Channapatna S. Prakash, PhD

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Genetics and Genomics
Tuskegee University
Kenney Hall, Suite 70-403
1200 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee, AL 36088
Office Phone 334-724-4920
Email: cprakash@tuskegee.edu
Private email: prakashcs1@gmail.com

Career

Tuskeegee University, 1989-Current Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Tuskegee University, 1989-Current, Tenured Professor of Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology
The University of Kentucky, 1985-1988, Postdoctoral Fellow, Forestry and Genetics

Education

The Australian National University, Canberra, Faculty of Science (Forestry and Genetics), Ph.D.; 1985
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India, Genetics and Plant Breeding, MS; 1979. Top of the class
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India, Agriculture, BS; 1977. Top 5% of the class.

Current Work Experience and Expertise – As the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Tuskegee University since August 2015, I oversee the largest college of the university, responsible for nine departments, two Ph.D. programs, over 110 faculty members, and 15 staff, with nearly 1000 students and a budget portfolio of $20M. I am committed to fostering a student-centered environment that promotes excellence in learning, innovation, and outreach, with a leadership style that promotes shared governance, excellence, and openness.

Under my leadership, the College has experienced unprecedented success in extramural research support, alumni giving, and corporate donations. I have actively engaged in resource development, fundraising, and external stakeholder relations, overseeing a million-dollar renovation of our historic science building Armstrong Hall through funds raised from external resources.

I have expanded online learning offerings, partnered with the College of Agriculture to start a new Ph.D. program, and invigorated our pre-health program, increasing the number of students attending medical and law schools and graduate programs. I have helped bring together faculty across various disciplines to launch a new Center for African American Studies, with forward-looking tracks on themes such as social justice, the criminal justice system, economic inequity, digital divide, health disparities, and voters' rights.

I am a firm believer in the holistic development of students and strive to promote co-curricular activities in the College, building soft skills and promoting community outreach activities by our faculty. I have served on crucial university committees, including University Strategic Planning and Accreditation and Reaffirmation, working with other deans through the Deans' Council to advance the university's goals on academic issues across the campus.

I possess excellent organizational and communication skills, working collaboratively in a matrix environment with diverse internal and external constituencies. I am a tech geek, knowledgeable in various computer and software systems related to higher education, including accreditation, budget systems, and employee performance evaluation. I am globally recognized for my science and agricultural communication work, with a demonstrated capacity to build and maintain academic programming and curricula development, and reach measurable goals.

Lastly, I am a firm believer in continued personal and professional development, participating in various workshops and actively reading on issues related to academic improvement, fundraising, curriculum

development, sexual harassment, online learning, media relations, alumni engagement, legal issues in higher education, ethics in leadership, organizational management, human relations, and the role of information technology in higher education.

Awards/Honor/Recognition

2015: Winner, Borlaug 'Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)' Communication Award according to CAST, Dr. Prakash has "*arguably done more than anyone else in academia or industry to promote agricultural technologies that can help feed the world's growing population*."

2015: Named as 'Science Hero - Warrior of Science' by International Food Information Council.

2014: Named Top 30 Social Influencers in Biotech and Pharma by the ***Huffington Post*** and was based on popularity, topical footprint, and social influence using such metrics by Evolve!, a marketing/polling firm.

2014: Elected Fellow of the American College of Nutrition.

2013: Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award for outstanding lifetime contribution to agricultural research by the Association of 1890 Research Directors.

2011: Award of 'Appreciation for Service to Agricultural Biotechnology,' US-EPA (Research Triangle Park).

2010: Commemorative Award from the President of Zambia, His Excellency Hon. Rupiah Banda.

2006: Named one of the 'Top Personalities Who have made the Most Significant Contribution to Biotech' by *Nature Biotechnology*: Who's who in biotech - Some of the biotech's most remarkable and influential personalities from the past ten years.

2005: Named one of the 100 Top Living Contributors to Biotechnology by *The Scientist* (chosen by peers via polling).

2005: Named one of the Pioneers, Visionaries, and Innovators behind the Progress and Promise of Plant Biotechnology by the Council for Biotechnology Information.

