

SABRAO—The Society for the Advancement Of Breeding Researches in Asia and Oceania

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Most countries in Asia and Oceania lie in the subtropical and tropical regions and they are on the average provided with sufficient amount of water and temperature for growth of organisms. Nevertheless, agricultural production in these countries is not always satisfactory. We often hear that the mass of famine-stricken people in some countries clamor for food. Export of agricultural products is a matter of life and death for some other countries in the area. Their economic conditions do perhaps not warrant optimism.

In the meantime, it is a source of anxiety for scientists that the rate of growth of human population on the earth is likely to be higher than the rate of increase of food production. We might thus be bound to perpetual shortage of food in future unless we should endeavor to properly control the population growth, on the one hand, and to improve agricultural production, on the other.

Lately, a success in the food policy in some western as well as eastern countries has caused over-production of foods and we hear that their governments employ a policy of curtailment of food production. However, we may not be right to take a cheerful view of the future of food problem on the earth.

Under such circumstances, an effective cooperation on an international basis among scientists interested in the common domain of agricultural science may be of great help to the welfare of humans. It has thus become a common wish of us to construct an organi-

zation which may allow us to freely set forth our views and ask another's opinion.

The birth of SABRAO

With a view of constructing an organization which may serve as an agent among plant and animal breeders working in Asia and Oceania, establishment of a society was discussed by several agronomists who were participating in the XIth Pan-Pacific Science Congress held in Tokyo in the summer of 1966. Two years later or in August 1968, we had a certainly momentous afternoon when more than 230 persons gathered from various parts of the world to Tokyo Prince Hotel to celebrate the birth of the Society for the Advancement of Breeding Researches in Asia and Oceania.

In this meeting, rules were laid down, in which the aims were set up to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of plant and animal breeding in Asia and Oceania. It was approved that the Society would undertake the following items in order to attain its aims: (1) International exchange of useful information. (2) International exchange of materials for breeding research. (3) International exchange of scientists. (4) Holding of periodic meetings. (5) Development of links with other organizations with similar objectives. (6) Other activities contributing to the aims of the society, for example, periodic publication of Newsletter for distribution to members.

Who are the members?

Plant and animal breeders who are working in Asia and Oceania are of course eligible for membership, while those interested in the breeding science, even living outside Asia and Oceania, are also welcome to the Society. For sound running and development of the Society, we have to invite four kinds of members, that is, active members, corporate members, honorary fellows and patrons. Common plant and animal breeders are received into the Society as active members and are requested to pay 2 U.S. dollars or the equivalent in local currency per year. The corporate members are organizations, such as institutes, breeding stations, associations, societies or industrial firms, which are interested in the activities of the Society, and pay the annual fee from a minimum of 20 U.S. dollars to a maximum of 100 U.S. dollars or the equivalent in local

currency. The patrons can be individuals or organizations who will donate 500 U.S. dollars or more to the Society with the intention of financially supporting the activity of the Society.

Officers for the first term

In the meeting, officers for the Society were selected. They are for the time being nine in number: President (Dr. B. P. Pal, India), three vice-presidents (Dr. A. C. Campos, Philippines; Dr. O. H. Frankel, Australia; Dr. T. Matsuo, Japan), Secretary General (Dr. K. I. Sakai, Japan), Treasurer General (Dr. E. W. Sprague, Thailand) and Editor (Dr. H. I. Oka, Japan), assisted by an assistant treasurer (Dr. S. Iyama, Japan) and an assistant editor (Dr. S. C. Hsieh, China).

The president, vice-presidents, secretary general, treasurer general and the editor constitute the Board, though three additional

<i>Region</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Location of the Office</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Dr. R. N. Oram</i>	<i>C.S.I.R.O., P.O. Box 109, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.</i>
<i>Ceylon</i>	<i>Dr. S. D. I. E. Gunawardena</i>	<i>Central Agriculture Res. Inst., Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>Dr. M. S. Swaminathan</i>	<i>Indian Agricultural Re. Inst., New Delhi-12.</i>
<i>Israel</i>	<i>Dr. R. Frankel</i>	<i>Volcani Inst. of Agric. Res. P.O. Box 6, Bet Dagan.</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>Dr. K. Murakami</i>	<i>National Inst. of Agric. Sciences, Nakahara, Hiratsuka, Kanagawa-ken, 254.</i>
<i>Korea</i>	<i>Dr. C. S. Kim</i>	<i>Inst. of Forest Genetics, Suwon, Kyung-gido.</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Dr. L. G. L. Copp</i>	<i>D.S.I.R., Private Bag, Christchurch.</i>
<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Dr. A. Gomez</i>	<i>College of Agriculture, Univ. of Philippines, College, Laguna.</i>
<i>South Oceania Group (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Tahiti)</i>	<i>Mr. M. Krishnamurthi</i>	<i>Agricultural Experiment Sta., South Pacific Sugar Mills Ltd., Lautoka, Fiji.</i>
<i>Taiwan</i>	<i>Dr. H. W. Li</i>	<i>Inst. of Botany, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Taipei.</i>
<i>Thailand</i>	<i>Dr. S. Sriwatanapongse</i>	<i>Dept. of Plant Science, Kasetsart Univ., Bangkok.</i>

The regional secretary is requested to (1) make efforts to raise members, (2) collect annual fees from the members within his region and remit a certain proportion of the total amount to the

secretary general and (3) distribute to the members publications or communications received from the Society.

