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Abstract Title: The IBSS Partnership: Deploying an Advanced Biofuels Industry in the Southeastern United States

Abstract (250 words or less): Almost half of the nation's supply of advanced biofuels, as mandated by the renewable fuels standard, will be met with the lignocellulosic resources of the southeast. While producing roughly 10 billion gallons of alternative fuels is well within the region's capacity, a considered and thoughtful transition is needed to insure a sustainable supply of biomass for this new industry. With more than 30 million acres of southern pine plantations distributed throughout the South, an expansive biomass source for fuels production is in place. Working closely with conversion technology collaborators, The Southeastern Partnership for Integrated Biomass Supply Systems is developing today's forest resources for near-term progress while advancing energy crop supply systems optimized for infrastructure-compatible fuels production. The program's overarching goals are:

- Demonstrate implementable 'real-world' solutions to the economic and environmental barriers that limit sustainable and reliable biofuels production.
- Introduce new tools and metrics for effective decision-making in site selection and regional deployment of biofuels production from lignocellulosic biomass.
- Provide credible, impactful, and integrated education, extension and outreach (E2O) programs that train the workforce needed, and inform stakeholders and policy makers with the knowledge necessary to thoughtfully enable the southeast's biofuels industry.

Substantial work has been directed toward evaluation of new genetic varieties of switchgrass. This poster will highlight the extensive work on improved switchgrass varieties, advanced characterization of produced transgenic plants, and new harvest and handling methods.