

Sukumar Saha for Co-Chair position of ICGI (Overall)

I would like to serve ICGI as the incoming Co-Chair for ICGI (Overall), in that I strongly believe in the value of international communication, collaboration, coordination, and that ICGI is the best vehicle for exchanging knowledge and promoting collaborative research on cotton genomics and genetics. The new technologies in combination with conventional methods will enable improved cotton productivity and fiber quality, while reducing losses caused by pests and diseases, i.e., solving problems for cotton farmers and stakeholders. I was privileged to be one of eight founding scientists who initiated International Cotton Genome Initiative organization (ICGI) in February 16-18, 2000 at CSIRO, Australia. I am presently honored to serve as ICGI a Chair of the Germplasm Work Group. Previously, I've worked collaboratively with Dr. Todd B. Campbell and the curators of seven major cotton-growing countries to document the status of germplasm collection in the world, resulting in a cover-page article in 2010 *Crop Science* (50:1161-1179). I've also had opportunities to lead many collaborative projects with scientists of major cotton growing countries, and been an invited speaker from major cotton research institutes of different countries including Australia, France, China, India, Turkey, South Africa, Brazil and Uzbekistan. I was deeply honored to receive 2016 International Service Award from Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), the first such recognition for cotton research. As an agricultural scientist I strongly believe that global collaboration in research is a professional and moral imperative for food and fiber security to ensure the peace and prosperity of our society. I request your support for the ICGI co-chair position. If I am selected I promise to dedicate myself to make ICGI a premier platform for agriculture innovation by exchanging knowledge and promoting collaborative research to make a significant impact on cotton genomics, genetics and germplasm for the cotton communities.