New Facilities Planned
- Construction of the new 8,000 sq. ft. Food Processing and Food Safety facility that started on March 28, 2002 is complete. Funding for the facility was provided by USDA/CSREES. Research in this facility will focus on the development of food processing methods, analytical methods for the determination of contaminants, chemical/drug residues both naturally occurring and through biotechnology, including food components and waste management and environmental quality
- Four new reach-in plant growth chambers will be installed starting in June 2003.

Unique Plant Responses
- Sweetpotato plants grown under 5 mm thick transparent sheets exhibited severe edema and leaf shedding, while peanut plants were unaffected. Problem corrected after it was discovered that >90% of total UV was being blocked. Acrylite OP-4 Acrilic UV transmitting sheets are now being used.
- Starting peanut seedlings in Arcillite before transplanting to NFT greatly reduced the incidence of pythium

Cooperative/Interdisciplinary Projects.
- Cooperative work with USDA/CSREES sweetpotato, biotechnology and breeding, as well as food processing and human nutrition programs.
- Student interns working with scientists at JSC and KSC in food systems and product development, optimizing root zone substrates for microgravity and biomass production projects.
- Collaborated with majority native American serving Dine and South Mountain Colleges on the 2002 Spaceflight and Life Science Training Program at KSC.
- Collaborated with our local school district and selected community leaders in their “Streaks of Genius” program to motivate student interests in science and engineering.

Committees and Sub-committees Served
- NASA’s Biological and Physical Sciences Research Advisory Committee
- Advisory Committee for the ESCOP/ACOP Leadership Development of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) / Academic Committee on Organization and Policy (ACOP).
- National Research Initiative Competitive Research Grants review panels.

Publications