2003- Invited by *Nature* journal, the Welcome Trust, and Sanger Institute to write a reflective essay on the Impact of DNA discovery on - ag biotech for the book *Celebrating 50 Years of DNA 1953-2003*. Sir Francis Crick and Tony Blair are among other writers.

2003: Invited to deliver the Julian Simon Lecture by the Liberty Institute in New Delhi.

2002: Man of the Year in Service to Alabama Agriculture, named by *Progressive Farmer Magazine.*

2000: USDA Agricultural Biotechnology Advisory Committee member (2002).

2000: Appointed to the Government of India Department of Biotechnology Advisory Committee (-2004).

2000: Speaker, E. T. York Distinguished Lecture Series in Recognition of Oustanding Contribution to Science & Humanity; Auburn University

1995: Russell W. Brown Award for scientific excellence, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

1994: Faculty Performance Award recognizing one faculty across the university for outstanding achievement - by Tuskegee University (1994)

1979: Gold Medal for Academic Excellence in Masters Degree, University of Agricultural Science, India

Professional Experience

Globally recognized as a public intellectual and science advocate for enhancing general understanding of agricultural biotechnology and science issues worldwide.

• Highly respected professor and scholar with a focus on safe use of genetically-modified and gene-edited crops, and outstanding record of research, teaching, and outreach as a tenured Tuskegee University faculty member since 1996.

• Currently leading research in genomics of food and bioenergy crops with three decades of teaching experience in biotechnology, botany, and genetics.

• Dedicated to mentoring under-represented minority students and scientists from the developing world.

• Serving as Editor-in-Chief of the journal GM Crops & Food: Biotechnology in Agriculture and Food Chain since 2010, co-authoring editorial/special issues on various topics including 'Politics of GM Crops.' 'Special Issue on Biosafety Regulation'

Teaching

A highly passionate teacher with a talent for storytelling, creating excitement, and inspiring life-long learning among students, emphasizing classroom discussions.

• Teaching various courses in plant biotechnology, genetics, plant biology, and international agriculture at TU since 1989.

• Innovative use of cutting-edge technology in the course "Genetics and Society," featuring live interactive video lectures in partnership with UCLA and UC Davis since 2011.
• Collaborated with renowned award-winning professor, Dr. Bob Goldberg, to feature guest lectures from top experts in various fields of genetics, with an all-expense-paid visit by TU students to UCLA, funded by a grant from NSF.
• Conducts annual workshops on plant genomics for high school students and teachers with Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson, funded by USDA/NIFA.
• Routinely invited to deliver guest lectures at various institutions across the US and overseas.

Research

• Conduct cutting-edge research in crop genomics, genetics, and biotechnology, with extensive experience in crop genetic diversity analysis, molecular markers, genetic mapping, gene cloning, bioinformatics, tissue culture, gene transformation, and testing of transgenic plants.
• Contributed to highly-cited scientific papers, primarily on peanut genetic markers, which are among the highest-cited publications from Tuskegee University.
• Trained hundreds of African-American students and scholars in plant biotechnology during tenure at TU.
• Among the first to develop and field-test transgenic sweet potato plants and establish biosafety guidelines in Ghana
Contributed to the development of polymorphic DNA markers in peanuts and collaborated to construct a detailed genetic map of cultivated peanut, establishing a "toolbox" for genetic and genomic analysis in peanuts.
• Currently, conducting genomic and DNA marker studies on Miscanthus, a bioenergy grass, to breed fast-growing, highly-productive, and eco-friendly clones for cellulosic ethanol production.

Outreach and Service - Public Engagement

- Worked with many governments around the world and advised them on agricultural policy issues, especially on biotechnology development, biosafety regulation, trade, and legislative issues (Kenya, Egypt, India, Ghana, Philippines, and more).
- Led discussions in many countries, catalyzing the scientific community to be more proactive in the biotechnology debate.
- Gathered endorsements from 25 Nobel prize winners for my statement on Ag- biotechnology, and signatures from over 5,000 scientists who signed on to his petition.
- Led a group of scientists, including Dr. Nina Fedoroff (past science advisor to Hilary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice; past President of AAAS), to appeal the destruction of field trials of Golden Rice in the Philippines through a petition that 6,700 scientists signed on.
- Founded www.agbioworld.org, an early and vital portal that disseminated information and discussion on ag-biotech issues among scientists, policymakers, activists, and journalists.
- Ran a top-rated daily newsletter *AgBioView* (from 2000 to 2012; read by 5,000 subscribers, with more than 2,500 issues).
- I have written more than one hundred popular articles in newspaper and magazines on agriculture, science, and biotech issues as science writer since teen years

