



## Assis, Prof. Kuo-Tan Li

Dept. Horticulture and Landscape Architecture National Taiwan University Taipei, Taiwan

Blueberry was first introduced to Taiwan in 1970s but the cultivation techniques were not mature and the consumption was not common. A fast growth on the blueberry consumption market began after 2003 and has been exclusively supported by foreign produce mainly from the USA and Chile. To boost the blueberry industry, an integrated research project was initiated in NTU's Fruit Crop Physiology Laboratory in 2007. Cultivars, mainly rabbiteye (*Vaccinium virgatum*) and southern highbush (*V. hybrid*), were introduced and evaluated. Propagation protocols and cultivation system were established. The morphological and physiological characteristics of heat tolerance among species and cultivars were studied and these information has been used to accelerate breeding and selection since 2009. Several elite selections will be named and released to the public soon. For extension, several organic trials has been established in indigenous communities along with several commercial cooperation projects. The cooperation between NTU and KU on blueberry flowering biology beginning in 2014 will generate valuable information on genetics and environmental interactions on blueberry flowering behavior.