

TRIP REPORT - Puerto Rico and Brazil

Date Submitted: 1978 June 7

NAME: James B. Sinclair

TITLE: Professor, International Plant Pathology

DIVISION: INTSOY and the Department of Plant Pathology

ITINERARY: Left Champaign on May 11 and flew to Mayaguez via San Juan. Left Mayaguez on May 14 and flew to Londrina via Sao Paulo arriving on May 15. Left Londrina on May 28 and flew to Champaign via New York City arriving on May 29. All expenses except for difference in airfare to Mayaguez and those involved before and after leaving Londrina were paid for by the National Soybean Research Center, EMBRAPA, Londrina. A detailed itinerary is on file in the INTSOY office.

PURPOSE:

1. To visit INTSOY (UPR-Mayaguez and UIUC) personnel and facilities at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and the Isabela substation.
2. To review current cooperative projects and discuss new projects in light of recent and future personnel changes.
3. To visit the USDA, SEA Mayaguez Institute of Tropical Agriculture and review the current status of the soybean rust research program.

ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONTACTED:

UPR-Mayaguez

A. Ayala (UPR-M, Head, Department of Crop Protection)
M. A. Ellis (UPR-M, INTSOY)
P. Melendez (UPR-M, INTSOY)
E. J. Ravallo (UPR-M, Agr. Engineering)
James Oard (UIUC, INTSOY)
Stewart Smith (UIUC, INTSOY)

USDA, MITA:

Drs. Freitag and Nader Valiki

RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

It has been over one and a half years since I visited the INTSOY program at Mayaguez. During this visit I was shown the facility development in buildings, laboratories, equipment and offices at the UPR-M plant pathology laboratories on the campus, the "Finca Laboratory" and at the Isabela substation. I visited the experimental field plots with the scientists at Isabela. I reviewed the progress of research with each of the scientists. I discussed some personnel changes with Dr. Ayala.

Drs. George Freitag and Vakili discussed the progress of their respective research programs and Dr. Vakili and I discussed the progress of soybean rust research in the western hemisphere.

These visits occurred not only on Friday, but portions of Saturday and Sunday.

While in Brazil, I was an "unofficial" representative of INTSOY. The Director of the National Soybean Research Program, E. Bonato, held informal discussions with me on three occasions concerning the possibility of his coming to Urbana for a formal signing of the memorandum of agreement with INTSOY. He informed me of a national soybean research review in Londrina on September 24 through the 29. We discussed the possibilities of short-term training at the University of Illinois for members of the program. Since I was not an official representative of INTSOY, no commitments could be made.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Dr. Ellis would like to have the Department of Plant Pathology consider sending a pre-doctorate student in seed pathology to do his thesis research at UPR-Mayaguez in the future.
2. Dr. Vakili informed us that soybean rust had been confirmed in Costa Rica. He would like to have a pre- or post-doctorate person work for about 2 years on rust of scarlet runner bean. Funds are not now available.
3. I should meet with Drs. Buddemeier, Ford and Thompson concerning the possibilities of Director Bonato coming to Urbana to complete the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with INTSOY.