

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

- Next Meeting:** **Wednesday August 8, 2018**
- Where:** **Nokomis Community Center**
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
- Agenda:** **6:30pm Chat and Tasting Table**
7:00pm Introduction and Speaker Presentation
8:30pm Plant Raffle
- Speaker:** **Dr. Seonghee Lee, Assistant Professor**
Strawberry Molecular Genetics & Genomics
University of Florida/IFAS, Gulf Coast Research
and Education Center
- Topic:** **New Technologies with Traditional Breeding to**
Improve Florida Fruits and Vegetables

Dr. Seonghee Lee's research program focuses on the application of modern genetic/genomic tools for the University of Florida breeding program and support for new cultivar development of fruits and vegetables. Using this method, changes can be made that would have taken decades previously. The changes are not considered "GMO" because the changes are identical that might occur from traditional breeding. For example, the end result in strawberry varieties, which is a \$400 million business in Florida, is that you get strawberries that taste better, perform better and have disease resistance. It is worth noting that Florida strawberries are not genetically modified organisms. In fact, to date, there has not been a GMO strawberry commercialized anywhere in the world.

Dr. Lee collaborates with researchers locally, nationally and internationally recognized in 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.