

2025 *Vigna* Crop Germplasm Committee Minute Meeting

Date: December 8, 2025; 3:00-4:15 pm EST

Participants:

Bali, Jose <jose@ctsmithco.com> - CT Smith Company
Blair, Matthew <mblair@tnstate.edu> - Tennessee State University
Bretting, Peter <peter.bretting@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS Office of National Programs
Gary, Kinard - <gary.kinard@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS National Germplasm Resources Lab
Huynh, Bao Lam <baolamh@ucr.edu> - University of California, Riverside
Jackai, Louis <lejackai@ncat.edu> - North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Jermaine, Perier <jdp908@msstate.edu> - Mississippi State University
Koenig, Daniel <dkoenig@ucr.edu> - University of California, Riverside
Kothari, Neha <neha.kothari@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS National Program Leader
Michael, Abberton <m.abberton@cgiar.org> - IITA, Head of the Genetic Resources Center
Ozia-Akins, Peggy <pozias@uga.edu> - University of Georgia
Ravelombola, Waltram <waltram.ravelombola@ag.tamu.edu> - Texas A&M AgriLife-Research
Riley, David <dgr@uga.edu> - University of Georgia
Rios, Esteban <estebanrios@ufl.edu> - University of Florida
Tallury, Shyam <shyam.tallury@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS Geneticist, Peanut and Vigna Curator
von Wettberg, Eric Bishop <eric.bishop-von-wettberg@uvm.edu> - University of Vermont
Yamashita, Alexis <Alexis.Yamashita@uvm.edu> - University of Vermont

Dr. Waltram Ravelombola, Chairperson, started the meeting at 3:00 pm EST, welcomed the participants, and asked for the approval of the agenda.

1) Introduction of participants and new members

A total of 17 participants attended the meeting via Teams. Two members, Drs. Huynh and Koenig, joined the Vigna CGC group in 2025 and were introduced to the members.

2) National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) review

Dr. Neha Kothari presented a review of the NPGS including acquiring, preserving, and characterizing germplasm. A total of 621,600 accessions is recorded at the NPGS. Issues related to regeneration were highlighted. Members were encouraged to provide success stories of released variety/germplasm using NPGS collections to demonstrate impacts.

3) National Germplasm Resources (NGRL)

Dr. Gary R. Kinard shared the 2025 NGRL report, which was distributed among the CGC members. New features on germplasm search using Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) were also introduced to the members. These features include searching germplasm using images (shape, size, color, etc.). Using the ‘Taxonomy’ option in GRIN is also another way to search for germplasm. Search can also include genetically engineered/genetically modified accessions. FY26 Plant Exploration RFP was also discussed.

4) Germplasm Status Report

Dr. Shyam Tallury presented the report on the *Vigna* germplasm status. The inventory of germplasm includes 8110, 4230, 59, of cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.], mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) R. Wilczek], and bambara groundnut [*Vigna subterranea* (L.) Verdc.], respectively. A total of 494 accessions of other *Vigna* are also maintained. Germplasm regeneration of cowpea, mungbean, and bambara groundnut are conducted. A total of 1,362 *Vigna* PIs were distributed nationally and internationally during FY25. The curator welcomes collaborations on germplasm regeneration, characterization, and evaluation.

5) Update of *Vigna* CGC funded projects and Crop Vulnerability Statement

Dr. Waltram Ravelombola presented an overview of the *Vigna* CGC activities for 2025 and project report. Activities include reviewing proposals for the FY25 Horticulture and Sugar Crop RFPs focusing on genotypic characterization of germplasm. RFPs were distributed to *Vigna* CGC members. A Q&A session was held by the USDA on May 1, 2025, to provide details regarding the RFPs. One proposal was submitted by *Vigna* CGC to USDA but did not receive funding. Since no current project report was available, Dr. Ravelombola presented the FY23 project report on the biological nitrogen fixation in cowpea. Updates on the crop vulnerability statement were made, new information was added, and the document was formatted and submitted to the Journal of Plant Registration.