



BEAN IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE

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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

BIC – Bean Improvement Cooperative 2011 Biennial Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico (October 30 – November 1, 2011)

This first announcement for the next BIC biennial meeting in conjunction with NAPIA, is intended to provide participants with advanced notice for making travel arrangements (obtaining Visa's etc.).

Meeting Dates:

Date	Day	BIC Events	NAPIA Events
10/30/2011	Sunday	Arrival	
10/31/2011	Monday	BIC Meeting	
11/1/2011	Tuesday	BIC Meeting and Banquet	
11/2/2011	Wednesday	W2150, Genetics & Germplasm Committee meetings	Arrival
11/3/2011	Thursday	Visit to Latin American/Caribbean Regional Bean Nursery at Isabela, PR	NAPIA Meeting
11/4/2011	Friday	Departure	NAPIA Meeting and Awards Lunch
11/5/2011	Saturday		Departure

Hotel Information:

The BIC/NAPIA Meetings and accommodations have been arranged at the Verdanza Hotel.

The Standard room rate is \$110 + taxes (~\$130/night)

Hotel location and contact information:

Verdanza Hotel, Isla Verde

www.verdanzahotel.com

8020 Tartak Street

Isla Verde Carolina, PR 00979

Telephone: +1 787.253.9000

Toll Free Reservations: +1 800.625.031



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Hotel Information (cont.)

Deadline for hotel reservations is: Sept 15, 2011

A credit card is required at time of reservation, but it will not be charged

Reservations can be made through the phone number above or through the Verdanza group website using the following steps:

1. Go to www.verdanzahotel.com
2. Go to Reservation, then Group
3. Enter B10 in "Attendee Login"
4. The reservation information can then be entered.

Meeting Registration Fees: Approximately \$150 (full) and \$100 (for students); final registration costs will be provided closer to the registration deadline.

Customs and Immigration Information:

US Citizens: There are no passports or visas necessary for United States citizens, which mean that US citizens can travel freely in and out of the island without going through immigration or customs. US citizens only need to have some form of official government issued picture identification to enter Puerto Rico such as a current driver's license or a photo-identification card issued to non-drivers by a state's motor vehicles department. For additional information, contact your local U.S. embassy or call the Puerto Rico State Department at (787) 722-2121.

Citizens of other countries: Citizens of other countries have the same requirements for entering Puerto Rico as for entering the USA. Please see your local US Embassy for additional information or the US State Department website:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/temp_1305.html

Local Transportation Information:

The Verdanza Hotel is located a mile from the airport and accessible by taxi (there are no hotel shuttles). The fixed rate from the airport to the hotel is \$11.50 in taxi. The luggage rate is \$1.00 per piece, excluding hand pieces.

Contacts:

Have questions? Please contact local arrangement committee members Dr. James Beaver (787-832-4040 ext 2492; j_beaver@hotmail.com) and Dr. Tim Porch (787-831-3435 ext 254; timothy.porch@ars.usda.gov), or Dr. Phil Miklas – BIC President (509-786-8492; phil.miklas@ars.usda.gov).