

Minutes of the Meeting of the Technical Committee
SOUTHERN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECT S-9, ON "NEW PLANTS"

Horticulture Building, Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station
Experiment, Georgia, April 17-18, 1950

Members Present:

Administrative Advisor - R.D. Lewis, Texas Agr. Exp. Sta.,
College Station, Texas
Regional Coordinator - Edwin James, Experiment, Georgia
U.S.D.A. - C.O. Erlanson, Div. of Plant Exploration and
Introduction, Beltsville, Maryland
Alabama - Pryce, B. Gibson - Alabama Agr. Exp. Sta., Auburn,
Alabama
Arkansas - Absent
Florida - Fred H. Hull, Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta., Gainesville,
Florida
Georgia - O.E. Sell, Ga. Agr. Exp. Sta., Experiment,
Georgia
Kentucky - L.M. Josephson, Ky. Agr. Exp. Sta., Lexington,
Kentucky
Louisiana - Julian C. Miller, La. Agr. Exp. Sta., Baton
Rouge, Louisiana
Mississippi - Absent
North Carolina - Fred D. Cochran, N.C. Agr. Exp. Sta.,
Raleigh, N.C.
Oklahoma - L.L. Ligon, Okla. Agr. Exp. Sta., Stillwater,
Okla.
Puerto Rico - J. Velez Fortuna, Insular Agr. Exp. Sta.,
Rio Piedras, P.R.
South Carolina - J.A. Martin, S.C. Agr. Exp. Sta.,
Clemson College, S.C.
Tennessee - J.K. Underwood, Tenn. Agr. Exp. Sta.,
Knoxville, Tennessee
Texas - R.G. Reeves, Texas Agr. Exp. Sta., College Station,
Texas
Virginia - T.J. Smith, Va. Agr. Exp. Sta., Blacksburg, Va.

The meeting was called to order by O.E. Sell, Chairman of
Technical Committee. It was stated that H.W. Bennett of
Mississippi was unable to attend. Fred D. Cochran was appointed
secretary pro tem.

Clarification of "New Plants" Project: The Administrative Adviser reviewed the S-9 "New Plants" Project since its origin in 1946. A revised draft was approved by the Southern Directors in 1948. A further revision was made at the Baton Rouge meetings in February, 1949, and the first allotment of funds was received in the fiscal year 1949-50. Lewis pointed out that each region now has a new plants project. These are: NE-9, NC-7, S-9, and W-6. RM:b-111 is that portion of the National Project administered by the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction on funds appropriated under the Research and Marketing Act. The objectives of S-9 deals briefly with the following:

1. To cooperate in a coordinated program of Plant Explorations.
2. To establish and maintain a primary regional plant introduction station.
3. To catalog, preserve, multiply, and distribute seeds and plant materials.
4. To maintain and preserve the germ plasm of field and horticultural plants.
5. To establish suitable methods for coordinating the program in the southern region with other regions.

Lewis Pointed out that each member of the Technical Committee is a representative of his state or agency for all kinds of plants and not alone for the crops of special personal interest.

The Southern Directors approved \$15,000 of 9b3 funds on November 11, 1948, for the fiscal year, 1949-50, for starting a central station and providing a travel fund. The Technical Committee was organized February 3, 1949, and designated the Georgia Experiment Station, Experiment, Georgia, as the Primary Station. The Southern Directors approved the Georgia Experiment Station as the Primary Station on March 28, 1949, and also approved \$15,000 9b3 funds for the S-9 project for 1949-50. These funds were made available October 19, 1949 by the Office of Experiment Stations. Dr. Edwin James was appointed Regional Coordinator and assumed duties on November 1, 1949. The need for building up a strong primary station before considering any distribution of 9b3 funds to states was expressed by Lewis and others.

Highlights of National Coordinating Committee Meetings
at Washington, D. C., February 27-28, 1950.

The Southern Region was represented at these meetings by Director R.D. Lewis, O.E. Sell, Edwin James, and H.W. Bennett. The highlights of these meetings were given by Lewis.

A National Seed Storage to be located in the arid section of the West was reviewed. A sub-committee report was given and a motion to accept this report and recommendations was unanimously carried. The Chairman was authorized to appoint a standing sub-committee to further plans for National Seed Storage. Small reserves

of seed are to be held in storage under controlled conditions. There has been no actual development yet in this connection and no action on National planning for maintenance of vegetatively propagated stocks. The regional Coordinators were given the responsibility of studying ways and means for the preservation of such material.

