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**Subject:** Genomic characterization of world soybean germplasm collections  
**Date:** Sunday, January 04, 2015 8:21:24 PM

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Dear Colleagues,

I'm Scott Jackson from the University of Georgia in the USA. I'm contacting you as persons that have access to or are in charge of germplasm collections in various countries. You may be away of an international initiative to use genomics to characterize crop germplasm collections in order to better curate them and to exploit them for crop improvement ([www.divseek.org](http://www.divseek.org)).

I am wondering if there is interest to organize the soybean community to take advantage of this initiative. We would have to find funding source(s) for data generation, but could work hand-in-hand with Divseek to take advantage of infrastructure that will be put together to make use of the genomic data.

In the US, most of the germplasm collection has been genotyped with a 50K SNP chip. However, this has limitations and sequencing would complement the utility of the data to uncover haplotypes and non-SNP variation. In addition, it would be useful to understand redundancy within and between collections and to better understand the variation among the various collections.

If there is interest, I propose that we organize a workshop/meeting. I don't have money to pay for travel, but we could organize it as inexpensively as possible and possibly raise some money to help coordinate it. Topics might include: interest to characterize collections at the sequence level; sequencing approaches; utility in curation; funding; etc...

If I have contacted the wrong person, or if someone is missing, please forward this email to the.

Sincerely,

Scott Jackson

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