

# Proposal for Hosting 2012 ICGI Research Conference



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Cotton Incorporated will host the 2012 ICGI Research Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. Our aim is to keep costs low through sponsorship with others such as the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and private industry partners such as BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow Agro, Monsanto, and Syngenta. Based on prior meetings, we expect the attendance to be between 150 and 225. The conference will be held during October as temperatures are mild and cotton is fully matured and open that time of year. October temperatures average 60°F [15.5°C], with average highs being 72°F and lows 50°F.

## Cotton Incorporated



Cotton Incorporated celebrates the past and celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2010. The campaign, called "Forty Years of Progress," marks the myriad accomplishments the company has achieved in its history, and paves the way for cotton to remain top-of-mind with customers throughout the value chain. With World Headquarters in Cary and offices in New York, Mexico City, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Osaka, Cotton Incorporated is well poised to meet the needs of the world's growing textile industry. The global staff of 145 continues to carry out the mission *to increase the demand for and profitability of cotton through research and promotion.* The Agricultural

Research Department staff of 8 currently funds nearly 400 projects with principal investigators across the U.S. with concerted efforts in variety improvement, abiotic and biotic stress tolerance, and genomic research. Cotton Incorporated has sponsored the biennial Cotton Breeders' Tour for over 2 decades and supports graduate student training in genetics, entomology, and weed science with its Cotton Incorporated Fellowship program. Also, Cotton Incorporated has been and continues to be a significant financial supporter to ICGI since its inception.

## Raleigh and the Surrounding Metropolitan Area

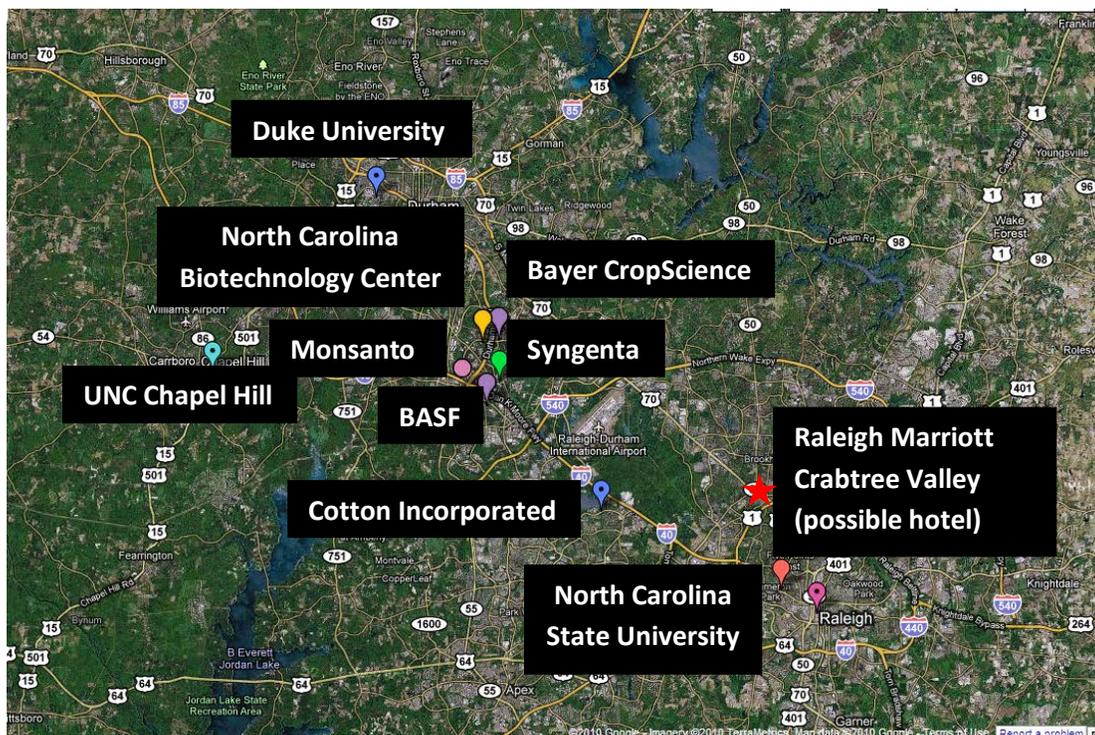
Raleigh is the capital city of North Carolina and has international air service to London and Toronto. The newly renovated Raleigh-Durham International Airport [RDU] has 450 daily departures on 10 major carriers to more than 40 U.S. destinations and has direct flights to larger international connecting airports in Washington D.C., New York City, Atlanta, and Chicago. RDU is just 15 minutes west of downtown Raleigh. There is *free* complimentary shuttle service between RDU and the meeting venue. Taxi cost is approximately \$30 U.S. one-way.



