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Participation in Second Southeast Asian
Symposium on Plant Diseases in the Tropics
and Seed Technology Training Course

James B. Sinclair

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October 1980

International Soybean Program, INTSOY

College of Agriculture
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International Soybean Program, INTSOY
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez Campus

Trip Report - Thailand

I. NAME: James B. Sinclair
Professor of International Plant Pathology/UIUC and INTSOY

II. PERIOD OF TRAVEL: 18-31 October 1980

III. ITINERARY:

Lv. Champaign 18 October 0726
Ar. Bangkok 19 October 2200
Lv. Bangkok 31 October 0805
Ar. Champaign 31 October 2132

IV. PURPOSES:

To attend and participate in the Second Southeast Asian Symposium on Plant Diseases in the Tropics held in Bangkok 20-26 October; and the Seed Technology Training Course conducted by the Seed Division, Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) at the DOAE Seed Center No. 1, Phitsanulok. To meet with members of Kasetsart University, DOAE, Department of Agriculture and other institutions.

V. ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONTACTED:

USAID/Bangkok:

Bill Gregg, Senior Seed Industry Specialist

DOAE/Bangkok:

Mr. Petcharat Wanapee, Head, Seed Division

DOAE/Chai Nat and Phitsanulok:

Personnel at the two seed centers

Dept. of Agr., Ministry of Agriculture:

Dr. Arwooth Na Lampang, Head, Field Crops Division

Dr. P. Thongmeearkom, Plant Virology

Dr. Riksh Syamando, Deputy Director-General

Other research and technical personnel

Northeast Agriculture Center:

Chalermchai Prasartsee, Plant Pathologist

Vilai Prasartsee, Plant Pathology

Kasetsart University/Bangkok:

Dr. P. Ingkasuwan, Rector

Other research and technical personnel

Kasetsart University/Kampaengsaem:

Dr. Udom Pupipat, Pathologist
Dr. Suebsak Sontirat, Plant Nematologist
Dr. Thira Sutabutra, Head, Plant Pathology

CIMMYT/Bangkok:

Bobby Renfro, Maize Specialist (Rockefeller Foundation)
Gene Saari, Wheat Specialist (Ford Foundation)

Delegates to the Symposium

Trainees at the training course

Other research and technical personnel

VI. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. I served as Chairman of the session of Seed Pathology and gave an invitational paper on soybean seed pathology at the Symposium.
2. Two 2-hour talks were given at the Seed Technology Training Course.
3. The seed centers at Chai Nat and Phitsanulok were visited.
4. I visited the Plant Pathology laboratory in the Department of Agriculture/Bangkok: and
5. The Department of Agriculture/Bangkok.
6. The INTSOY Sri Lanka conference was discussed with three of the speakers from Thailand and some delegates.
7. Several Thai professionals were interested in developing a formal Memorandum of Agreement with INTSOY. It was pointed out that several international organizations have funding that might be used to support soybean development in Thailand. The Thais also are interested in having another major INTSOY conference or workshop in Thailand. Details on these interests have been presented in letters to Dr. Thompson.
8. Publications were exchanged with several individuals and requests were taken for several INTSOY publications.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND REMARKS:

The Symposium was well planned and well attended. Some excellent reports were given. A number of presentations included data on tropical diseases that probably will never be published. The proceedings from this meeting will be an excellent source book on current problems and research on plant diseases in the tropics.

The seed technology program is excellent. The program has made amazing progress in the past few years. It is quickly developing into a model system for developing countries. The seed pathology component will need further strengthening.

With the strong interest shown in developing a formal working and cooperative relationship with INTSOY, consideration should be given to signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of Thailand.

IX. FOLLOW-UP ACTION:

Keep in contact with the soybean personnel in the Departments of Agriculture and Agricultural Extension, as well as at Kasetsart University (both campuses). Continue to exchange technical materials.

A number of possibilities are developing for cooperation in soybean production problems, utilization and seed production. INTSOY personnel traveling in that part of the world may well make advanced plans to visit counterparts to discuss the development of research and training programs.