

Institute for Plant Genomics and Biotechnology

A multidisciplinary organization, the Institute for Plant Genomics and Biotechnology is composed of faculty members representing 14 units affiliated with Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service. This Institute is housed in the Norman E. Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Improvement and provides researchers a base of operations with specialized teaching and research laboratories designed with the necessary infrastructure and cutting-edge equipment for the plant science community at Texas A&M.

Norman Borlaug, Texas A&M Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture, is credited with saving more lives than anyone else in the history of the world by developing high-yielding, short-strawed, disease-resistant wheat varieties and taking these new cereal strains to Third World countries to feed the hungry. He is one of only five people to receive the triple honor of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Research projects at the Institute for Plant Genomics and Biotechnology include the development of transgenic plants for disease and stress resistance and high-value proteins, as well as the platform for biotechnology research in food, fiber, and health. Additionally, the Institute performs DNA diagnostics for AgriLife Research and serves as the home of the Texas Cotton Biotechnology Program. Specific research in cotton has led to the creation of ultra-low-gossypol cottonseeds that could provide malnourished people with a high-quality protein and serve as a value-added resource to the cotton industry.

Next-generation DNA sequencing and genetic marker development using the Illumina platform has elevated AgriLife Research to a leadership position in the bioenergy crop development industry, most notably around sorghum. This applied research crop is grown in more than 12,000 square feet of greenhouses, 22 growth chambers, and 3 growth rooms.

"It's a different world. What were many impossible genetic dreams two decades ago are now, because of the new transgenic engineering technologies, on the verge of becoming realities."

Dr. Norman Borlaug, at the dedication of the Norman E. Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Development, October 1999

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Plants in greenhouse



Norman E. Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Improvement



Greenhouses in annex



Norman Borlaug