

**MULTI-STATE RESEARCH PROJECT S-009  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION  
BUDGET REQUEST BRIEF FOR FY 2019**

**Accomplishments and Activities for 2017:**

- The plant genetic resources collection totals 99,414 accessions of 1601 species and 263 genera with 84.4% available for distribution and 96.2% backed up at Ft. Collins, CO.
- A total of 49,171 accessions (21,551 in the S-009 region) were distributed in 961 orders to users worldwide in 2017.
- Currently, 83,234 accessions or 85% of the seeded accessions in the collection are stored at -18°C. Seed longevity is improved by storage in -18°C rather than 4°C.
- Seed from 325 watermelon accessions were evaluated for root growth characteristics in collaboration with ARS scientists at Charleston, South Carolina.
- A total of 769 and 1,846 cultivated peanut accessions from cold seed storage were evaluated for oil content and fatty acid composition, respectively.
- A set of 320 sweet sorghum accessions were evaluated for early-spring cold tolerance.
- Genetic diversity for seed traits and protein content was determined for 111 cowpea core accessions.
- More than 255 sorghum mutants generated using ethyl methanesulfonate-mutagenesis were sequenced and resulted in the identification of six abscisic acid insensitive mutants for potential environmental stress tolerance.
- Accessions of desert watermelon were successfully crossed with watermelon cultivars, and viable seeds were produced suggesting that desert watermelon is a viable source to introduce pest and drought resistant genes into cultivated watermelon.
- The ARS 2018-2023 Project Plan “Conservation, Characterization, Evaluation, and Distribution of Grain, Oilseed, Vegetable, Subtropical and Tropical Legume, and Warm Season Grass Genetic Resources and Associated Information” received a perfect score and “no revision” status during the Office of Scientific Quality Review (OSQR) process.
- Melanie Harrison was appointed as the permanent Research Leader for PGRCU effective October 1, 2017. The vacant position resulting from the retirement of Gary Pederson is expected to be abolished.
- Curatorial duties have been reassigned due to the reduction in number of scientists from six to five. Sweet potatoes are now being curated by Ming Li Wang; Vigna is now being curated by Shyam Tallury; Warm-season grasses and clover are now being curated by Brad Morris; Sorghum and millets are now being curated by Melanie Harrison. All other crops remain with their respective curators.
- There were several federal retirements including Merrelyn Spinks (IT Specialist and GRIN Database Manager), Lee Ann Chalkley (Seed Storage Manager), and Dave Pinnow (Support Scientist – Plant Pathologist). The Vice-Spinks position has been filled by Nick Stigura who began on February 19, 2018. Requests to fill the Seed Storage Manager position and a new Maintenance Mechanic has been submitted to ARS.
- A resignation in 2017 (UGA IT Specialist) created a vacancy that is being used to hire an Agricultural Research Technician III to provide technical support for peanut curation.
- Jill Cunningham, Agricultural Research Technician III, was reassigned from the farm crew to sorghum curation. Her primary responsibilities will be to process sorghum regenerations, transfers, and distributions. Angie Lewis, Agricultural Research

Technician III, was reassigned to the farm crew to oversee pesticide application and other farm activities.

**S-009 Personnel:** The state budget has not yet been decided; however there is no expected University of Georgia salary increase for FY2019.

**S-009 Budget Request:** Increase the S-009 FY2019 budget in the amount of \$4,592 for a total budget of \$490,742. This request reflects the projected increase in employee benefits.

**Action Requested:** Approval of S-009 FY2019 Budget Request.

**PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION  
FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY2019  
TO THE SOUTHERN ASSOC. OF STATE AGRIC. EXPT STATION DIRECTORS**

<b>A. S-009 Budget</b>	<b>REQUESTED</b>		
	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>
Personnel	\$400,518	\$406,776	411,368
Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operations	78,374	78,374	78,374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$479,892</b>	<b>\$486,150</b>	<b>490,742</b>

  

<b>B. USDA/ARS Budget</b>	<b>PROJECTED</b>		
	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>
Personnel	\$1,652,106	\$1,770,920 <sup>1</sup>	\$1,559,661*
Travel	17,981	26,500	25,000
Indirect Research Cost/ Other Services <sup>b</sup>	309,370 <sup>2</sup>	332,897	345,428
Operations	229,031	176,834	377,062
Equipment	126,153	10,000	10,000
Building and Field Maintenance/Support	75,610	93,100	93,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,410,251</b>	<b>\$2,410,251<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$2,410,251</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes salary increase of 1.6% in FY17 and 1.9% in FY18 projected 2.0% in FY19 \* 4 positions to be abolished from FY18 but includes creation of 2 positions in FY18 as well.

<sup>2</sup> Includes R&M at 4% of total funds: FY2017 and FY2018 received 1% waiver. FY2019 figured at 4%

<sup>3</sup> No final budget approved for FY18 Under CR until 3/23/18 with spendout rate of 47.67% and less a reduction of .07% of FY17 level (-\$16,368) = (\$1,141,164)