Erlanson gave a summary of plant introduction activities of Project RM:b-111. Approximately 15,800 introductions have been brought into the program. Of these about one-half have become absorbed in the various regional evaluation programs.

The policy on the release of seed or plant materials to private interests was established by the National Committee. No one private company or individual should be given exclusive rights to newly introduced plant materials. Annual reports on performance, or observation tests, must be made. If the introduced seed or plant material is used in its original genetic form by private interests for commercial purposes, specific authorization must be obtained for such use. If the introduced plant materials are used by private interests in their own breeding programs so that their original genetic form has been modified, the regional or federal project leaders should be so informed.

Lengthy discussions of the National Potato Introduction Station at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, boiled down to unanimous acceptance of a sub-committee recommendations. These were:

1. That the Potato Introduction program be organized as an inter-regional project for the preliminary evaluation and maintenance of germ plasm of introduced plants.
2. That the proposed budget of \$24,000 be kept in force, to be administered by the North Central region, and
3. That the regional groups of Directors consider the possibility of an over-all project of potato improvement.

It was moved that a sub-committee be appointed to draft an over-all National project for potato improvement. The committee will be composed of: The Regional Coordinators, leader of the federal potato-breeding project, head of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, and one potato breeder from each of the four Experiment Station regions.

Functions and Progress of the Southern Primary Station at Experiment, Georgia

James reviewed activities of The Southern Primary Station for past four months and conducted tour of the station facilities. Twenty-five acres of land have been assigned to this project by the Georgia Experiment Station. Some plantings have already been made. Plans are now under way to provide field irrigation, head house and greenhouse space. Thus far, the greenhouse space has been furnished by the Horticulture and Agronomy Departments. Director Murray discussed the plans for adding new facilities, such as a greenhouse and

head house this summer. He expressed confidence that these facilities could be completed by fall. A cold storage room of 1,300 cu. ft. capacity has been assigned for seed storage. According to Erlanson, surplus shelving is available without cost. James explained that a tractor and equipment has been provided, a Sedan Delivery has been purchased, and a Technical Assistant has been appointed.

James indicated that the Primary Station will increase and evaluate plant introductions and will contract some of this work with stations where feasible. It would be impossible to engage in extensive contractual agreements with the present budget. He feels that cooperating states should develop state projects. Dr. James made a survey in the region as regards the proposed National Seed Storage. A report of the results has been submitted to the Committee on National Seed Storage.

Five hundred and forty-nine (549) accessions have been distributed in the Southern Region through the Primary Station and the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction. About 3,000 accessions are on hand to be grown out by Primary Station; of this number, 1,000 will be planted in the Spring.

It was re-emphasized that a strong Primary Station should be developed for the Southern Region.

Organization of State "New Plants" Projects.

The question of state projects was discussed at length. Erlanson favors master projects for each station; several members of the Committee favored specific crops projects. No general policy statement was forthcoming as to type of project; however, it was generally agreed that supporting state projects were desirable as a means of indicating interest and effective participation by states and as a means of coordinating new plant maintenance and evaluation within states and on a regional basis. These supporting projects may be financed from state or other federal funds available at the stations.

Texas has developed a "New Plants" master project from 9b1 and 9b2 funds. Lewis pointed out that these funds cannot be used in maintaining and breeding old plants, and nurseries, or projects already under way. The principal restrictions that frequently have to be emphasized are that the work is to include neither the ordinary testing of varieties nor selections or the breeding of crops. The current year's allotment to this project is \$8,000. Dr. Erlanson stated that the Texas Station was the first to develop a state project supported with state funds. The project has three principal objectives:

1. To introduce species and varieties into Texas which are considered to have possible agricultural value.
2. To evaluate introduced plants as new crops, as sources of new germ plasm in crop improvement, and for possible new uses.

3. To evaluate similarly the usefulness of certain native species and forms which appear to be worthy of trial.

Reeves discussed the general plans and procedures of the Texas state "New Plants" project. The work is divided among fourteen co-workers, each having an interest in a certain crop, a group of related crops, or several different crops of a locality. It is supervised by a project leader through whom all requests are cleared.

Erlanson asked about relationship of research institutes to Experiment Station programs in the New Plants project. Lewis thought they could be handled as private industry or agencies as originally outlined.

At this point Erlanson explained that, for the present, the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction was not distributing *Strophanthus* or *Dioscera* until plants prove they have some value.

