

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

- Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Where: Main Room Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
- Agenda:** 6:30 pm Chat and Tasting Table
7:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
8:30 pm Plant Raffle
- Speaker:** Dr. Seonghee Lee, Assistant Professor,
Strawberry Molecular Genetics & Genomics,
Horticultural Sciences Department, University of
Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education
Center
- Topic:** Next Generation Disease Resistance Breeding for
Florida Strawberry and Other Fruits & Vegetables

I think it would be fair to say that most of us love to eat strawberries. Do we ever wonder what we are eating?

Modern breeding programs use DNA technologies to enhance variety improvement. The application of biotechnology takes on many forms which can include "GMO" technology. This raises the question "Are Florida strawberries genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?" The answer is "No." In fact, to date, there has not been a GMO strawberry commercialized anywhere in the world.

Dr. Seonghee Lee's research program focuses on the application of modern genetic/genomic tools for the University of Florida strawberry breeding program and support new cultivar development. Using this method, changes can be made that would have taken decades previously. The changes are not considered "GMO" because the changes are identical to those that might occur from traditional breeding. The end result is strawberry varieties that perform better, taste better and have disease resistance.

Dr. Lee collaborates with researchers locally, nationally and internationally recognized in strawberry programs and other small fruit and vegetable programs in the application of this technology for developing superior cultivars.

Dr. Lee has written or co-authored over 50 articles and research papers.