

## **Germplasm and Genetics Stocks Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate**

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### **Statement of support for candidacy:**

I am a Research Cotton Geneticist in the Genetic and Precision Agriculture Research Unit, USDA/ARS, Crop Science Research Laboratory, Mississippi State, MS, USA (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=4897>). I have about 40 years of professional research experience. Currently, I also serve as an adjunct graduate faculty at Mississippi State University and Alabama A&M University. Several Ph.D. and M.S. students have completed successfully their degrees under my supervision. In the early years, I worked as an agricultural extension worker for eight years in India. I was selected for the Cotton Researcher of the Year in 2011 by International Cotton Advisory Committee. I also received Cotton Geneticist Research Award from the Joint Cotton Breeding Committee, USA, at the Beltwide Cotton Conference, Atlanta in 2010. I have served on several important national and international positions including the chairman of the Cotton Improvement Conference of Beltwide Cotton Conference, 2004. I request your support for the Germplasm and Genetic Stocks Work Group co-chair position in consideration of the following: 1) I was actively involved in the establishment of ICGI as one of its few founding members and helped in all ICGI activities as a steering committee member since its foundation; 2) as a Co-Chairman of the local organizing committee, I helped in organizing the Biannual Meeting of ICGI in 2004 at Hyderabad, India; 3) I attended all of the annual meetings of ICGI in different countries including the first meeting in Australia; 4) I demonstrated my commitment to promote the activities of this work group as a chair or co-chair since its inception; 5) I, as the last chairman of this work group, provided leadership to document on the status of cotton germplasm collections at the global level in collaboration with the germplasm curators of major cotton growing countries and this document was selected as the cover page paper in Crop Science (2010. July-August, Crop Science. 50:1161-1179); and 6) recently I initiated a plan to genotype a set of 100 diverse line from each of the major germplasm collection center with a core set of SSR markers as the next step of germplasm status report in the last ICGI Biannual Conference, USA, your support will help me to complete this plan. I assure you that I will work diligently to make this work group as the premier platform of information exchange and networking to promote germplasm collection, conservation, evaluation and improvement.