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NORRIS INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES COOPERATIVE RESEARCH  
PROJECT ON LUPINE AND OTHER CROPS WITH SOVIET UNION,  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, EDEN PRAIRIE FIRM

MINNEAPOLIS -- June 7, 1989 -- The William C. Norris Institute announced today that it has signed an agreement with two Soviet scientific organizations, the University of Minnesota and the International Nutrition and Genetics Corporation, to conduct cooperative research on lupine and other crops. Lupine is a high protein grain, especially suited to cold weather climates. The Lenin Agricultural Academy of Sciences and the All Union Scientific Research Institute for Lupine are the Soviet participants.

The first step in the implementation of the agreement, signed in Moscow last month, is exchange visits this summer by U.S. and Soviet scientists to initiate scientific cooperation on lupine.

According to University of Minnesota Interim Vice President, Dr. C. Eugene Allen of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, Dr. Daniel Putnam and Dr. James Orf of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Dr. Richard Meronuck of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota will go to the Soviet Union during June, and three Soviet scientists will visit Minnesota in July. The Soviet delegation will visit the International Nutrition & Genetics Corporation in Eden Prairie, which has lupine under cultivation for seed, animal and human consumption. The Eden Prairie corporation is the largest producer and processor of lupine in the U.S.

The Minnesota delegation will meet with scientists and researchers from a number of research institutions at the All Union Agriculture Academy of Science in Moscow. Then they will visit Bryansk and Kiev, where there are important research institutes where much of the Soviet Union's lupine crop is grown.

The agreement also calls for establishing an exchange of scientific information and literature and a joint computer data bank on lupine, as well as exchanging research results on cold tolerance of other crop species.

In addition, the agreement calls for the submission of joint research proposals on the agronomy, physiology, genetics and biotechnology of lupine by early 1990, and the establishment of a cooperative gene bank of lupine germplasm. Finally, the two sides will work to develop new methods of breeding, production and utilization of lupine and other crops.

Lupine, also known as lupin, is a nitrogen-fixing legume that enriches the soil. It grows in low temperatures and sandy soil, with some varieties tolerating extremely low temperatures. The seed can be fed directly to animals without heating and oil extraction.

"I am particularly pleased with the cooperative agreement," Mr. Norris, Chairman of the Norris Institute, stated. "I believe that a number of new crops and food products will result from this cooperative effort to help diversify and expand Minnesota's rural economy. Further, I believe that the Minnesota Family Farm Institute (MFFI) will play an important role in accomplishing this objective. Kris Sanda, President of MFFI, will be working closely with University and Soviet scientists, especially in building the joint computer data base."

"The University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, is interested in introducing new and alternative crops for Minnesota growers," stated Professor Orvin C. Burnside, Chairman, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota.

David Reitz, President and CEO of the International Nutrition and Genetic Corporation, said that the research agreement "is an important step forward in the exchange of seed and germplasm, as well as in determining the most suitable areas for growing this crop."

The agreement represents the third joint project between the Norris Institute and the Soviet Union. Earlier this year, the Institute announced joint ventures with the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a Moscow computer cooperative to develop and market computer technology-based software and courseware in both the West and East, and with the Moscow Institute of Management to provide education and training in the management of technology, innovation and entrepreneurial enterprises in both countries.

WCNI, established in January 1988, is a non-profit organization with a mission to catalyze public/private cooperation to address major unmet or poorly met societal needs.

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