

### **CBS Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN, Sep. 3-4, 2025**

Presentation Title: UGA Circular Bioeconomy System Initiative and Opportunities in the South East

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This two-part presentation will provide a quick overview of UGA's CBS initiative and ongoing work to assess Georgia's agricultural and food value chains for increasing resource use efficiency and further valorization of available biomass. First, Dean Nick Place will share a video message about how several initiatives of the College complement the CBS initiative. In particular, he will highlight the UGA Grand Farm launch earlier this year, a historic partnership between UGA and Fargo, North Dakota-based Grand Farm. With support from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Growth Accelerator Fund Competition, the UGA Grand Farm is providing access to training, capital, technology validation and commercialization support to empower entrepreneurs to bring ideas to market and address critical challenges in the bioeconomy. The UGA CBS initiative is a perfect complement to the work envisioned under the UGA Grand Farm. The goal of our CBS Initiative is to innovate systems for transitioning from a wasteful-linear fossil-based economy to a sustainable-circular bioeconomy, which, in addition to being the source for food, feed and fuel, will predominantly use renewable biological materials as feedstock for manufacturing vast varieties of consumer products and providing ecoservices. Multidisciplinary teams are targeting to innovate systems to improve circularity and reduce waste in the entire value-chain of Georgia's key bioindustries—peanuts, poultry, dairy, and forest. The UGA Grand Farm is set to become a nationally-recognized testbed and extension and education center to advance circular bioeconomy systems for shaping a sustainable economic future.

Dr. Gopi Munisamy will then discuss some early findings from recent work on "A Circular Bioeconomy System for Peanut: Opportunities for Optimizing Resource Use and Biomass Valorization." He will highlight the importance of collaborative networks – across Colleges and disciplines – to such explorations, but also point incentives to sustain them is a major constraint. Research opportunities with commercial and stakeholder interest might hold the key to impactful CBS initiative outcomes.