhood of \$15,000 in station funds and facilities to the work of S-9. A total allotment for 1950 of about \$30,000 10b funds to aid in the work of S-9 was the estimate requested by the Committee. Erlanson did not commit himself as to what funds actually might be available except so far as to provide partial salary for a Regional Coordinator.

9. Appointment of Regional Coordinator. Erlanson mentioned several promising candidates for the position of Regional Coordinator for S-9 and asked that his attention be drawn to other likely prospects. After discussion of three or four names, the committee voted that the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering be given the authority to employ a coordinator for S-9 with the approval of the Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station.

Approved ----

Howard P. Barss, Secretary pro tem  
February 9, 1949.

R. D. Lewis  
Administrator Adviser  
February 12, 1949