

Agenda Item: Cotton Winter Nursery
Presenters: Dan Upchurch and Eric Young

Below is an email sent by Richard Percy (ARS) on March 10 to all scientists that are using or have used the Cotton Winter Nursery in Tecomen, Mexico informing them of its closure after this season's harvest. Dan Upchurch (ARS) will be at our spring meeting to talk about potential alternatives for a cotton winter nursery in the future.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Percy, Richard** <Richard.Percy@ars.usda.gov>

Date: Mon, Mar 10, 2014 at 10:53 AM

Subject: CWN closure

Dear users and friends of the Cotton Winter Nursery,

In the near future you may be receiving an official letter from the National Cotton Council telling you that the cooperative agreement with the ARS to operate the CWN has been terminated and explaining the circumstances that have led to this decision. For those of you who have not heard and whose summer planting plans and future research efforts may be affected by the termination, I am writing to you today to confirm that there will be no NCC/ARS supported winter nursery in 2014/2015. This is a definitive statement. Actions have already been taken to terminate our CWN manager's status with the U.S. embassy in Mexico City. Actions taken to date will NOT affect the completion of this year's harvest and the delivery of seed to 2013/2014 nursery users. There are efforts underway to determine if there may be viable alternatives to a NCC/ARS supported CWN in the future, however these efforts are very tentative at present. For the purposes of developing planting plans for the coming summer season, do not anticipate an operational winter nursery for the 2014/2015 season.

Please look for an official confirmation from the National Cotton Council in the near future. I know that this decision to terminate the agreement was reached with considerable reluctance and only after a mighty effort on the part of NCC staff over a five year period to put the nursery on an economically viable footing. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with all the NCC staff in my capacity as ARS manager of the agreement, and hope to continue to work with them in other situations.

Sincerely,

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