

USDA ADVANCES IN PLANT BREEDING AND INNOVATION: RESISTANCE BREEDING, GERMPLASM COLLECTIONS, AND GENETIC DIVERSITY

Sarah Federman¹ and Paul Zankowski¹

The Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) assists in providing strategic coordination of the science that informs Departmental policies by facilitating discourse and the identification of areas of synergy. Major focal areas in OCS include plant health, production and plant products; and agricultural systems and technology. This talk presents a series of vignettes on plant breeding and innovation throughout the Department, with a focus on breeding for diversity and resilience; resistance breeding programs; the national plant germplasm database; and finally, examples of recent plant breeding coordination work at OCS to introduce the office as a resource and partner for facilitating the increased visibility of ongoing research and initiatives.

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¹USDA Office of the Chief Scientist, Washington, DC 20250, (sarah.federman@osec.usda.gov).

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