

**2006 ICGI Special Topics Report**  
Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
The Blue Tree Park Hotel, Brasilia, Brazil

The following topics were discussed during the special topics session:

1. Sites for the 2008 meeting
2. 2007 World Cotton Research Congress IV
3. Adventitious transgenes in conventional breeding program
4. Radiation hybrids
5. Participants in future ICGI meetings
6. Genomic nomenclature
7. Sequencing of the cotton genome

**1. Possible sites for 2008 meeting:**

- Two possible sites were announced;
  - Liz Dennis suggested that the meeting should be held in Canberra, Australia.
  - Kunbo Wang, in relaying a message from Shuxin Yu, Director General of the Chinese Cotton Research Institute in Anyang, suggested that the meeting be held in China in conjunction with the Chinese Cotton Research Conference. The meeting could take place in a city near Beijing just prior to the opening of the 2008 Olympics. They expect a large turnout, as about 500 members attended the last conference.

**2. Participation in the 2007 World Cotton Research Congress IV**

- Dr. Cantrell reminded members that the WCRC IV will take place in 2007 at Lubbock, TX on September 10-14. Biotechnology and genomics are the special topic of interest selected for this meeting. The submission deadline for the proceedings is on April 6 2007.

**3. Adventitious transgenes in conventional breeding program**

- Peng Chee commented that this issue would have a huge impact on research programs that work in germplasm development. It has been addressed in other crop such as maize; Peng Chee suggested that this group should have a dialog with the private industry that owns the transgenes to discuss the responsibility of testing cotton germplasm. Roy Cantrell noted that a summary of the meeting held in CIMMYT is now online.

**4. Radiation hybrids**

- David Stelly asked members to participate in conducting genetic mapping using a *G. hirsutum* radiation hybrid population that was developed in his laboratory. Several members, including Zhang, Chen, Chee, Scheffler, Ulloa, and Lacape, have expressed interested in collaborating in this project. This announcement has been approved for posting in the ICGI web site.

## **5. Participants in future ICGI meetings**

- Kohel, ICGI Chair, noted that the ICGI needs to update the membership list. There currently is no mechanism stated in the by-laws in which to guide the organization to do this. John Yu suggested that we have to be more inclusive in its membership and officers. Brian Scheffler suggested that the conference committee needs to identify any special needs for the host country before a conference held.

## **6. Genomic nomenclature**

- Jodi Scheffler recommended developing a standardized nomenclature for SSR markers in Cotton Microsatellite Database (CMD) and consolidating genetic maps in cotton. She also suggested that researchers need to check for duplication (redundancy) of markers that are already on the database. Jing Yu noted that if one performs a query in cottonDB, it would identify the marker of interest as well as other duplicates under different names. Tianzhen Zheng commented that submission of SSR sequences might be restricted in some countries due to various funding organizations.
- Richard Percy suggested forming an ad hoc committee to open a forum on this issue. Jodi Scheffler and Marc Lacape were charged with forming a workgroup to solicit input from others and developing a white paper to be presented at the coming PAG meeting.

## **7. Sequencing of the cotton genome**

- Jeff Chen commented that sequencing the cotton genome is a community effort, and presented members with a list of individuals that could represent the group in 1) identifying resources and 2) coordinating the sequencing efforts. Jeff noted that this issue was discussed in China in 2002 and in India in 2004 but no progress was made up to now. He later showed a list of cotton genome project funded in the US, including a JGI project on sequencing of the *G. raimondii* genome.
- A number of questions such as funding, choice of genome to be sequenced first, access to the sequence and utilization were raised and discussed but no consensus was reached.
- Russell Kohel questioned whether this issue is within the function of ICGI. He suggested that if members want this to function within ICGI, we then need to set up an ad hoc committee with international participants. Several members commented that they support Kohel's position on this matter and suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to work with the workgroup chairs to develop a white paper to be presented at the up coming PAG conference.
- Chee suggested that the ad hoc committee should include representation from the private sector.

Report submitted by Secretary/Treasurer, Peng Chee.