

Cristhian Alexander Ochoa Rodriguez

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am an engineer in Agricultural science and production at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, el Zamorano. Currently working in a laboratory at Purdue University focused on the research and development of IPM in protected specialty crops, specifically working in high tunnels. Throughout my career, I've learned and developed useful skills and abilities to accomplish my goals. I see myself as a creative person, able to adapt and work on contemporary trends, to keep learning and to work hard to improve all my personal, work, and educational aspects. Highly interested in work in integrated pest management focused on biological control and use of novel techniques with influence in behavioral aspects on insects, with the objective to further develop my skills and expand the knowledge in this field.

STUDIES

2020 – 2023: Pan-American Agriculture University El Zamorano, B.S. (Agricultural Science and Production)

GPA: 3.2850/4.00

2013 – 2019: Unein del Pacífico High School, Machala, Ecuador, GPA: 3.58/4.00

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native language

English: TOEFL Score 103 out of 120

Extension Publications

Ochoa, C., Ingwell, L.L. 2024. Insect Spotlight: Lacewing (*Chrysoperla carnea*). Crops Hotline. Issued 24-03.

Ochoa, C., Ingwell, L.L. 2024. Insect Spotlight: Spiders – An Overview of Their Role in Agricultural Systems. Crops Hotline. Issue 740.

Presentations

Ochoa, C., Willden, S., Zablah, A., and Ingwell, L. L. 2024. Testing an IPM program for aphids in high-tunnel winter crops, Indiana Small Farm Conference. Danville, IN. Feb 29, 2024. Poster presentation. 30 attendees

Ochoa, C., Willden, S., Zablah, A., and Ingwell, L. L. 2024. Testing an IPM program for aphids in high-tunnel winter crops, College of Agriculture and College of Engineering Poster Networking Gathering. West Lafayette, IN. Mar 29, 2024. Poster presentation. 70 attendees

COURSES AND SEMINAR

Honduras, Regional Congress of Economy, Administration and Agribusiness (CREAN XIII), 2021 CropLife Latin America, online course in biobeds, 2023.

CropLife Latin America, online course in good agricultural and beekeeping practices, 2023. CropLife Latin America, online course in Life Cycle of Crop Protection Products, 2023.

CropLife Latin America, online course in Responsible Management of Used Containers of Crop Protection Products, 2023.
CropLife Latin America, online course in Introduction to Biotechnology, 2023.
IX Symposium of Zamorano in USA, 2023

Outreach activities

Volunteer at Bug Bowl Purdue. Black Soldier Flies, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN – April 2024, 3500 attendees

Skills

2020 – 2023. Pan-American Agricultural University. Field activities – Learning by doing:

Zootechnics (weeks): Animal Reproduction Biotechnology (1), Dairy Cattle (1), Meat Cattle (3), Poultry (3), Aquaculture (3), Swine Cattle (3).

Food agroindustry (weeks): Seed Processing Plant (3), Feed Concentrate Plant (3), Grain Processing for Human Consumption (3), Apiculture Plant (3), Postharvest (3), Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant (3), Dairy Processing Plant (4), Meat Processing Plant (4).

Socioeconomic Development and Environment (weeks): Nurseries and Forestry Plantations (3), Environmental Management (3), Agroecology (3), Topography and Geographic Information Systems (3), Renewable Energy (3), Forest Management (2), Added Value to Wood (2).

Plant Science (weeks): Plant Propagation (6), Grain and Seed Production (6), Irrigation and Drainages (3), Agricultural Machinery (3), Fruit Crops (6), Soil Conservation and Management (3), Horticultural Protection (3), Biological Control (3), Molecular Diagnostics (1), Tissue Control (1), Intensive Olericulture (4), Extensive Olericulture (4), Organic Agriculture (3).

Administration (weeks): Agriculture Administration (4), Marketing (3), Digital Marketing (2).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 to Jul 2023: Learning by doing modules at Zamorano. This includes classes and practices in integrated plagues management, soil conservation courses, basic knowledge in genetic improvement, use of biotechnology in genetic editing of plants, use of different types of plant propagation systems, molecular diagnosis of diseases, weed control, intensive and extensive crop production, organic production, use of biological controllers for pests and plant diseases.

2023: From September 5th until November 28th, I've been doing my internship in Purdue University under the supervision of Dr. Laura Ingwell working in IPM in specialty crops research focused on control of aphids and spider mites in high tunnels.

Jan (2024) - until today: Long term internship at Purdue University under the supervision of Dr. Laura Ingwell working in IPM in specialty crops research, focused in pollinator populations, aphid parasitoid populations, syrphid flies as biological control, soil amendments with black soldier flies and companion plants.

REFERENCES

PhD. Samantha Willden
Post-doc in IPM in specialty crops lab
swillden@purdue.edu

PhD. Laura Ingwell
Assistant professor in Fruit and vegetable pest management in Purdue.
lingwell@purdue.edu