



Genetic Innovations in Crops

May 11, 2021, 9:00-10:30 a.m. EDT,
USA (UTC-4)

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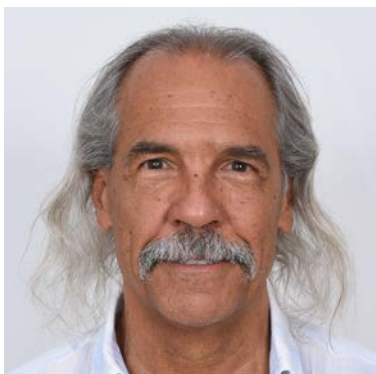
Moderator

Dr. Susan McCouch, the Barbara McClintock Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics and Director of the Cornell Initiative for Digital Agriculture, Cornell University. Dr. McCouch is known for developing the first molecular genetic map of rice and for her key and sustained role in turning rice into a model for genetics and breeding research. She is currently serving as founding member and Chair of the Board of Directors for the DivSeek International Network, a not-for-profit member-driven organization dedicated to the characterization and use of the genetic variation in crop improvement. Since 2018, Dr. McCouch has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences.



Genetic Innovations to Increase Nutritional Quality

Dr. Howarth Bouis, Founding Director, HarvestPlus. As director of HarvestPlus from 2003 to 2016, Dr. Bouis coordinated an interdisciplinary, multi-institutional effort to develop, test, and disseminate micronutrient-rich staple food crops to reduce mineral and vitamin deficiencies among malnourished populations in developing countries. Since 1993, he has sought to promote biofortification globally. In 2016, he was awarded the World Food Prize, in recognition of the accomplishments of the HarvestPlus team.



Genetic Innovations to Increase Productivity

Dr. Elcio Guimaraes, Director General at Embrapa Arroz e Feijao, Brazil. Dr. Guimaraes is a plant breeder and plant genetic resources expert who has more than 40 years of experience worldwide. His current research focuses on rice and vegetable breeding in Latin America. His international experience includes serving as Senior Officer for Cereal & Crops Breeding at FAO and as Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at CIAT.



Enhancing Climate Resilience Through Genetic Improvement

Dr. Pamela Ronald, Distinguished Professor, Department of Plant Pathology and the Genome Center, University of California-Davis. With her collaborators, Dr. Ronald received the 2008 USDA National Research Initiative Discovery Award and the 2012 Tech Award. In 2015 Scientific American named her one of the 100 most influential people in biotechnology. She was named a World Agricultural Prize Laureate in 2020.



Genetic Innovations to Enhance Resilience to Abiotic Stress

Dr. Mitch Tuinstra, the Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research at Purdue University. Dr. Tuinstra's research focuses on identifying genes and genetic resources that contribute to improved crop performance in stressful environments. He also serves as the Scientific Director of the Institute for Plant Sciences at Purdue and is a leading expert on drought-resistance in crops.

Future forum themes

- Innovations in Genetic Improvement of Agricultural Systems – beginning **May 11, 2021**
- Innovations in Post-Harvest Management – beginning **June 29, 2021**
- Innovations in Entrepreneurship, Especially Among Youth – beginning **August 24, 2021**
- Innovations in Information and Communication Technologies – beginning **October 19, 2021**
- Innovations in Scaling – beginning **December 14, 2021**

About the Global Agriculture Innovation Forum:

The Global Agriculture Innovation Forum is a joint undertaking between USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and Purdue University's Office of International Programs in Agriculture. The Forum will be valuable to entrepreneurs, producers, value-chain operators, service providers, and researchers, as well as donor agencies and implementing partners and will consist of a series of virtual events held throughout 2021. All events are free, but registration is required. Registration provides access to additional features.

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