

**RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2006**  
**EXTENSION OFFICE, 8:30 A.M.**  
**ABBEVILLE, LA.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Present were Andrew Granger, Howard Cormier, Durel Romaine, Dr. Steve Linscombe, Dr. Johnny Saichuk, Dr. Richard Dunand, Ted Girouard, Dane Hebert, Christian Richard, Jimmy Broussard, David LaCour, Richard Hardee, Dwight Hardee, Boyd Landry, John Fontaine, Linda Zaunbrecher, and Mark Shirley.

Durel began the meeting by stating that he had surveyed farmers in his area and they all felt that the AgCenter is doing a good job. Dr. Linscombe then gave a report of research activities. A new variety that shows less susceptibility to sheath blight is 302082. Clearfield 151 is consistently the highest Clearfield yielder, higher than 161, than 171, than 131 in five different test locations.

The new medium grain is 2028, some what similar to Jupiter. 2177 is a Basmati type that is better than Dellmoti.

He is working on a Clearfield medium grain with good potential. Puerto Rico nursery should be ready to harvest next week. This nursery has proved invaluable in the development on new varieties. He is evaluating the world collection for high yielding line for ethanol production. He also needs low input costs and quality is not critical for forage production.

He spoke about Cercospora being a secondary disease which attacked late planted rice and second crop rice this year. They have preliminary ratings on varieties for Cercospora. CL131 is very susceptible. Tilt products offer the best hope for fungicidal control. Don Groth will have more to say at the spring grower meetings.

Concerning panicle blight, Jupiter shows resistance and Trenasse is very susceptible. Mike Stout is addressing rice water weevil. Pyrethroids are the only product we have for control of the weevils.

The Mexican Rice Borer is not in Louisiana yet, but it is coming north and east from Texas. It is only one county away from the Sabine River. It will be worse on cane than on rice.

Localized decline appears to be related to iron and aluminum toxicity. Dr. Gary Breighenbeck thinks it is related to silica uptake by the rice.

Eric Webster has done much work on glyspate drift. Dr. Linscombe discussed the theoretical droplet response, showing how the water can settle out and the droplet of glyspate can drift. Different cultivars respond differently to glyspate. Clearfield 161 appears to be more glyspate than some other varieties.

Dr. Richard Dunand continues his work with plant growth regulators. He is working with photoperiod insensitive varieties that might be better for crawfish forage production.

Dr. Dustin Herrell took Jason Bond's place. He is doing ratoon crop work and nitrogen timing on first and second crop. His training is in soil science and we expect he will fill a very important need in this area. He is trying to fine tune soil tests and interpretations. The station is working on a purple grain rice with anthocyanin, which has possible cancer benefits.

Dr. Freida is working on rice mutants that have increased protein, going from 8.8 to 12 % protein.

Considering the GMO situation, we are trying to purge the system of LL601. Steve went to a meeting in Dallas where about 60 leaders in the industry worked to come up with a plan to resolve this issue. The lower the percentage test, the lower the chance of false positives. Final recommendations will come out shortly.

There was a question about whether we should treat for Cercospora next year. Arkansas had the problem before and they treat for it. Dr. Saichuk stated that dealers will probably recommend treatment. Quadris is a curative, most fungicides are preventative. They basically need the same timing as always, prior to boot split, which is perhaps early to mid boot. Basically, treat when you see a few heads coming out. Quilt or Stratego will be recommended for control of Cecospora next year.

Dr. Linscombe mentioned that Newpath loses its patent next year. BASF will increase the price of Clearfield seed, basically about \$4.00 per acre to make up for the \$4 per acre shortfall from the loss of the patent.

When asked about 3 Tiers products, we cannot recommend those products yet. David LaCour stated that we need some way to determine if salt will have an effect on rice in certain fields that were flooded. Johnny recommended a bioassay early, in small plots to see if the rice grows.

That concluded the research update and discussion. Richard Hardee made a motion and Dane seconded to approve the minutes as mailed out last year, motion passed.

Following was a discussion of parish yield. There were general statements that we were five to seven barrels off, especially in the southern parts of the parish, but had averages on the hybrids in the mid-40 range. Howard agreed to check with Mark Spillman with RiceTec to determine the acreage of hybrids in Vermilion Parish. We will need to use their figures, since they have the only accurate figures. We finally settled on a parish average of 29.5 dry barrels.

The meeting resumed and Andrew Granger led the group in a facilitated method of prioritizing rice needs. The first question was “What are the obstacles to maintaining rice profitability in the next three years.” Everyone listed a variety of topics, but in the final voting the top concern was cost of production, and then followed by: marketing; price; management decisions; water availability and concerns; the Farm Bill, crawfish/rice rotation, and then yield.

Concerning the second question, “What educational and research programs are needed to address the aforementioned concerns?” It was agreed that we needed to discuss marketing. This could be done with someone from in-state or out of state. We need a series of marketing meetings. Dr. Kurt Guidry was suggested.

Finally we talked about other needs, which include soil fertility classes, uses of chicken litter, nitrogen timing; fertility on laser leveled fields; drill planting, increasing yields and income, and the need for rotation crop for fallow land. As far as which educational methods were most effective, all of

them were valuable. Email was beneficial, although not everyone uses it. Some farmers expressed difficulty in downloading pictures. Howard agreed to work with Bruce Garner on the best way to send and download pictures. It was also suggested that farmers sign up for the *Rice Daily* as a good way to get new information about the industry on a daily basis.

Howard thanked Andrew for his help and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving inputs and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.