

USDA-ARS
Mid South Area
SOUTHERN INSECT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
UNIT

Mission

- The mission of the Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU) is to generate new knowledge of arthropod pest biology, ecology and management and integrate this knowledge into contemporary farming systems that will promote economical and environmentally stable pest management practices for the southern U.S.
- The vision of SIMRU is to be a recognized center of innovation for negating agricultural pest problem through deployed scientific knowledge of pest biology, ecology and management options.

CRIS PROJECT

Insecticide Resistance Management and New Control Strategies for Pests of Corn, Cotton, Sorghum, Soybean, and Sweetpotato

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- Clint Allen (Project Leader)
- Randall Luttrell
- Katherine Parys
- OP Perera
- Yu Cheng Zhu

CRIS PROJECT

Control of Tarnished Plant Bugs by Biocontrol and Other Methods

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- Randall Luttrell
- Maribel Portilla (Project Leader)

CRIS PROJECT

Effect of Resistance on Insect Pest Management in Transgenic Cotton

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

- Clint Allen
- Nathan Little
- Randall Luttrell
- Katherine Parys
- OP Perera (Project Leader)
- Maribel Portilla

Welcome Aboard Dr. Jianxiu Yao

The Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU) in Stoneville, MS and the Southern Horticultural Research Laboratory (SHRL) in Poplarville, MS welcome Dr. Jianxiu Yao (Jian) to the USDA-ARS and Mississippi. She started her new position on Monday (3/30/2015) in Stoneville as Research Entomologist under technical supervision of Dr. Yu Cheng Zhu to study pesticide toxicology in honey bees, a new cooperative research effort between Stoneville and Poplarville.

Dr. Yao obtained her M.S degree in 2001 from the Department of Entomology, Northwestern A&F University in China. In 2011, she completed her Ph.D. in the Department of Entomology, Kansas State University, with a focus on gene expression of European corn borer (*Dittra repleta*) gut tissues exposed to Bt toxins. After graduation, she joined the Department of Plant Pathology, Kansas State University as a research associate and studied the interaction of *Mutis palmata*, *Rhopalosiphum* (PMV), *Pergandeus maidis* (corn planthopper), and sweet corn. She established a RNAi and virus delivery system in *P. maidis* to investigate virus acquisition, replication and transmission. She also investigated the function of several genes in virus replication in *P. maidis*. In 2013, she moved to Texas and joined the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University in College Station where she studied the interaction of *Bactericera cockerelli* (potato or tomato psyllid), *Candidatus Liberibacter Solanaceae* (Lso, also known as zebra chip disease), and potato and tomato. She investigated the Lso acquisition, transmission efficiency by *B. cockerelli*, and found that the symptoms of Lso in tomato plant are not only correlated with Lso density but also related with the different Lso haplotypes.

Dr. Yao is located in Office 337 and Lab 338 of Building 1 in Stoneville and may be reached at 662-686-3638 / 5244 or by e-mail at jianxiuyao@ars.usda.gov.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Yao and her family to Mississippi Delta.



Developing a Strategic Plan for Your Life

If a strategic plan can help your organization focus on its purpose and goals, why shouldn't it work for you? Since you can't do everything, you need to identify the most important aspects of your life and center your efforts on them. Doing so will benefit your organization as well as yourself, because you'll be investing your time and energy wisely. Here's how to develop your own strategic plan:

1. **Start a personal strategic-planning notebook.** Begin by writing down your responses to the following exercises. Write in the present tense.
2. **Picture yourself three years from now** reflecting on your most significant accomplishments over that time. Write down what you see. Figure out what will have to happen to make you happy with your progress. Are the things you're doing now taking you where you want to go? Which things should you be doing more of? Which things could you let go of? Write down your answers.
3. **List the six or seven areas of your life** that are extremely important to you. For example, you might name family, health, work, spirituality, and so on.
4. **For each area, develop a clear vision** of where you're going. Write down what it looks like when you're living your best expectations in each of the areas.
5. **Keep your notebook** near at hand, and refer to it when you're wondering which tasks to concentrate on and which to set aside.

Thank you

To my SIMRU family,
 Thank you all so very much for the beautiful flowers given in honor of my mother's passing. I was moved by those of you who attended my mother's service, and was encouraged by all your kind words, thoughts, and prayers during this difficult time in my life.
 Sincerely,
 Nela



MARCH BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION

- Leslie (Mar. 2)
- Larry (Mar. 31)

