

PDANU-381

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International Workshop on Biological
Nitrogen Fixation Technology for
Tropical Agriculture. CIAT, Cali, Colombia

W. Chris Stearn

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March 1981

International Soybean Program, INTSOY

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International Soybean Program (INTSOY)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
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TRIP REPORT: Colombia

NAME OF TRAVELER: Chris Stearn
Asst. Professor - Agronomy

DATE OF TRAVEL: March 8 - March 15, 1981

PURPOSE:

1. To attend the first international workshop on Biological Nitrogen Fixation Technology for Tropical Agriculture at the CIAT facilities in Cali, Colombia.
2. To present a paper on IISE (International Inoculant Shipping Experiment) and ISRIE (International Soybean Rhizobium Inoculant Experiment) Trials.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The first International Workshop on Biological Nitrogen Fixation was an unqualified success. There were over 200 scientists from around the world in attendance most of whom presented papers. As such, this meeting was extremely intensive and informative (see attached program) and interactions, on both a formal and informal basis, were highly encouraged.

Several contacts were made and discussions held with:

- Dr. Paul Williams (Centro de Microbiología y Biología Celular, Venezuela) concerning plant growth regulators and their effects on nodulation.
- Dr. Joe Burton (Nitragin Corp., Milwaukee, Wisc.) and Dr. Y. R. Dommergues (ORSTOM Center, Senegal) about alternate carriers for *Rhizobium* sp.
- Bill Kerrey (NifTAL, Univ. of Hawaii) about NifTAL projects
- Dr. Fernando Munevar (ICA, Bogota) concerning soybean projects in Colombia.
- Dr. Caio Vidor (Faculdade de Agronomia e Veterinaria, Brazil) concerning survival of *Rhizobium* in the soil.
- Dr. Carlos LaBandera (Ministerio de Agricultura, Laboratorio de Microbiología, Uruguay) concerning inoculant production and distribution in Uruguay.

- Dr. Art Wollum (NCSU, Raleigh, N.C.) concerning serology on nodules from Dr. Stewart Smith's plot in Corozal, Puerto Rico.
- Dr. Lutfu Cakmakci (Dept. of Agricultural Microbiology, Ankara, Turkey) concerning research aimed at understanding competition for nodule sites on *Glycine max* roots.

The paper presented on IISE and ISRIE trials was well accepted and answered several questions raised in earlier sessions concerning survival rate of *Rhizobium* during international shipping. More studies, of this type, were encouraged to make more meaningful the sparse data presently available.

Two pertinent points were made during the multi-location Inoculant Trials session: 1) that international trials did not prove that inoculation was required in every situation and 2) that information gained from these trials was not getting down to the user (farmer) level.

The primary purpose of this conference was to share current research results in all facets of BNF research. A secondary purpose was to encourage increased cooperation between individuals/laboratories and organizations involved in BNF. The primary purpose was more than adequately fulfilled. The secondary purpose hopefully will come to fruition in the years to come.

FOLLOW-UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There were several requests for more information, copies of papers, materials, etc. all of which have been sent out.
- More "PR" type material is needed for conferences like this concerning INTSOY in general and INTSOY Soil Microbiology specifically.

- "How can INTSOY interact with other organizations (in LDC's)?"
"What sort of help (consultant, financial, material, etc.) can we expect from INTSOY?" "With whom do we make contact and what exactly are the procedures to request aid/help from INTSOY?" These questions are heard over and over again. An information sheet or pamphlet addressing these questions would be extremely valuable.

- There is a real need for an INTSOY "slide show" (with script) expounding on the various disciplines involved in the INTSOY project, as well as the delineation of the structure and funding sources of the INTSOY organization. This would be another "PR" tool that could be used by any of the INTSOY staff traveling to other organizations or conferences.

- Names and addresses (for mailing list) of participants in this conference can be supplied upon request.