**Announcing the First International Setaria Genetics Conference**

**March 10-12, 2014**

**Beijing International Conference Center**

Domesticated *Setaria italica* and its wild progenitor *Setaria viridis* are now being established as a model grass system.  The small stature, short generation times, small genome and extensive diversity of these *Setaria* have attracted a community of scientists to study various aspects of plant genetics, genomics, physiology and development.  The tractability and close relatedness of Setaria to several biofuel feedstock crops (e.g., switchgrass, napier grass, pearl millet) have attracted particular interest.  A completed genomic sequence, initial GWAS analysis, a detailed genetic map, broad diversity panels, mutant populations and transformation technology are all available, but the community currently lacks coordination due to its very recent development.   This first meeting has attracted participation by most of the key labs that have entered this field and will provide the first forum for a description of the current status and future needs of Setaria research.

Registration for the meeting is now open at (<http://www.setariadb.cn/meetabout.php?cid=11>).   The early registration and abstract submission deadlines are both Feb. 10, 2014. For those who register before January 7, 2014, registration will also be made available for the 56th Annual Maize Genetics Conference, which will be held at the same conference venue immediately after the Setaria Genetics Conference.  For further information, contact the web site mentioned above or email the conference organizers at maize@uga.edu or diaoxianmin@caas.cn.

  