Sections

- (1) *Food crops*
- (2) *Feed grains and forage crops*
- (3) *Horticultural crops*
- (4) *Industrial crops*
- (5) *Forest Trees*
- (6) *Farm animals*
- (7) *Insects (Silkworms, bees, etc.)*
- (8) *Applied biology*
- (9) *Breeding techniques, biometry and data processing*

* Chairman has not yet been decided or nominated.

members are expected to join the Board in future. Practical business of the Society is operated by the secretariat which is at present located in Japan. In addition to those officers, regional secretaries are in process of being nominated in various regions. So far nominated are eleven secretaries whose names and addresses are listed on the preceding page.

Scientific sections

The Society organizes sections dealing with particular subjects of the breeding science. The sections are at present nine, as shown above, but new sections will be added as occasion demands.

The sectional chairman will make a plan to hold the sectional meeting at the request of members or when he considers it of interest to the members.

In certain circumstances, intraregional committee for sections is organized attached to the regional secretariat. In Japan, for instance, the number of active and corporate members has grown as many as 300 and it seems convenient to have a domestic committee for developing sectional activity.

Thus, the regional secretariat in Japan has at present eight chairmen for domestic services in sectional activity. They are: Dr. S.

Chairman

Dr. T. T. Chang (Internat. Rice Res. Inst., Los Banos, Philippines)

Dr. H. K. Jain (Indian Agric. Res. Inst., New Delhi-12, India).

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Dr. J. J. Hardon (Chemara Res. Sta., Johore, Malaysia).

Dr. S. K. Hyun (Seoul Nat. Univ., Suwon, Korea).

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Dr. T. Yokoyama (Silk Sci. Res. Inst., Kodaira-shi, Tokyo, Japan).

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Dr. T. Okuno (Nat. Inst. Agric. Sciences, Kita-ku, Tokyo-to, Japan).

Okabe (food crops), Dr. T. Hosoda (forage crops), Dr. M. Iizuka (horticultural crops), Dr. S. Hosokawa (industrial crops), Dr. R. Toda (forest trees), Dr. K. Kondo (farm animals), Dr. N. Kondo and Dr. K. Osone (applied biology), and Dr. H. Akemine (breeding techniques).

Newsletter is published

For the time being, the Newsletter will be published two times a year. The first issue of some 50 pages of the Newsletter was published in January of this year. It contained the following four papers which were reported as commemorative lectures at the inaugural meeting of the Society held last August:

- 1) Plant Breeding and Its Reliance on Scientific Research, by E. W. Sprague and D.G. Smeltzer.
- 2) Recent Trends in Breeding Research in Asia, by M. S. Swaminathan.
- 3) Breeding of Farm Animals, by J. S. F. Barker.
- 4) Breeding in Some Perennial Industrial Crops, by J. J. Hardon.

The next issue, i.e. No. 2 of Vol. 1, will be put into circulation in next August, which is expected to contain the following papers:

- 1) Objectives of the IRRI Rice Breeding Pro-

- gram, by H. M. Beachell and G. S. Khush.
- 2) Rice Breeding Research in Japan, by T. Matsuo.
 - 3) Differentiation of Pathogenic Races of *Piricularia Oryzae* into Two Groups, "Indica" and "Japonica", by H. Morishima.
 - 4) A Note on the Design of Germ Plasm Preservation Work in Grain Crops, by H. I. Oka.
 - 5) Studies on Some Quantitative Characters of Interchange Homozygotes in *Linum*, by S. S. Rajan.
 - 6) The Future of the Breeding Science, by K. I. Sakai.
 - 7) Developmental Stability of American and Japanese Rice Varieties Tested in Kathmandu, by B. B. Shahi.

The status quo and future prospects

The following list of membership is made up as of May 31, 1969:

It is found from the list that the percentage of Japanese members is very high at present, but we feel that, sooner or later, the situation may have to be improved, or the members from different countries will be increased. As a matter of fact, in late 1971 or 1972, we shall hold the second general assembly meeting in India. It is felt that by that time the membership will increase in and around India.

We are neither too optimistic nor too pessimistic about the future of the Society. We firmly believe that the membership will steadily, though not rapidly, increase in number with the lapse of time and we may be

Country	Active member	Corporate member
Australia	8	—
Austria	1	—
Cambodge	1	—
Ceylon	2	—
Fiji	2	1
Hungary	2	—
India	20	—
Indonesia	2	—
Israel	3	—
Japan	296	17
Korea	23	1
Malaysia	10	2
Nepal	1	—
New Zealand	7	—
Pakistan	6	—
Philippines	9	—
Republic of China	55	—
Sweden	1	—
Thailand	10	—
Turkey	2	—
U.S.A.	11	—
Venezuela	1	—
Total	473	21

able, in not a remote future, to establish a firm community center and produce a plaza for airing and exchanging views of the members, promoting progress in breeding researches in all countries in the area.

Let us address our desire to plant and animal scientists in Asia and Oceania to invite them to become members of this Society of SABRAO.