



International Consortium for Sugarcane Modeling

Minutes of ICSM Business Meeting held at Rydges Apartments, Townsville, QLD, AUSTRALIA – 10th September 2012

Present:

- James Shine (Chairman), Sugar Cane Growers Coop, Florida, USA (jmshine@scgc.org)
- Abraham Singels (Treasurer), SASRI, South Africa (Abraham.Singels@sugar.org.za)
- Graham Kingston (Secretary), Sugron Pty Ltd, Australia (sugronomo@gmail.com)
- Preecha Prammanee, MitrPhol Sugar, Thailand (preechap@mitrphol.com)
- Jabulani Sifundza, Swaziland Sugar Association., Swaziland (jabs@ssa.co.sz)
- Simbarashe Chinorumba, ZAES, Zimbabwe (schinorumba@zaes.org.au)
- Duli Zhao, Sugar Cane Growers Coop, Florida, USA (duli.zhao@ars.usda.gov)
- Matt Duchrow, Sugar Cane Growers Coop, Florida, USA (mjduchrow@scgc.org)
- Barry Salter, BSES Limited, Australia (BSalter@bSES.com.au)
- Geoff Inman-Bamber (retired), Australia (geoff.inmanbamber@gmail.com)
- Peter Thorburn, CSIRO, Australia (peter.thorburn@csiro.au)

Meeting opened at 18:00

The Chairman welcomed attendees.

ICSM Activity

Abraham Singels gave an overview of ICSM and activity to date. The first project resulted in an upgrade of the version of CaneGro in the DSSAT platform; this was undertaken largely by Matthew Jones working with Cheryl Porter and Jim Jones at University of Florida. The second project (IGxE) is underway and involves experiments to examine the crop physiological expression of GxE interactions of a suite of common clones in different international environments.

The protocol for the IGxE project is to be more widely circulated so that other potential participants might consider involvement.

The MOU for the second term of ICSM expired in May 2012. Current members include (BSES, SASRI, SCGC, CIRAD, Chang Mai University, SRIF, KESREF, ZAES and MitrPhol Sugar). While BSES is not a member of the second project team the organization has not withdrawn from ICSM as such.

Current members of the IGxE project include (SASRI, ZAES, SCGC and CIRAD – Reunion).

The final report of IGxE is expected in 2018. Varieties currently under propagation include: N41, R570, CP88-1762, CP9650, ZN7, NCo376 and Q183. HoCP96540 should be discarded due to orange rust susceptibility. Genetic fingerprinting of clones is underway.

AGMIP Project

Peter Thorburn gave an overview of the Agricultural Model Improvement and Inter-comparison (AGMIP) project (www.agmip.org). The objective of the project was to enable movement to an “ensemble” approach to use of agricultural models to allow better representation of uncertainty, as the different models had strengths and weaknesses in dealing with response to environment. ICSM members can contribute by providing data sets for model calibration and validation purposes and/or becoming involved in modeling activities in their region. The contact person is Peter Thorburn.

Genetic Trait Modelling

Geoff Inman-Bamber gave a brief overview of developments in genetic modeling. The aim is to use models to help understand the impact of traits on crop performance in different environments, so that breeding can be informed. Projects using this technique is underway in Australia and South Africa and the current ICSM project (IGXE) is also focusing on this.

ICSM Phase 3

Jim Shine initiated discussion on support amongst members for a third phase of ICSM.

Moved - Simbarashe Chinorumba “That ICSM be extended for a third term and for a period of 5 years”.

Seconded – Abraham Singels.

Carried.

The third term shall be deemed to have commenced in May 2012.

The Treasurer advised the bank balance as at 30th April 2012 was R103,688 or USD12,343. Thus there are sufficient funds to commence the next phase.

Moved - Simbarashe Chinorumba “That membership fees be waived for the first year of the new term. New members will be allowed to buy-in for USD900.”

Seconded – Abraham Singels.

Carried.

Office bearers for 2012-2017.

Jim Shine indicated willingness to continue as Chairman – carried by acclamation.

Graham Kingston indicated he should stand down as Secretary due to reduced ability to attend meetings after retirement. Abraham Singels suggested a two member executive might be adequate and that he was willing to continue as Treasurer. Carried by acclamation.

General business

ICSM maintains a web site (<http://sasri.sasa.org.za/misc/icsm.html>) where agreements, proposals, reports and minutes can be downloaded.

The meeting closed at 19:20

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kingston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Graham Kingston
Secretary, ICSM