

## **MULTI-STATE RESEARCH PROJECT S-009 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION**

**Background:** Crop collections of importance to the Southern Region have been supported since 1949 through a joint partnership, designated as Multi-State Research Project S-009, between the USDA, ARS, Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit and the Southern State Agricultural Experiment Stations. For 66 years, the S-009 Project has served as a major component of the National Plant Germplasm System, improving crops in the Southern Region, U.S., and abroad, by providing plant genetic resources and associated information to scientists and educators.

### **Accomplishments for 2014:**

- A total of 34,884 accessions (15,172 in S-009 region) were distributed in 964 orders to users worldwide in 2014. Distributions were made to users in 47 states and 40 countries.
- The plant genetic resources collection totals 92,238 accessions of 1,555 species and 266 genera with 89.5% available for distribution and 97.5% backed up at Ft. Collins, CO.
- The new 4C cold storage room was finished in 2013 and an existing 4C room was converted to -18C increasing -18C storage space from 1,061 to 1,897 sq ft. Currently, 73,212 accessions or 80.6% of the collection are stored at -18 C. Seed longevity is improved by storage in -18 C rather than 4 C.
- Germination tests were conducted on 7,282 accessions. Since 2002 when germination testing began, tests have been conducted on 81,778 accessions (90.0% of collection). The germination lab participated in an Association of Official Seed Analysts germination duration and cold testing evaluation on sorghum by testing 12 seed lots.
- The entire sesame collection (1,232) was evaluated for seed oil content and two sesame accessions were identified with high oil content for better sesame seed nutritional quality.
- Seed oil content evaluations continued on the entire cultivated peanut collection with two accessions identified with high oil content for use in peanut breeding programs.
- Seed oil content, fatty acid composition, and flavonoid concentration was determined for 25 accessions of five *Desmodium* species.
- Bamboo with high leaf protein content may have potential for livestock feeding. The entire bamboo collection was evaluated for leaf protein and one accession was identified with leaf protein content of over 18%.
- Due to the susceptibility of most peanut accessions to tomato spotted wilt virus at Georgia regeneration sites, peanut regenerations were successfully conducted with cooperators in south Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.
- The entire sweetpotato collection was provided to ARS researchers in South Carolina for an extensive phenotypic characterization of all accessions over multiple years.
- A plant collection trip was conducted in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas adding 48 new switchgrass accessions to the collection.
- Noelle Barkley, peanut curator, left for a position at the International Potato Center genebank, Lima, Peru, in February. The job announcement will come out shortly.
- All available S-009 annual reports and minutes since 1949 are now posted as searchable PDF files online ([www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9592](http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=9592)).

**Financial Situation:** For the past few years, the S-009 employee benefits were not being fully charged to the S-009 budget. When the S-009 staff questioned the UGA Griffin Business Office about this matter, they were advised that some benefits were being paid by a pool in the UGA

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). After a CAES review this past year, it was determined that all S-009 employee benefits including TRS (limited to 5% of budget according to Hatch Fund rules) should be charged to the S-009 budget effective FY2016. With the full cost of eight permanent personnel and benefits being charged to the S-009 personnel budget, there is no longer any option of employing temporary labor within the S-009 personnel line item without an increase. The proposed budget increase includes a 3% pay increase for all permanent employees, associated benefit increases, and funding for one non-benefits part-time position (weekend watering). Funding is not available for any other temporary positions.

A \$270,000 permanent increase in base FY2014 federal funds to offset FY2013 sequestration reductions as well as grants by the Sorghum Checkoff Program (\$100,000), Peanut Foundation, and Mars, Inc. have improved the federal and Unit financial situation.

**S-009 Budget Request**

Increase the S-009 FY2016 personnel budget in the amount of \$14,939 for a total S-009 budget of \$465,564. This request reflects a 3% increase in University of Georgia salaries, associated benefits, and funding for weekend watering position. The state budget has not yet been decided; however 3% is the current expected University of Georgia salary increase.

**Action Requested:** Approval of S-009 FY2016 Budget Request.

**PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION  
FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY2015  
TO THE SOUTHERN ASSOC. OF STATE AGRIC. EXPT STATION DIRECTORS**

<b>A. S-009 Budget</b>	<b>REQUESTED</b>		
	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>
Personnel	\$352,349	\$371,251	\$386,190
Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operations	78,374	78,374	78,374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$431,723</b>	<b>\$450,625</b>	<b>\$465,564</b>
<b>B. USDA/ARS Budget</b>	<b>PROJECTED</b>		
	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>
Personnel	\$1,680,120	\$1,719,100 <sup>c</sup>	\$1,741,400 <sup>c</sup>
Travel	18,038	20,537	20,537
Indirect Research Cost/ Other Services <sup>b</sup>	361,683	375,634	386,903
Operations	295,017	200,980	167,411
Equipment	133,649 <sup>a</sup>	120,000 <sup>d</sup>	10,000
Building and Field Maintenance/Support	80,577	84,000	84,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,569,084<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>\$2,520,251</b>	<b>\$2,410,251</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes \$54,509 in temporary funding for 150hp tractor.

<sup>b</sup> Includes \$270,000 permanent and \$90,000 temporary funding increases to offset FY20913 sequestration reduction.

<sup>c</sup> Includes salary increase of 1% in FY15 and 1.3% in FY16.

<sup>d</sup> Includes \$110,000 in temporary funding for moveable storage shelves in -18C cold storage room.