

ICGI Functional Genomics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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I have more than 20 years of working experience on cotton, from breeding to molecular biology. During my time in China as a cotton breeder and geneticist, I participated and led projects on developing cottons with glandless seeds or colored fibres, coordinated the breeding programs of Zhejiang province. After moving to Australia, I first worked on functional genomics of rice and Arabidopsis, and then shifted my researches back to cotton about eight years ago. During the last eight years, I have been heavily involved in developing the first commercial cotton SNP chip in collaboration with Prof. David Stelly of Texas A&M University, identified the genes underlying the okra leaf shape and fuzz development, developed molecular markers for breeding cottons resistance to diseases and pests, and generated novel germplasm resistance to *Verticillium dahliae*. My main research interests now are cotton functional genomics and molecular breeding, and roles of non-coding RNAs in cotton development and stress responses. I hope I can have the opportunity to better serve the cotton community as one of the elected ICGI officers.