Social Media

- I have been ranked number #1global influencer on Twitter on agricultural biotechnology and GMO science issues and tied on the number #1 position on 'agricultural science' issues. I am thus very adept at using social media tools to engage multiple audiences to inform them with stories, memes, infographics, parody, and sarcasm, to educate them on science and agricultural issues while simultaneously entertaining them. I have more than 91,000 followers on Twitter and Facebook, my posts generate millions of impressions monthly. I am considered as a leading 'Agvocate'. I am especially popular among farmers, ranchers, students, scholars, media, and policy wonks interested in food & ag issues, including food security and sustainability, as I am adept at explaining many complex food and farming issues simply to a general audience.

- I was ranked one of the Top 30 Social Influencers in Biotech and Biopharma by *Huffington Post* after measuring the "online impact of more than 400 of the most knowledgeable, most influential, and most social thought leaders, doctors, scientists, academics, analysts, investors and patient advocates in the biopharma and biotech fields."

- I have been moderating very dynamic online discussion group involving many scientists and opinion leaders for nearly twenty years. Conduct online discussion groups on ag-biotech in Africa and India.
- Posted many YouTube videos of my lectures and interviews, as well as activities at Tuskegee University.

Public Lectures, Science Advocacy, and Public Policy

As a top-rated and sought-after speaker in agriculture and biotechnology, I have delivered over 1000 public lectures across 80 countries. These include significant universities across the USA (Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Columbia, Purdue, Iowa State), and at notable venues such as the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, the Vatican, the Alexandria Library (Egypt), the FAO, the World Food Prize symposium, and the World Agricultural Forum. I have also delivered plenary lectures at the annual meetings of more than a dozen scientific societies.

A few notable speaking events in my public speaking career:

2013: Vatican meeting on Bread and Brain. I had the great honor of having an audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, when he "blessed" a sample of golden rice.
2008: Aspen Ideas Festival in 2008 where other speakers included luminaries such as President Clinton, Colin Powell, Tom Friedman, and Arianna Huffington.
2007: Invited by science writer Matt Ridley to speak at Cold Spring Harbor retreat on genetics, Nobel laureate James Watson, writer Michael Crichton, and others.
2004: National Governors Association - Invited by Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa (current Secretary of Agriculture) and Governor Mike Johanns of Nebraska to deliver a luncheon address.
2004: Vatican Conference on Biotechnology - Invited by Jim Nicholson (U.S. envoy to the Vatican; later Secretary of Veteran Affairs).
2003: International Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Science and Technology in Sacramento, California. Invited by Agricultural Secretary Ann M. Veneman (now head of UNICEF); ministers of agriculture from 120 countries in attendance.
2003: U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick (later head of World Bank) and Ann Veneman (then Secretary of Agriculture during the George W. Bush Administration) requested my special assistance to file a landmark suit at the WTO on behalf of U.S. Farmers against the EU for its moratorium on GM crops and to address a press conference in Washington, DC on the topic.

Research Grants

- I have received nearly $20M in competitive grants in my career as a PI and Co-PI funding from many U.S. federal agencies, including USDA, NSF, USAID, NASA, DoD, and DOE
- Led the TU team effort to secure $1.5M from private and public sources to build a *Center for Molecular Plant Science* at Tuskegee University.
- Currently PI for four projects worth $2M, including a project on enhancing vitamin-A nutrition in Tanzania using orange sweet potato funded by USAID; a peanut genomic research project from USAID/Zambia; a project on the genomics of *Miscanthus* from USDA; and one on soybean genetics from USDA.
- Completed USAID-funded Agriculture Innovation Partnership project to enhance agricultural education in India, in partnership with Cornell University.