Lewis expressed the desire of having as many state supporting projects as possible for the August meeting of the Southern Directors. Several stations are planning to prepare either a master project, or specific crop projects at an early date. Some of these were indicated as follows:

1. Florida - (a) Testing fruits in Western Florida.
(b) Sub-tropical fruits at Homestead.
(c) Camellia collection at Gainesville.
(d) Introduction and testing of new forage plants - Gainesville.
2. Georgia - Project for Primary Station has been written and will be circulated. Several supporting state projects also listed.
3. Kentucky - Corn germ plasm preservation, involving open pollinated varieties. This is to be considered further by the Southern Corn Conference in August.
4. Louisiana - Plans general master project
5. North Carolina - (a) Introduction and maintenance of *Kubus*.
(b) Introduction, classification, and testing of species and varieties of vegetables.
(c) Possibly agronomic projects.
6. Oklahoma - New crops to replace cotton and peanuts.
7. South Carolina - Plans project on peppers, aromatic tobacco, okra, etc.
8. Tennessee - Introduction and maintenance of pear varieties.

Sell expressed his view that state projects should be approved by the Technical Committee. After some discussion, Hull made a motion that state projects be passed on by the Executive Committee; this was seconded by Miller and passed unanimously.

A motion was made that the Texas Station be commended for initiating and supporting the first state project. This was unanimously carried.

Fund Recommendation by Technical Committee

The present breakdown of the \$15,000 budget for the S-9 project was explained by Lewis. In August, 1949, the Southern Directors made the following recommendations contingent upon appropriations of funds by Congress:

<u>Per Cent Increase</u>	<u>Budget Recommended</u>
20	\$20,000
30	20,000
50	30,000
100	30,000

A general discussion of fund allocation resulted. It seemed to be the general opinion of the Technical Committee that funds for the Primary Station should be built up before general allocations are made to cooperating states. Emphasis was also placed on the urgent need for new crops to replace lost acreages of tobacco, peanuts, and cotton. Josephson made a motion that the Technical Committee go on record as requesting a budget of \$30,000 of 9b3 funds for S-9 "New Plants" project, and that this be used in building up the activities of Primary Station to fill the needs of the Southern Region. This motion was seconded by Hull and was passed unanimously. Erlanson pointed out that the South is facing more of a transition in crops than other areas; therefore, a greater necessity for building up new plants research exists.

Election of Officers

Lewis announced the meeting open for nominations for Chairman for the coming year. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that O. E. Sell retain the office of Chairman for the coming year. Hull made motion that the Secretary be the other member from the Technical Committee to attend the National Coordinating Committee meetings. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Miller nominated F. D. Cochran for Secretary. This was seconded and passed.

Lewis asked for a list of Irish potato breeders in the South. One man will be selected by the Southern Directors to represent the South on a sub-committee to draft an over-all National project for potato improvement. This committee will be comprised of: The Regional Coordinators, leader of the federal potato-breeding project, head of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, and one potato breeder from each of the four Experiment Station regions.

Domestic and Other Explorations

Erlanson explained that in Nebraska and Kansas, the collections of grasses and forage plants was being financed on the RM:b-111 project. Thus far, over 1,000 species and types have been collected. The states have received 9b3 funds to carry on the evaluation of these introductions. This project will be continued another year; then a similar plan may be followed in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Mexico. Blueberry and raspberry collections have been made by New Hampshire and supported by \$500 allotment from the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction. This project is expected to continue another year.

Foreign explorations - None have been made this year under this program. Eight thousand nine hundred introductions have been furnished and there are more to come. There is a current expedition for plants for cortisone. Funds requested to do this job next year are \$20,000 for expedition, and \$40,000 for development. Expedition to the highlands of Ethiopia has been called off due to limited funds.

Erlanson also explained other goals of the Division. One of these is the introduction of plants for industrial utilization. He pointed out that industry did not make needs known; therefore, it is a difficult problem. He has asked for \$30,000 for an Industrial Contract project to determine what industry needs. This has been granted. Projects with Research Institutes are contemplated for the purpose of surveying industrial needs. This information should aid in laying plans on how to approach industry and to get some ideas of needs.

Reports

The Regional Coordinator and Chairman are required to make an annual report to the Committee of Nine. Next report on S-9 will cover period from February 1, 1950 - January 31, 1951. Requests for information will go to all Committee members. This report should be sent to the Administrative Advisor by February 1, 1951. It was suggested that 150 copies be made for distribution.