Terminal 1	
Airlines	
	AirTran Airways
	Continental Airlines Continental and Continental Express
	jetBlue Airways jetBlue
	SOUTHWEST AIRLINES Southwest
	U.S. AIRWAYS US Airways US Airways Express
Terminal 2	
Airlines	
	AIR CANADA Air Canada
	American Airlines American and American Eagle
	DELTA Delta and Delta Connection
	MIDWEST AIRLINES Midwest Airlines
	UNITED United and United Express

The Raleigh/Chapel Hill/Durham metropolitan area has a population of 1.2 million. Its citizens have the third highest concentration of college degrees in the United States. World-class research, science and technology companies call greater Raleigh home because of the education of the workforce and cultural attractions. Major near-by universities include North Carolina State University in Raleigh, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and Duke University in Durham. The metropolitan area between these three cities is known as Research Triangle Park, or RTP. One of the largest science parks in North America, RTP is home to more than 170 companies employing over 42,000 full-time knowledge workers and an estimated 10,000 contract employees. Several major agricultural biotechnology companies have a presence in the park. RTP is a globally prominent high-technology research and development center that serves as an economic driver for the region.

### **Important Venues and Partners in Greater Metropolitan Raleigh Area**



Three hours west of Raleigh, the Blue Ridge Mountains can be enjoyed, or three hours to the east, beaches such as The Outer Banks are available for exploration before or after the meeting. The greater Raleigh area is home to excellent art, history, and natural sciences museums, has a diverse and active night life, and has an eclectic restaurant scene.

### **Potential sponsors**

Cotton Incorporated will approach a number of potential sponsors to assist with the meeting. This will include financial support, agenda input, and site visits.

## Cotton In the U.S.



Cotton is an important crop for the United States and a major export earner for the country. Nearly 10 million acres were planted in 2010. The cotton crop accounted for 4.3 million tons of lint and 6.4 million tons of cottonseed. The gross dollar value of cotton lint and its extensive system of production, harvesting, and ginning provides countless jobs for mechanics, farm machinery dealers, crop consultants, processors, and people in other support services. Today, the world uses more cotton than any other fiber. At the farm level alone, the production of each year's crop involves the purchase of more than \$7 billion worth of supplies and services. This stimulates business activities for factories and enterprises throughout the country. Processing and handling of cotton after it leaves the farm generates even more business activity. Annual business revenue stimulated by cotton in the U.S. economy exceeds \$120 billion. Other allied industries such as banking, transportation, and merchandising also benefit from a viable U.S. cotton production system.

## Venue



The ICGI conference will be held in the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley [or at a similar facility]. Cotton Incorporated has utilized this facility for many years both for company annual meetings and for grower tours. The Marriott has experienced staff that Cotton Incorporated personnel are very familiar with, and this site can accommodate groups of our number. The hotel has sufficient facilities to accommodate our attendees for plenary sessions, break-out meetings, and meals. Possible off-site visits might include facilities at BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cotton Incorporated, Frontier Spinning Mills, NCSU and its experiment station, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Monsanto, and Syngenta among others. Buses would be utilized to transport attendees to off-site functions. A large shopping mall is within easy walking of the Marriott venue.



## **Local Organizing Committee**

Dr. Todd Campbell [USDA, Florence, SC]

Dr. Peng Chee [University of Georgia, Tifton, GA]

Dr. Candace Haiglar [North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC]

Dr. Don Jones [Cotton Incorporated, Cary, NC]

Dr. Vasu Kuraparthi [North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC]

Dr. Andrew Paterson [University of Georgia, Athens, GA]

Dr. Paul Ulanich [North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Research Triangle Park, NC]

Dr. Richard Percy [USDA, College Station, TX]

## **Other Local Information**

### **Passport and Visa**

All travelers entering the United States need to have a valid passport and a visa to enter the country (Canadians are exempt from needing a visa). Please see the following website to find out how to get a visa for your particular nationality:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1262.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html). Visa processing times may vary, so be sure to apply early.

### **Quarantine**

The United States has very strict regulations regarding the importation of any plant or animal goods without prior application. If you are unsure about any material you are carrying, declare it at Customs when you enter the country. For more detailed information, please consult the US Customs web page for international travelers at

<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id visa/>.

### **Banking/Currency**

Decimal currency is used in the United States with the US dollar as the basic unit (100 cents=\$1.00). Paper notes come in denominations of \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00. Coins come 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents and (rarely) 50 cents denominations.

Currency exchange facilities are available at most airports, banks and hotels. Credit cards are accepted at many locations, and the most common are Visa and Master Card.

## **Business Hours**

Most office business hours are from 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday. Post offices are open 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday, and a few locations are open until Noon on Saturdays. Banks are usually open from 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday, but Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are widely located and available 24 hours a day.

## **Electricity**

The United States uses 120v/60Hz plugs. As this is different than most other countries, you may need an adapter. Pictures of the typical US plugs are located below:



## **Tipping**

Tipping in the United States is typically 15%-20% and is not included in the bill (unless noted otherwise).

## **Medical and Travel Insurance**

It is strongly recommended that international visitors seek advice and take out appropriate travel insurance and medical coverage. Overseas visitors may be required to pay in full all medical expenses incurred while in the United States, and prices are relatively high compared to the rest of the world.

## **Vaccinations**

Check with your medical provider to make sure all your vaccinations are up to date. For more information regarding vaccinations and health information for the United States please go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>.