

## 2021 Election for ICGI Officers

### Co-Chair, Germplasm and Genetic Stocks Workgroup

#### Marc Giband – Personal Statement

I am a Research Scientist at Cirad (Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development), France, and like to present myself as a pre-breeder. My areas of interest include the evaluation and characterization of cotton germplasm – both within and outside the cultivated pool – as a source of phenotypic and genetic variability, using molecular genetics to develop tools to assist in incorporating valuable alleles in breeding plant material, and developing populations with increased variability.

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to interact and collaborate with numerous colleagues worldwide. After having spent 13 years outposted in Brazil with Embrapa's National Cotton Research Center, I have more recently returned to France, from where I have also taken up some activities in sub-Saharan Africa. And it is particularly in these contexts that one apprehends the benefits of cooperation.

I have been involved with ICGI since the very early days, having participated in the "Symposium on Molecular Markers" held in 2000 at CSIRO, Australia, where ICGI was instituted and an International Steering Committee nominated to push this initiative forward. I was also involved in the organization of the ICGI 2001 Workshop (Montpellier, France), the Third ICGI Workshop (Nanjing, 2002), the ICGI 2006 Brasilia Research Conference (Brasilia, Brazil), and the WCRC-6 & ICGI 2016 Goiânia Research Conference (Goiânia, Brazil).

Adding value to the wide genetic and phenotypic variability that exists within the *Gossypium* genus through its characterization and a better comprehension of the bases of trait variability is a daunting task, and synergism between individual efforts can certainly help in overcoming some of the hurdles. While we cannot overlook the limitations that may restrict the free-flow of genetic resources and associated knowledge, I am convinced that there are certain activities for which, as a community, we can find common grounds. It is by collectively defining these common grounds and personally adhering to them that, as a community, we will be able to make progress that will benefit each one of us and the cotton research community at large.

I would be happy to contribute to the overall mission of ICGI, and it is with this mindset that I accepted the nomination and am running for the position of Co-Chair of Germplasm and Genetic Stocks.