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January 18, 2010

Robert L. Gillen, Head  
Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers  
1232 240th Avenue  
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Dr. Gillen,

I am writing to you for my application for the position – Research Assistant Professor of Sorghum Breeding in Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center, Hays, Kansas. After having read the job description, I believe this is the job I have been dreaming for and have been pursuing for. This is the job I want to be devoted my life to and can make great contributions to.

My qualifications for this position are

1. Ph.D. in plant pathology and crop science (co-major), MS in plant breeding and genetics, MS in computer science, and BS in Plant Protection (Plant Pathology and Entomology),
2. Over ten years experience on plant breeding and genetics, genetic mapping and association analysis, QTL analysis and marker-assisted selection, SNP discovery and genotyping during my graduate study and through my work,
3. Strong knowledge in plant breeding and genetics, plant genomics, bioinformatics, statistics, and computer sciences,
4. Strong skills in plant breeding including field, greenhouse and lab experiments and strong molecular techniques in marker identification and marker assisted selection and,
5. Authored and co-authored nearly a hundred publications including refereed, non-refereed, book-chapter, and abstracts, gave 50 presentations in national and international conference meeting, and obtained six times awards in scientific research.

My interested research in sorghum breeding and genetics is

1. Release sorghum cultivars for increased yield, improved tolerances to environmental stresses, and multiple disease and insect resistance disease, improved grain quality, and added high biomass,
2. Development and implementation of SNP marker platform for gene mapping and marker assisted selection in sorghum, and
3. Development and advancement of sorghum germplasm genetic diversity by aid of SNP marker platform, especially for disease and insect resistance such as greenbug, sorghum mosaic virus, and sorghum anthracnose.

I believe that my interdisciplinary education and long experience in plant breeding and genetics make me a strong candidate for the position. I am looking forward for the opportunity to speak with you for my qualifications for this position. Thanks you so much for your time!

Best regards!

Ainong Shi

Encls: Ainong Shi CV, PhD, MS, and BS transcripts.