Delegate information

Dr Ibraheem Alshareef
BiomassPlus programme manager

Currently Ibraheem is participating in setting up the CFFRC the BiomassPlus programme. In addition to BiomassPlus, he is the field research centre coordinator, mainly on the crop physiology side. He has experience working on seeds with NASC at the University of Nottingham. Ibraheem's PhD study was on bambara groundnut studying temperature and drought effects in controlled environments (UK) and in the field of sub-Saharan Africa (Botswana). He has interests and years of experience, in teaching ecology and desertification.

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Professor Sayed Azam Ali
CEO Crops For the Future Research Centre

Prof Sayed Azam-Ali's research interests focus on environmental factors that determine the performance of tropical crops growing in hostile environments and examining the potential to increase global agricultural biodiversity. Before assuming the role of CEO of CFFRC, Prof Azam-Ali was responsible Vice-Provost for Research at the University of Nottingham's Malaysian Campus, having been seconded from the Sutton Bonington Campus in the UK where he was responsible for the University of Nottingham's Tropical Crops Research Unit. Projects for which he has been responsible include: 1993 – 1996; (European Community) Evaluating the Potential of bambara groundnut as a Food Crop for Semi-arid Africa, 1994 – 1996; (Overseas Development Administration) Modelling Genotype-Environment Interactions for Drought Resistance in groundnut, 1996 – 1999; (Department for International Development) A global mapping system for bambara groundnut ,1999-2000; (Department for International Development) Assessing the marketing and agroprocessing potential of bambara groundnut in Southern Africa; 2000-2003: (European Union FP5) Increasing the productivity of bambara groundnut for sustainable food production in semi-arid Africa; 2002-2005 (Department for International Development, Natural Resources Programme) and 2006-2011; (European Union FP6) 'Bamlink', a molecular, physiological, nutritional and end-user evaluation of Bambara groundnut for semi-arid Africa and India. In undertaking these programmes Sayed has combined research in controlled-environment facilities and field experiments in the tropics to provide information for variations of the PARCH (Predicting Arable Resource Capture in Hostile Environments), Bamgro and Aquacropcrop simulation models with field partners in Swaziland, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Namibia and Zimbabwe

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Dr Susan Azam-Ali
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science

Susan is a lecturer in nutrition in the School of Biosciences at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Her research and academic experiences include aspects of community nutrition and artisanal small scale agro-processing. This has included nutritional household survey work, participatory rural appraisals, training workshops and small scale processing. Her current research interests include the nutritional potential of underutilised species, the effect of processing on the nutritional value of foods, investigation of the anti-diabetic properties of indigenous pant species, and the chemistry and functional properties of native starches.

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Dr. Joseph Nketiah Berchie

Senior Research Scientist with the CSIR-Crops Research Institute in Ghana

Joseph completed his BSc at the University of Ghana, Legon, and received an MSc from the University of Nottingham, U.K. with Dr. S.N. Azam-Ali and a PhD in Crop Physiology from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Technology (KNUST) Kumasi-Ghana. He received additional training at the University of Wageningen (Netherlands) and University of Belgrade/Maize Research Institute in the former Yugoslavia.He had a six months PhD studentship with Prof Manish Razaida at the University of Guelph, Canada. He is a Senior Research Scientist with the CSIR-Crops Research Institute in Ghana and in addition to publishing scientific papers, he has also edited 20 crop management and seed technology training guides, as well as crop production guides. He is currently the National President of the Research Staff Association of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Ghana. Joseph's PhD focused on Bambara groundnut. Joseph is well known in Ghana as he is also a radio commentator.

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Dr Ousmane Boukar
Cowpea Breeder, IITA.

Ousmane Boukar received his BSc from Dschang University in Cameroon and both MSc and PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Purdue, West Lafayette, Indiana, US. Prior to joining IITA in 2007, he has worked with the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) in Cameroon. From 1990 to 2007, he was cowpea breeder at IRAD, Maroua, and had responsibilities as HC PI Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP), Chief of Scientific Unit and later as Regional Scientific Coordinator. His main responsibility as cowpea breeder was to develop high yielding, pest resistant cowpea varieties with improved grain quality adapted to the main cowpea producing areas.

