

# PSI Study Trip 17-29 October 2023 to Embrapa Research Institute, Brazil



## About the Trip

As part of our efforts to promote the exchange of information and research on the genus *Passiflora*, PSI is planning a 12 day tour of Embrapa's research stations in Brasilia, Cruz das Almas and, if time permits, Rio de Janeiro.

Embrapa is Brazil's main agricultural public research institution, and boasts more than 2,000 researchers in a myriad of fields. Thankfully for us, they have focused significant efforts on the study of *Passiflora*, mainly edible varieties, but some ornamental varieties too, and have kindly offered to host a group of PSI members this coming October.

This is a unique and privileged opportunity, and we urge members to find the time to attend for the full duration. Nonetheless it may be possible to arrange attendance for a shorter period.

We have planned the meeting to coincide with the end of the Texas 2023 PSI yearly meeting so members that travel from afar can plan to attend both meetings.

## Activities

Topics to be discussed include the following:

- *Passiflora* rootstock developments.
- Ongoing virus RNA interference research in *Passiflora*
- Nutraceutical properties of *Passiflora*
- *Passiflora* breeding for fusarium and drought resistance (as well as other objectives)
- Seed preservation
- Tissue culture protocols
- Organic growing methods for *Passiflora*

In addition to topic presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to visit Embrapa's germ plasm banks (these include wild *Passiflora* species as well as commercial, fruit producing, cultivars) and interact with outstanding researchers.

## Interested ? able to help ?

If you are interested in attending, please complete the questionnaire ASAP, and in any event not later than 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

Please note that all talks will be in Portuguese and it would be helpful to have a bilingual PSI member volunteer with translation efforts. Please let us know on the questionnaire if you might be able to help in this or some other way.