

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
Minutes of the
Select Committee on Plant Improvement Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2019

A meeting of the Select Committee on Plant Improvement of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. was held on Friday, April 12, 2019, at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 103 in Lake Alfred, FL. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 9:42 am by CRDF COO Rick Dantzler. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Bobby Barben, Tim Dooley, John Gose, Deeley Hunt, Ed Leotti, Tom Obreza, Pat Ouimet (telephone), and Jim Snively. Excused from the meeting was Daniel Scott, who did not participate.

Also participating were Ute Albrecht, Kim Bowman, Brandy Brown, Bill Castle, Rick Dantzler, Allison Drown, Manjul Dutt, Fred Gmitter, Jim Graham, Jude Grosser, Ned Hancock (telephone), David Howard, Nabil Killiny, Greg McCollum, Sean McCoy, Juan Carlos Motamayor, Zhonglin Mou, Audrey Nowicki, Brandon Page, Michael Rogers, Wayne Simmons, Mike Sparks (telephone), Ed Stover, John Updike, Jr., Rosa Walsh, and Nian Wang.

Mr. Dantzler welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out in support of the Plant Breeding efforts that the Select Committee on Plant Improvement intends to tackle. Among other things, this committee's effort will be to find out the status of the plant improvement effort and determine how CRDF can help breeders be as successful as they can be providing results for growers.

Mr. Dantzler opened the floor for nominations of a Chairperson to head the Select Committee on Plant Improvement. Mr. Barben made a motion to election Jim Snively as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Plant Improvement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gose and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Snively thanked the committee and participants for coming today and asked Mr. Dantzler to start the discussion of the committee goals.

Mr. Dantzler asked each member of the committee and the invited participants to introduce themselves. Mr. Dantzler then opened the meeting with discussions on what the purpose is of the Select Committee by asking them why they thought we were here. He referred everyone to the handouts provided, which contained a document approved by the CRDF BoD on the directives of the Select Committee and questions that have been addressed, as well as a summary of how some plant breeders define tolerance. He reiterated that the citrus industry believes that what the plant breeders are doing is critical to the long-term success and viability of the industry.

Mr. Dantzler reviewed a few of the questions the Select Committee and plant breeders will be discussing, which are:

- Growers: What do you want in a Rootstock?
- Breeders: Are you looking at it the same way?
- Breeders: Do you have anything the Growers say they want?

Also discussed were the committee goals and definitions of tolerance. Notes from this discussion are attached.

Dr. Gmitter gave a presentation on the History of Plant Breeding Efforts, which can be found on the CRDF website.

At the end of the meeting there was a consensus that a good next step would be for the members of the Select Committee to meet separately in each region with each group of breeders and researchers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Brandy Brown

Select Committee on Plant Improvement

Meeting Date: 4/12/19

- Growers: What do you want in a Rootstock?
 - Low Nematodes/Sting Nematodes/Tree vigor
- Breeders: Are you looking at it the same way?
 - ?
- Breeders: Do you have anything the Growers say they want?
 - ?
- Why are we here?
 - Scion?
 - Processors?
 - Money accountability
- How can we help breeders?
 - Liaison between breeders and individuals
 - Help with data collection and trials ASAP
- Processors: Large field trials
 - 7-8 /month (Field Nov-May)
 - Plant material availability limited seed
 - More seed production of promising prospects
 - Blends?
 - Education
 - Impatience
 - Need Grapefruit variety focus – What more could we do? Grapefruit Scion
 - Not “Crappy Juice” – How to make it better – reduces demand
 - Cybrids – Field Trial
 - Alternative clean-up method (Dawson)
- What do you not want?
 - Pre-HLB Prod. methods?

- 250/acre
- 15 yr. / Economic
- 300 lbs./acre
- lbs. solid/acre
- What do I plant?
 - Communication
 - Yield – name of the game
 - *Field trials w/The best ones
- Substantial tolerance
 - Enough trees for field trials
 - Variability between trees makes large-scale better
 - Each team meet w/Select Committee
 - Sugar cane breeding program
 - Get growers to help them evaluate plots
 - ID top performers
 - Selection criteria – breeders can agree
 - Create seed trees in case they work
 - Top 5 for sweet orange and grapefruit
 - Can't get seeds from Argentina because of APHIS rules that don't makes sense. I P concerns we don't own that
- What do growers not want?
 - No tangerines
 - Too sweet?
 - Capable of being tailored to process
 - Don't prejudge the politics
 - Hamlins, early-mids – not helping w/consumer
 - 2-3 genes really standing out
 - Psyllid trap crop around perimeter of grove
- Frustration?

- 1. Shovel-ready vs. long-term funding. Emphasis has been on shovel-ready. Focus funding on the ones that have been identified.
- 2. Involve EPA – pathogen not pesticide.
- 3. Broad-scale trials
- 4. Succession planning – Stakeholders are listening to more than us.