

Germplasm and Genetics Stocks Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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I am a Research Geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and my interests as a cotton geneticist are focused on evaluating and utilizing diversity from germplasm collections to develop cotton germplasm with enhanced agronomic traits, fiber quality and/or seed quality. I use both breeding and molecular tools to characterize genetic diversity and evaluate agronomic utility of these genetic resources. Through the international scope of ICGI, I am interested in continuing our understanding of the diversity that is held in different germplasm centers. I would encourage collaborations to evaluate whether these cotton collections contain the same broad genetic structure of *Gossypium*, and to determine to what extent the germplasm is distinct or overlaps. I believe this is an important step to more fully use the cotton genetic resources we have. With a thorough knowledge of the resources that are available, we are better equipped to work towards ICGI's mission to increase our knowledge of the cotton genome.