

S-03

Experience working with crops not covered by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - peanut and soybean

*Scott Jackson*, Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia, Georgia, USA

Several crops are specifically excluded from the list of crops covered by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, including peanut and soybean. Exclusion from the treaty can lead to difficulty on securing genetic resources to solve problems besetting global crop production. In the case of peanut, this is particularly acute as it is a subsistence crop in parts of Africa and there are many diseases and pests for which resistance may be found in landraces or wild accessions that are not freely available for use. Fortunately, for both soybean and peanut, reasonably extensive collections exist from before implementation of the treaty that do provide some sources of useful genes, but the inability to expand these collections and freely share materials is debilitating to these crops both on an industrial scale and to subsistence farmers. I will provide examples where genes from wild relatives have proven useful on a global scale to improve the sustainability and profitability of these crops. I will also provide examples of how sharing DNA sequence information has the potential to help accelerate crop improvement.