Popular Articles, Media Engagement

- I have written more than one hundred popular articles in newspaper and magazines on agriculture, science, and biotech issues as science writer.
- Been interviewed widely by the popular media; has appeared or has been cited in over one thousand media outlets around the globe and in various languages including BBC, NPR, CBC, *New York Times, Time, Newsweek, Guardian, Los Angeles Times*, ABC, *Financial Times, Wall Street Journal*, Vatican Radio, and *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. See a sample of his media quotes at http://www.agbioworld.org/biotech-info/prakash-news.html
- Appeared on notable media such as ABC's 20/20 with John Stossel, NPR's Science Friday by Ira Flatow, NPR's Talk of the Nation with Juan Williams, UK's Channel 4 documentary "Rise and Fall of GM," and the documentary "History's Harvest: Where Food Comes From" from the American Society of Plant Biologist

Service/Boards

- Reviewer, Grant review panels of several Federal Agencies
- Member, Advisory Board, Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy, UC Davis (IFAL) https://davissciencepolicy.wordpress.com/about-us/ifal-board/.
- Panel Manager, USDA's Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grant Program (1999)
- Chair, Minority Affairs Committee of the American Society for Plant Biology (2000-2002)
- Review panel to evaluate USAID's "Initiative to End Hunger in Africa" Program (2006)
- Panelist, "Leveraging University Research for Industrial Competitiveness and Growth," Penn State and the National Science Foundation (2009)
- Editorial board *AgBioForum*, *The Journal of New Seeds, Indian Journal of Biotechnology, Electronic Journal of Sustainable Development, Food Biotechnology*, and the *Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology*.
- Scientific advisory board, American Council on Science and Health (NY), the Bioscience Policy Institute (New Zealand), the Lifeboat Foundation, the Policy Network (UK), and Life Science Foundation India.

Meetings Hosted

Workshop on Biosafety for Francophone West Africans Countries, TU (with Dr. Marceline Egnin)
Media Training for Biotechnology in Nairobi, Kenya (2006) (with many TU faculty and global experts)
Conference on Ag-Biotechnology in Abuja, Nigeria (2005) (with many TU faculty and global experts)
Forum on Intellectual Property Right issues in Biotech at World Food Prize Symposium in Des Moines (2000)
Workshop on Bioinformatics Tools on the Internet, Tuskegee University (1998)
Role of Molecular Biology's in Agricultural Productivity, Amsterdam (1999)
Workshop on Transgenic Plants-Biology and Application, Tuskegee University (1996).

Professional Affiliations

American Society of Plant Biologists
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
American College of Nutrition
American Association for Advancement of Science
Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Chi
American Peanut Research and Education Society
Student Pugwash
Toastmasters International.

TU Committees

Dean's Council
Research Centers at Minority Institutions - NIH - Adv. Comm.
Search Committee
Rank and Tenure Committee
Bioethics Center Adv.Com.
Library Committee
Information Technology Committee

Research Publications

Published over 100 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters
Delivered hundreds of scientific presentations at national and international conferences.
Research papers, mainly on peanut genetic markers, are among the most cited from Tuskegee University.
The first paper reporting DNA variation in cultivated peanut has been cited 162 times, while the later paper on microsatellites has been cited in 222 papers.

Select papers:

Channa S. Prakash, Sajid Fiaz, Muhammad Azhar Nadeem, Faheem Shehzad Baloch, Abdul Qayyum *Editors* (2023) "Sustainable Agriculture in the Era of the OMICs Revolution" ISBN: 978-3-031-15568-0 © Springer Nature https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-15568-0?sap-outbound-id=28CFA3F0A0FDFC35BF55FA4E7AABFE9078D8B17B

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Channa S. Prakash, Sajid Fiaz, Shah Fahad *Editors* (2022) "Principles and Practices of OMICS and Genome Editing for Crop Improvement" ISBN978-3-030-96924-0. © Springer https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/principles-and-practices-of-omics-and-genome-editing-for-crop-improvement-channa-s-prakash/1140928324

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Zhao, Y. Chong Zhang, Hua Chen, Mei Yuan, Rick Nipper, C.S. Prakash, Weijian Zhuang, Guohao He. 2016 QTL mapping for bacterial wilt resistance in peanut. Molecular Breeding 36:13 http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11032-015-0432-0

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