

PRODUCTION—Summary of discussion

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Round table chairman Robert Judd introduced the honorary chairman Edgar Hartwig, Soybean Breeder Delta Branch Experiment Station, of Stoneville, Mississippi, who introduced the speakers.

The first presentation was by E.A. Luna, general director of INIA (Mexico), and entitled "Soybean Production Research in Mexico." The first crop of soybeans grown in Mexico was approximately 300 ha in 1958. Soybean production has increased to approximately 300,000 ha. This increase has been made possible, in part, by the INIA research and extension activities. INIA has conducted research on weed, disease and insect control; cultural practices to improve soybean yield; varietal improvement; and on ways to make better use of the soybeans produced. Initially the U.S. soybean varieties Lee, Hood, Davis and Bragg were planted. Since 1970, several new soybean varieties have been developed specifically suited for the environmental conditions of Mexico. The future expansion of soybean production in Mexico is encouraging.

The second presentation was by N.M.S. Banafunzi of

the Instituto Superior Agropecuario Autonomo, Del Estado De Guerrero (Mexico). This presentation reviewed the development of the new genotype of soybeans adapted for tropical environments. This soybean variety, recently named ISAAEG-BM₂, is noted for high yields under both long and short photo-period growing conditions. Cultural practices, designed for maximum yields, have been worked out for both the summer and winter growing seasons. The BM₂ variety has shown a wide range of adaptability to latitude and altitude. It withstands droughts, frost and excessive humidity, and is resistant to bacterial diseases and nematode species.

Dr. Hartwig summarized the roundtable with several comments reflecting his many years of experience in soybean breeding. He indicated he is confident that the world collection of soybeans contain a wide variety of characteristics that should make it possible to produce soybeans with desirable characteristics for any part of the world. For the tropics, it is important to initiate research to develop superior varieties.