



Newsletter BERITA ISOPB

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR OIL PALM BREEDERS
PERSATUAN AHLI-AHLI PEMBIAK BAIK KELAPA SAWIT ANTARA BANGSA

Volume 3

June 1986

No. 2

EDITORIAL

When ISOPB first mooted the idea to organise a Malaysian national colloquium on selection and breeding for oil palm clones, we anticipated it to be a modest affair with local interest and contribution. Instead it turned out to be an important event of international interest. Firstly, it attracted a crowd of about a hundred comprising plant breeders, tissue culturists and agronomists and representatives from other countries e.g. IRHO, France (Ollagnier and Baudouin), Twyford Lab., U.K. (Avril Brackpool), Central Plantations Research Institute, India (Raju), Socfindo Indonesia (Kusnadi), CDC, U.K. (Lockwood) and Dami OPRS, PNG (Powell). Secondly, and perhaps the most important single event which would elevate this Colloquium into an internationally quoted meeting, was Tan Yap Pau's report on the mantled fruit and infertility problem in the planted clones which bursted the "bubble" of the smooth and immense progress made in oil palm tissue culture clonal propagation.

The irony of it, prior to Tan Yap Pau's cold water treatment, the tissue culture boys (or girls) nearly stole the show of this breeding oriented meeting. The meeting started with an excellent slide show on oil palm tissue culture by PORIM followed by reports of the great strides made in this area by PORIM and other plantation research laboratories. The oil palm breeders than followed with

122
their deliberations on various aspects of selection and breeding for clones. The rubber, cocoa and fruit tree breeders also shared their experiences in this area.

It was indeed a very interesting, lively and informative one day meeting, very ably chaired by Brian Wood, research director of Ebor Research of Sime Darby. I am sure many should be looking forward to the proceedings, expected to be out before the year ends.

Editor

Feature Article

AFRICAN OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (AFOPDA)

Recognising that palm oil production is an important socio-economic activity of many African nations, that consumption of palm oil is deeply rooted in the local ancestral food habits of many African populations; that the Continent has lost its position as the major producer and exporter of this commodity for a number of economic reasons, 10 major African palm oil producing countries met at 1st Palm Oil Processing Workshop held at NIFOR, Benin City, Nigeria, in October 1982 and unanimously requested FAO to organise a follow-up meeting and to initiate efforts aiming at the establishment of a regional body responsible for oil palm development in Africa. The 2nd Workshop held in December 1983 further confirmed the need for an African Oil Palm Development Association. FAO was requested to organise a foundation meeting. This resulted in a meeting which took place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in March 1985.

The 10 countries which attended the Foundation Meeting and General Assembly were Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zaire, with observers from UNPD, UNCTAD/GATT/ITC.

The objectives and functions of the Association are :-

Objectives

- a) to develop and maintain technical and economic cooperation and coordination among oil palm institutions in African countries in the

matter of policy, programmes, projects, equipment, data bank, intelligence gathering. It would also engage in any other action designed to promote oil palm production or processing and the improved utilization of pressed cake or any other by-products of the oil palm in African countries.

b) to provide for the training of researchers, managers, and middle and upper echelon cadres and technicians responsible for oil palm production on the processing of palm oil and for agricultural extension services.

c) to establish and consolidate as required with international organisations with a view to securing adequate representative of the Region in the production, processing, commercial sales or any other important sector of oil palm development.

d) to maintain close liaison with the oil palm industry in general and in particular with manufacturers and suppliers of equipment who are best able to develop the requisite technology. In this regard the Association shall encourage research concession and the protection of patents likely to further progress in this field.

Functions

a) to exchange information and experience among oil palm institutions of countries in the Region in matters of policy, programme, projects or technology having to do with the oil palm sector.

This rule shall hold good equally in regard to information originating outside the Region whenever such information may be useful for the activities of the Region.

b) to be represented, as appropriate at conferences, seminars and workshops on oil palm productions, processing and marketing.

c) to publish technical working papers and any information conducive to making the activities of the Association better known.

d) to organize study groups and subsidiary bodies necessary for pursuing the activities of the Association.

e) to establish and maintain as required relations with international organisations as the FAO, World Bank, African Development Bank, UNIDO and in general any institution of the research, technical assistance or financing institution with a view to promoting or supplementing the activities of the Association.

f) to engage in any other activities of the Association.

g) to engage in any other activity necessary in order to pursue the object of the Association.

Editor

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Breure C.J. 1986 Parent Selection For Yield and Bunch Index in the Oil Palm in West New Britian Euphytica 35 : 65 - 72.

Abstract

SUMMARY

Selection criteria of dura female parents and pisifera male parents were investigated by employing a step-wise multiple regression procedure. Independent parental variables entered in the regression equation were (1) yield (Y) and (2) bunch index (BI), i.e. the proportion of total dry matter used for fruit bunches, of the female parents. As secondary characters of both parents were included: (3) leaf-Mg level (IMG), (4) leaf area ratio (LAR), i.e. the ratio of new leaf area produced to new dry matter used for vegetave growth, and (5) sex ratio (SR), i.e. the ratio of female to total inflorescences. The joint contribution of IMG in both parents accounted for 80% of the variance in Y of the offspring. The amount of the total variance in BI of the offspring was substantially explained, in decreasing order, by IMG of the pisifera parents, and Y and LAR of the dura parents. The first two variables explained 70% of the variation in offspring BI, SR and BI appeared to be not significant for explaining Y as well as BI of the offspring. A practical implication is that for pisifera testing programs, pisifera can be efficiently screened on the exclusive basis of IMG. Dura tester parents should be selected for high, and little variable, values of IMG, Y and LAR.

REFERENCES OF INTEREST

1. Squire, G.R. 1984a. Techniques in environmental physiology of oil palm. Measurement of intercepted radiation. PORIM Bulletin 8, 10 - 13.
2. Squire, G.R. 1984b. Techniques in environmental physiology of oil palm. Partitioning of rainfall above ground. PORIM Bull. 9, 1 - 9.
3. Squire, G.R. 1985. Techniques in environmental physiology of oil palm. Evaporation. PORIM Bull. 11, 1 - 12.

128

- 6 -

NEWS

Cheah, Keng-Tuan, left Ebor Research, Sime Darby early this year to join a commercial tissue culture firm in Taiwan. She is still retained as a consultant to Ebor Research tissue culture project and has since made a return visit to Malaysia.

Geoff Squire, formerly crop physiologist at PORIM, and currently consultant to PORIM's crop physiology research programme visited Malaysia recently and gave a seminar on May 16th on oil palm productivity basing on the work he did in Malaysia. He indicated that he would be writing to counter the biased views of the Editor on crop physiology as expressed in the ISOPB Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 2. He firmly believed that somewhere in the PORIM's Nigerian collection or in the wilds of the Nigeria there is a palm which fits the bill of his concept of the ideal palm or oil palm ideotype.

Tang, Teng Lai, gave a seminar on "From rubber to oil palm, What next?" in conjunction with PORIM's Programme Advisory Committee review programme. He traced the development of the rubber and oil palm industries in Malaysia and suggested potential alternative crops to be developed into a large scale industry as rubber and oil palm. When pressed by Tan Sri Anwar to make a stand on the crop to do so, he suggested cocoa.