

Dr. Amanda M. Hulse-Kemp (Comparative Genomics & Bioinformatics)

USDA-ARS Computational Biologist / USDA Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University

I am an active young ICGI member with professional interests in utilizing bioinformatics to enhance cotton breeding programs. I initially joined ICGI and the cotton research community while completing my Ph.D. research focused on cotton under Dr. David Stelly at Texas A&M University. I was a leading member of the international team that developed the highly successful CottonSNP63K array, which has been utilized world-wide for efficient characterization of germplasm resources and identification of economically important genes. I have also been involved in a number of high-quality genome reference sequence development efforts that have integrated innovative technologies for cotton including the release of one of the first *G. hirsutum* sequences by NAU-NBI and a new assembly at Phytozome (*Gossypium hirsutum* genome v1.1).

I recently joined the Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Unit of the USDA-ARS as a computational biologist and am located in Raleigh, NC at North Carolina State University. My research will continue to emphasize cotton bioinformatics, resource development and integration of genomics and bioinformatics tools for enhancing cotton breeding and utilization of currently available germplasm resources. I gained valuable experience too by attending and orally presenting talks at 2014 Wuhan and 2016 Goiania ICGI meetings. I would like to share the perspectives of a younger scientist and help overall ICGI leadership advance ICGI in the international cotton and plant science research communities. Being involved with a number of bioinformatics groups around the world working on cotton will allow me to integrate multiple research groups through the Comparative Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Group of ICGI in the hopes of building a more collaborative international research community to better the global improvement, disease resistance, and sustainability of cotton.