

TRIP REPORT - Texas
A&M Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Beaumont, Texas and Gainesville,
University of Florida

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PERIOD OF TRAVEL: Beaumont, Texas: Dec. 18, 19, 1978
Gainesville, Florida: Dec. 20-25, 1978

PURPOSE:

The objective of the trip was to meet with Dr. E. H. Paschal, II at Beaumont, Texas. Dr. Paschal was the predecessor soybean breeder at the University of Puerto Rico INTSOY. The other purpose was to contact Dr. K. Hinson at Gainesville, Florida for consultation.

The planned itinerary was to leave Gainesville on the 22nd of December to proceed on to Stoneville, Mississippi to see Dr. E. E. Hartwig. But Doddson Travel Agency at Champaign could not find a vacant place in plane because of the Christmas air travel rush. Therefore, this last interesting visit was delayed until March 1979.

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Beaumont, Texas -

Soybean production fields were observed at the Beaumont Research Station. Conversations were held between Dr. Paschal and myself concerning works already done at Isabela, continuous observation and selection among the promising breeding lines, and possible cooperation in research on seed quality, SMV and Velvet bean caterpillar.

Dr. Paschal also gave a briefing of research work done at Beaumont, the bright future of soybean in Texas and showed me his seed quality Lab. We also visited and browsed at the research station library. According to Dr. Paschal, the task in Puerto Rico is difficult because the breeder must be careful not to breed lines only for Puerto Rico island but try to get a pool of germplasm for diverse environment. Therefore the fostering of different cooperation is needed. Works at P.R. should provide basic research for fit to LDCs.

Gainesville, Florida -

The 20th and 21st were spent together with Dr. Hinson in selection of soybean breeding lines at the West field University of Florida farm. It was exciting to get acquainted with Dr. Hinson's materials including one

black seeded Parent (Santa Maria) that I used myself successfully in Viet Nam. The interesting vegetable type Late Giant was observed along with UFV-1, Santa Rosa, Cobb and the famous Jupiter Dr. Hinson is looking for the 10-50% best in some lines and is interested in possible genetic shift in poor environmental conditions.

Under Dr. Hinson's view the choice of Parents is important. INTSOY had already the best materials in the world from SPOT, SIEVE. However, there are still some weak traits, not near perfection yet. We together agreed on a suggestion of invitation of cooperator-breeders at different more representative sites in the tropics such as Sri-Lanka, Peru, Panama, Argentina, Brasil, Mexico, the Philippines, Australia with immediate consideration of Colombia, AVRDC and IITA.

On the 22nd Dr. Hinson gave a briefing on his breeding and research works conducted on soybean and supplied me generously his available papers. Some continuing cooperative breeding program between University of Florida and INTSOY at UPR was also discussed.

I spent the weekend while waiting for the connection flight to visit the University of Florida libraries, bookshop and the Florida State Museum.