

This is Linghe Zeng, a Research Geneticist in Crop Genetics Research Unit, USDA-ARS at Stoneville, MS, USA. I obtained my Ph.D. degree from Genetics Program of Clemson University in 1997. My research interests have been focused on broadening genetic base of Upland cotton germplasm for lint yield and fiber quality through both traditional breeding and molecular approaches. I am also an executive coordinator of National Cotton Variety Test (NCVT) program and Chair of Regional High Quality (RHQ) test in USA. In the past years, I have been working on developing cotton germplasm lines aiming to break negative association between lint yield and fiber quality, identifying molecular markers through association mapping for yield and fiber quality traits as well as hybrid vigor, Improving breeding methods, and dissecting genotype by environment interactions in NCVT tests. In recent years, I have close collaborations with molecular biologists in USDA on multiple-locations projects to sequence genome of a MAGIC population and utilize molecular markers in cotton breeding to improve fiber quality. I can make contributions to ICGI in future by promoting global collaborations on application of genomic approaches in cotton breeding for genetic improvement of fiber quality. I can bridge communications among international cotton scientists and facilitate education of genetic knowledge on cotton breeding and genome research through organizing workshop and meetings and providing consults by emails or on-site visits when possible. I plan to coordinate an international collaboration through ICGI organization on application of molecular markers in cotton breeding with diverse genetic backgrounds.