Since 2007, Dr. Boukar has joined IITA as cowpea breeder with the main responsibility to exploit all available research tools to develop improved cowpea cultivars through the use of adapted and introduced germplasm. He is currently engaged in cowpea breeding research program with National Agricultural Research Services (NARS) and Advanced Research Institution (ARI) collaborators targeting (1) high quality research in the area of breeding and genetics of biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, (2) development of breeding populations with multiple traits and (3) development of creative approaches for the exploitation of genomics and genomic data in germplasm enhancement and improvement of the cowpea crop. He is also recently interested in Bambara groundnut breeding and genetics.

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Dr Felix Dapare Dakora
Professor and Holder of the South African Research Chair in Agrochemurgy and Plant Symbioses at Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria

Professor Felix Dapare Dakora has contributed to building local capacities in the field of agriculture, thereby tacking the issue of food scarcity on the African continent. In over twenty three years of postdoctoral research, Dr Dakora has studied the molecular 'conversation' between legumes and soil, more specifically, the fixation of biological nitrogen (N_2) in legumes. Prof. Dakora has shown an increase in grain yield through manipulating the amounts of biological nitrogen fixed in symbiotic legumes in cropping systems. More recently, his laboratory has developed superior legume genotypes with greater plant growth, high N_2-fixing ability, enhanced pest resistance, and increased grain yield for use by African farmers. Prof. Dakora's studies on the effect of oxygen on nodule development and N_2 fixation in cowpea and soybean plants have suggested that in the unlikely event of elevated O_2 levels in the atmosphere, nodulated legumes will still be able to grow, fix N_2 and produce yield.

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Mr Mohd Hishamuddin Bin Che Mat
UniMAP

A researcher in the field of cultivation and product development of bambara groundnuts
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Dr Wai Kuan Ho

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, CFFRC BamYield programme.

"Wai Kuan's research area includes genetic improvement in crops, particularly on molecular mechanisms underlying genetic control of agronomic traits. Having experience in biomarker development in oil palm to predict embryogenesis potential, her interest is currently focusing on functional genomic and transcriptomic studies to assist in crop breeding programmes.

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Prof Dr Satriyas Ilyas
Professor Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University.

Prof Dr Satriyas Ilyas graduated (PhD in Horticulture/ Crop Sciences) from Cornell University in 1993. Before that, she was a graduate student at Mississippi State University, 1988-1989 studying on seed technology. Currently she is the head of the Graduate Study Programme in Seed Science and Technology, Graduate School, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) since 2007. She has also been acted as the Head, Division of Seed Science and Technology, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, IPB since 2006. She has gained considerable recognition for her work, participating widely in international research relating to seed technology. She has participated in many international events related to her work, such as: the first International Stakeholder Workshop on Bambara, Perlis, Malaysia, July 2012. APEC International Workshop on Cultivation Technology of Protected Horticulture. Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing-China. November 20 - 25, 2011. International Seminar on Underutilized Plant Species: Beyond Food Security. International Society of Horticultural Sciences. Kuala Lumpur, July 2011. She has been Visiting Scientist at Iowa State University. Ames; Cornell University; University of Kentucky, USA. Visiting Fellow at the Volcani Centre-for Agricultural Research Organization, 2008. She has spent time as a visiting scientist CPRO-DLO (Centre for Plant Breeding and Reproductive Research) for collaboration in Seed Sciences. the Department of Reproduction Technology, CPRO-DLO, Wageningen, the Netherlands, 1999. She was involved in 'INDOSEED' (Project Leader representing IPB), Research Collaboration between Plant Research International, Enza Zaden BV, The Netherlands with IPB, Research Institute for Vegetables, and East West Seed Co. Indonesia, 2000-2003. She held the Professorial Chair Award, SEARCA-Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, 2002-2003. Her recent research includes work on seed quality improvement of the bambara groundnut including research on The Effect of Seed Maturity and Invigoration on Seed Viability and Vigor, Plant Growth, and Yield of Bambara Groundnut (*Vigna subterranea* (L.) Verdcourt). The effect of Seed Maturity and Storage Period on Seed Viability and Vigor of bambara groundnut at Ambient and Air-Conditioned Room temperature.

