Expanding the Germplasm Base for Upland Cotton Breeding. (C08-creech101425-Poster)

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Abstract:

The sources of germplasm for the cotton breeder to use as parents are changing. Public collections are available but are operating under some server restrictions. The United States public collection available to breeders has broadened due to accessions from the former Soviet Union. In the past few years lines from Russia and Uzbekistan were added to the collection. Most of this lines have yet to be characterized. There are hundreds of lines in the collection needing characterization. Universities are no longer serve as the major sources for germplasm. Fewer programs are developing fewer lines for release as public germplasm. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) has reduced programs. The long standing breeding program the USDA-ARS had at the Pee Dee Station in South Carolina was closed in 2000. Other USDA programs have not been as active in releasing pubic germplasm. Cotton Incorporated has sponsored a new initiative that is geared toward reversing this trend in U.S. public institutions. In this paper we will take a detailed look at the resources available, current status, and the issues and policies affecting the germplasm resource.

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