

First Announcement



AAGB-2008

*Third International Conference of the
Peanut Research Community*

on

Advances in *Arachis* through Genomics and Biotechnology (AAGB-2008)

ICRISAT, Hyderabad (A.P.), India
November 4-8 2008



ICRISAT

Science with a human face

Organized by

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

in collaboration with



Peanut Science Council, USA

The Peanut Genome Initiative (PGI)

The Peanut Genome Initiative is a committed step by the international research community to meet the needs of the peanut industry through genomics and biotechnology.

Background

The legume groundnut, an important oil seed crop, plays an important role in improving livelihoods, nutritional security and sustainability of agriculture in dry areas. In spite of its high nutritive value, its use in food products is low compared to the 80% of the total production utilized for oil extraction in Asia, particularly in India.

In the light of emerging challenges and opportunities this crop requires a new vision and strategy to improve its productivity and quality. With increasing demographic pressure and dwindling natural resources, the production of this grain legume faces a serious threat. To make the crop more profitable and competitive, emphasis needs to be placed on high quality food and value added products.

Aflatoxin contamination – a toxic substance produced by fungi belonging *Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, significantly influences the groundnut trade across the world. Increasing demand for edible oils and the uses of groundnut in industry are very diverse and relate more to local food habits. This will be influenced by income growth, particularly in Asia, and increasing health consciousness of consumers.

The international research community is faced with the responsibility of developing new groundnut varieties that meet higher quality standards and consumers acceptance. This can be achieved by improved communication between scientists and stakeholders. The Advances in *Arachis* through Genomics and Biotechnology (AAGB-2008) focuses on improving the productivity, quality and safety issues using modern genomics and biotechnology tools.

The conference will be organized under well-structured technical sessions that will include invited lectures by eminent speakers in the fields of Genetic Resources, Allelic Diversity, Germplasm Enhancement, Genomic Resources, Comparative Genomics, Biotic and Abiotic Stresses, and Product Quality and Safety. A poster exhibition on these major themes will also be arranged during the conference. Excursions and sight seeing tours to some of the world heritage sites in Hyderabad will also be arranged. The Organizing Committee is endeavoring to make this event scientifically rewarding and socially enjoyable.

Date and Venue

AAGB-2008 will be organized from 4 to 8 November 2008 at ICRISAT Headquarters, near Hyderabad, India. November is the beginning of winter, so the weather will be cool and pleasant.

Call for Abstracts

The Organizing Committee invites scientists/students to participate and make poster presentations for the research conference. A slot of 2 hours every day has been dedicated for poster sessions and discussion. Abstracts of maximum 250 words should be submitted in soft form (preferably Microsoft WORD form) through e-mail to aagb.icrisat@cgiar.org (please mention “Abstract for AAGB-2008” in the subject line of the mail). A sample abstract is available at www.icrisat.org/aagb-2008.

Schedule of important deadlines

Submission of Abstract	15 August, 2008
Notification of Acceptance	10 September, 2008
Remittance of Registration Fee	20 September, 2008

Registration Fee

	Non-Indians (US\$)	Indians (Rupees)	
		Full Registration	Students
Food, Local Transport and Flatlet Accommodation for 5 nights (during 4-8 November 2008)*	350	12000	8000
Food, Local Transport and Dormitory Accommodation for 5 nights (during 4-8 November 2008)**	300	10000	7000
Only Food and Local Transport	200	5000	3000
Spot Registration in Cash (only food)	225	5500	3500
City Tour (with food/Transport)	20	500	500

*US \$ 50/per day will be charged for additional days of stay

**US\$ 40/per day will be charged for additional days of stay



AAGB-2008

Organizing Committee

Chief Patron	William D. Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, India
Chair	Dave Hoisington, Deputy Director General - Research, ICRISAT, India
Co-chairs	Richard F Wilson, The Peanut Foundation, USA Farid Waliyar, ICRISAT, Niger Xinyou Zhang, Henan Academy Agricultural Sciences, China
Secretary	Rajeev Varshney, ICRISAT, India
Members	David Bertoli, Catholic University, Brazil Baozhu Guo, USDA/ARS, USA Corley Holbrook, USDA, ARS Steve Knapp, University of Georgia, USA Xuanqiang Liang, China Ousmane Ndoeye, ISRA, Senegal Shyam Nigam, ICRISAT, India Thomas Stalker, NCSU, USA Howard Valentine, Peanut Foundation, USA

Conference Secretariat

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