REPORT

Fifth International Beta Genetic Resources Workshop and World Beta Network Meeting – A Brief Report (September 7-10, 1999, Bury, St. Edmunds, U.K.)

The Fifth International Beta Genetic Resources Workshop and World Beta Network meeting along with first meeting of the ECP/GR working group on Beta was held from 7th to 10th September, 1999 at the Institute of Arable Crops Research – Brooms Barn, Bury St. Edmunds, U.K. This workshop was sponsored by the IPGRI, Rome, British Sugarbeet Seed Producers Association, the British Sugar Plc., English Sugarbeet Company and KWS Saat. The oral sessions were held on:

1. Genetic Diversity
2. Cytology and Genetics
3. Germplasm : Conservation and Evaluation
4. Germplasm Exploitation

There was a separate session for Poster papers in which 15 poster papers were presented.

The workshop started with an introduction and welcome by Dr. J.D. Pidgeon, Director, IACR. Brooms Barn Experiment Station and Dr. L. Frese, Secretary, World Beta Network. The session on Genetic Diversity and Cytology and Genetics was chaired by Dr. B.V. Ford-Lloyd (U.K.). Four papers on genetic diversity were presented. Two papers on Impact of Gene flow of cultivated and wild sea beet populations were presented. Another paper on Genetic Diversity among and between beet land races in Iran was presented by N. Arjmond *et al.* A paper on Genetic Diversity and Genetic Variability in *Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima* under subtropical climates of India presented by Dr. H.M. Srivastava *et al.*

The session on Cytology and Genetics contained three papers. One interesting paper in this session was on localization of second monogerm gene in sugarbeet using RFLP markers was presented by Dr. Y. Shavrukov. Another interesting paper in this session on Beet Gynogenetic lines : Induction, flow cyto-metry and technological estimation was presented by Dr. Anna Svirshchcvskaya from Belarus. The third paper in this session was on "Towards a map of functional genes focussed on Carbohydrate metabolism" was by Schneider *et al.*

The session on Germplasm Conservation and Evaluation and Germplasm Exploitation was chaired by Dr. L. Panella (USA). Six papers in this session were presented by various authors. Dr. L. Frese presented a paper on the Synthetic Beta core collection – State of art. S. A. Francis *et al.* presented a paper on Exploiting novel sources of disease resistance in Beta germplasm using molecular markers. M. McGrath presented a paper on Beta breeding and genetics at East Lansing Molecular methods, genetic diversity and trait elucidation. Dr. Lee Panella presented a paper on "20 years of screening

sugarbeet for resistant to *Rhizoctonia solani*". Sadeghian *et al.* presented a paper on "Genetic variation for drought stress in sugarbeet".

The session on Poster papers contained many interesting topics like "Adaptogenesis in Beta L, Cytology and genetics of abnormal pollen development in sugarbeet. Drought tolerance in beet, Mitochondrial variation in o-types of sugarbeet, Cytological and karyotypic studies in some species of genus Beta and review of sugarbeet breeding and genetic resources work in Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine etc.

This workshop was followed by a working meeting on the WBN in which a detailed report on World Beta Network activity was presented by Dr. L. Frese (Germany). Dr. C. Germeier presented report on International Data Base for Beta – State of the art. Dr. L. Maggioni presented information on IPGRI/FAO multicrop passport list. After brief discussions on the above aspects reports on National Beta Genetic Resources activities were presented by representatives of the following member countries of World Beta Network :

Azerbaijan, Germany, Lithuania, Turkey, Belarus, India, Poland, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Iran, Russian Fed., USA and others, Georgia, Italy, Slovakia.

On the last day a session on discussions and recommendations was held which was presided by Dr. L. Frese. During this session the following three members International Beta Coordinating Committee (BCC) were elected unanimously for three year term.

1. Dr. J.M. McGrath (USA)
2. Dr. Bruno Desprez (France)
3. Mr. N. Arjmond (Iran)

with Dr. L. Frese as permanent Secretary.

The next meeting of World Beta Network will be held in Italy or Poland. Half day field and laboratory visit of the Brooms Barn Experiment Station was also organized. On 11th September one day visit to Royal Botanic Garden, Kew was arranged. This meeting was attended by about 35 Scientists from different parts of the World.

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