



**NEW CORESTA TASK FORCE  
NICOTIANA GERMPLASM COLLECTION (NGPC)**

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Genetic diversity within *Nicotiana tabacum* and related species has been essential for historical improvements in tobacco cultivars during the last 100 years. Continued progress from tobacco breeding is based upon the existence, maintenance, and use of genetic diversity within the genus *Nicotiana*. Public availability of this genetic variability should be considered of extremely high importance to the tobacco industry as further improvements in tobacco production efficiency are needed, as well as possible future modifications of chemical profiles of the tobacco plant. However, reduced support from public institutions and governments for tobacco related activities during the last 20 years has made it difficult to maintain publicly-available tobacco germplasm collections. Study of potential systems for long-term support of public *Nicotiana* germplasm maintenance is likely in the best interest of the tobacco industry.

The current intent of a new Task Force on *Nicotiana* germplasm is to stimulate a CORESTA-facilitated discussion amongst members of the tobacco industry regarding a pathway for sustainable maintenance of genetic diversity within the genus *Nicotiana*.

The objective proposed for the Task Force and approved by the CORESTA Scientific Commission and Board is:

**To study potential systems for long-term support of  
public *Nicotiana* germplasm maintenance.**

The Coordinator of this Task Force will be Dr. Ramsey Lewis, Professor, Tobacco Breeding & Genetics Faculty, at the North Carolina State University.

**A call for participants is being made to contribute to the discussions that will be held by this Task Force. Anyone who may be interested, regardless of whether or not they have current involvement with the management of *Nicotiana* germplasm, is invited to join the Task Force.**

You are encouraged to circulate this document to your colleagues and any interested persons. CORESTA looks forward to active participation.

For further information or application to join the Task Force, please contact the CORESTA Secretariat at [scolard@coresta.org](mailto:scolard@coresta.org) before 12 March 2021.