

Mississippi State University

Scholars Junction

Proceedings of the Short Course for Seedsmen

MAFES (Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry
Experiment Station)

4-1-1992

Technical Assistance and Training

C.C. Baskin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/seedsmen-short-course>

Recommended Citation

Baskin, C.C., "Technical Assistance and Training" (1992). *Proceedings of the Short Course for Seedsmen*. 13.

<https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/seedsmen-short-course/13>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the MAFES (Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station) at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Short Course for Seedsmen by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

Charles C. Baskin¹

In order to keep abreast of our ever-changing industry we must devote some time to training. At times we may also depend on help in the form of technical assistance. First, let's consider training. New information, improved techniques and methods, new tests, better ways of doing things are emerging regularly. Needs of our clientele are constantly changing. If we are to be competitive, training is a necessity. The fact that you agree is evident by your participation in this 38th Short Course for Seedsmen. Who should participate in training? The answer might be "Everyone". Let's be more specific.

Administrative personnel need to be aware of trends and changes to make the best management decisions. Obviously, personnel involved in production, harvesting, handling, storage, conditioning, testing, quality control, distribution and marketing need training as a refresher and for learning new information.

Opportunities for training are varied. Short courses are one of the most popular. Short courses of various kinds and duration are offered by Universities, Seed (Crop) Improvement Associations, the USDA in cooperation with other organizations, State Departments of Agriculture, and other organizations. Most short courses are devoted to or are centered around seed conditioning, possibly because this is the primary involvement of most seed companies. Other short courses involve seed testing, drying, storage, quality control, production and harvesting. Short courses usually offer some kind of "hands on" activity and demonstrations for participants.

Seminars are not as common as short courses, however, they are an effective means of obtaining information. These are usually of shorter duration than short courses and are often limited to one subject or a few closely related subjects such as a seminar on seed treatment. Seminars are primarily presentations and offer no "hands on" activities.

Professional meetings often offer opportunities for training. Seedsmen Associations both state and regional and ASTA all have displays, educational

¹Agronomist, Seed and Grain Consultant, Mobile, AL.

sessions, and presentations on various subjects. New information and ideas evolve from these meetings.

The Crop Science Society of America has a division devoted to "seed." This group has sessions at meetings where papers are presented on seed and subjects related to seed. The Association of Official Seed Analysts/Society of Commercial Seed Technologist annual meeting often has workshops, presentation of papers, posters, displays, tours, committee meetings, all devoted to some phase of seed technology. The International Seed Testing Association has programs similar to the AOSA/SCST and meets once every three years.

Other organizations may devote a part of their activities to seed. The Beltwide Cotton Conference, American Pathological Society, Weed Science Society of America, agricultural engineering organizations, plant physiology-botanical societies, to mention a few, are sources of information and offer opportunities for training in seed. Seed companies often organize training for their personnel.

Opportunities for training are usually announced and advertised by the organization conducting the training. Announcements are also made through trade journals, various newsletters, mass media and by other means.

Technical assistance generally involves bringing in someone from outside the organization for a short period of time, usually one to a few days to help with a specific problem. Technical assistance often involves someone on a consulting basis. Organizations that have training programs for their own personnel often require or involve some technical assistance. There are numerous sources of technical assistance. Some companies, such as equipment companies provide technical assistance with equipment selection, installation and operation. Some chemical companies provide technical assistance with seed treatment and field problems. State Department of Agriculture personnel, University Extension personnel, Seed Improvement Association personnel are often available for technical assistance with training in seed testing, equipment operation, field problems and trouble shooting.

University personnel other than extension, registered seed technologist and certified seed analysts can often be called on to assist with training and problems. There are a few people who work as consultants, particularly in the area of plant design, seed conditioning, drying and storage. People retired from companies, universities and other organizations are often willing to provide technical assistance.

Whatever your needs or your companies needs, there are numerous opportunities.