

Report for the Conference on Hot Topics on Peanuts

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This conference took place on September 16th, 2008 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Country Inn and Suites, Cordele, Georgia. About 90 people attended the conference. Eight speakers were invited and each gave a 10 to 25 min talk.

The first speaker was Dr. Stanley Fletcher from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, University of Georgia (UGA). He gave an update on the 2008 farm bill. The second speaker was Dr. John Beasley from the Crop and Soil Sciences Department, UGA on projected 2008 Georgia peanut crop. Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins, from the Horticulture Department, UGA, was the third speaker. Her talk was on “Peanut biotechnology and molecular breeding.” Dr. David G. Cummins, former Director of the Peanut-CRSP Program, was the next speaker. He gave an overview of the new funded projects from the current 5-year (2007-2012) Peanut CRSP research program. Dr. Ronald B. Pegg from the UGA Department of Food Science and Technology then gave a talk on “Measuring the health-promoting properties in peanut and peanut products.” Dr. Patricia Wolff, Founder and Executive Director of Meds & Food for Kids, then gave a video presentation on their work in Haiti using a peanut butter based food to save lives. Dr. Manjeet Chinnan from the Food Science and Technology Department, UGA-Griffin then gave a talk on his experiences on developing peanut tarts. Dr. Yen-Con Hung also from the Food Science and Technology Department, UGA-Griffin was the last speaker and gave two presentations. His first talk was on the development of a peanut shake beverage mix funded by the Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative and his second presentation was on the development of a new peanut information network system (PINS, www.worldpeanutinfo.com) funded by the Peanut CRSP program.

Immediately after the conference, peanut shake beverage developed by Dr. Yen-Con Hung’s research group was distributed. Two different flavored peanut shake beverages (original and chocolate flavor) were available for people to taste. Both products were well liked by the people at the conference and indicated that they would purchase this product if available on the market.