

## Pigeonpea Genomics Initiative established under Indo-US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative

With an objective to develop and utilize genomics tools for pigeonpea improvement, pigeonpea researchers from leading institutes from India including National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB) (New Delhi), ICRISAT (Patancheru), Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) (Kanpur), University of Agricultural Sciences (Dharwad), Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Agricultural University (Akola) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) (Varanasi) established the Pigeonpea Genomics Initiative (PGI) under the leadership of Dr NK Singh of NRCPB. The first phase of the PGI was funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the umbrella of Indo-US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI). In the 1<sup>st</sup> Project Coordination Meeting of the PGI on 10 November 2006 (*see photo*), the “Asha” variety of

pigeonpea was selected as a standard genotype for developing the genomic resources such as microsatellites, ESTs (expressed sequence tags), bacterial artificial chromosomal (BAC) libraries and for mapping and TILLING (Targeting Induced Local Lesions in Genome) populations. Professor Doug Cook from the University of California-Davis, USA is collaborating with PGI under the Indo-US AKI and developing the BAC libraries and generating the BAC-end sequences for marker discovery.

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PGI Coordination Meeting at NRCPB.