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Dr Asha Karunaratne

Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Sabaragamuwa. Sri Lanka. Research fellow in the CFFRC CropBase programme.

Asha attended the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, where she obtained a BSc. Agriculture and M.Phil in Crop Physiology. In 2005, she was awarded a commonwealth scholarship for PhD at the University of Nottingham, UK. She has been working for more than 7 years on agronomy and quantitative crop physiology, with a focus on yield responses to water scarcity, crop-climate modelling for abiotic stress and climate change scenarios. Asha developed a new crop simulation model (BAMGRO) over the time course of her PhD at Nottingham, UK for the African underutilised crop, Bambara groundnut (*Vigna subterranea*). She joined the UN-FAO Global crop modelling network, AquaCrop (http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquacrop.html) in 2008 and Bambara groundnut was incorporated as the first underutilised crop in the AquaCrop model. She had postdoctoral research experience on crop-climate modelling from the Walker Institute for Climate System Research, University of Reading, UK. Currently Asha work as a research fellow in CropBase programme compiling her research experience through predictive modelling for present future climates of underutilised crops.

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Prof Dr.Ir Kusawnto

Prof. Dr. Ir. Kuswanto Lecturers and undertakes research on many aspects of Agricultural Cultivation at the Universitas Brawijaya (FP UB). In 2012 Prof. Dr. Ir. Kuswanto was the winner of the Extraordinary Intellectual Resource Award 2012 category of Plant Variety protected by PVT rights as a breeder. Previously he has recieved a Certificate of Patent of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) from the Plant Variety Protection Centre and Agriculture Permit, Ministry of Agriculture for five varieties of yardlong bean that he developed.

Previous bambara groundnut research has focussed on Indonesian varieties and has involved:

- Collection of local landraces
- Description of local landraces
- Variability for qualitative and quantitative characters leading to selection
- Genetic variability analysis
- Identification of pests and diseases

Future bambara groundnut research hopes to focus on:

- Cultivation, pest and diseases management

Breeding of Bambara groundnut resistant to pest and disease

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Prof Chung-Lim Law
Professor of Chemical and Process Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Chung Lim completed his first degree in Chemical and Process Engineering and PhD in the field of fluidised bed technology. He is a chartered engineer and chartered scientist registered in the UK and a professional engineer registered in Malaysia. He is a fellow of Institution of Chemical Engineers UK and currently serve the IChemE Malaysian Professional Formation Forum. He obtained his professional recognition in higher education and now a fellow of the Higher Education Academy UK. In addition, he is also a corporate member of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia. Chung Lim's teaching interest's include Chemical Process Safety, Process Dynamics and Simulation, Process Control, Engineering thermodynamics and Particle Technology. His teaching stresses the importance of inherent safe design during design stage and also looks into the aspects of energy efficiency, control of hazards, environmental impact; and the selection of appropriate unit operation in processing and handling particulate materials. He is currently teaching Particle Mechanics and Industrial Dehydration. Chung Lim started his research since 1998. He has worked on a number of research projects including fluidised bed processing of large particles, fluidised bed drying and low temperature drying.
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Dr Festo Massawe
Director of studies, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Festo's research interests centre on p**lant genetics and breeding, whole plant physiology and biotechnology tools related to improvement of crop plants, including:** Genetic analysis of agronomic traits, Crop adaptation to environmental stresses - physiological and agronomic studies, evaluation of plant genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity and underutilised plants. Current Projects Include:

- Diagnostic tool for shell thickness gene in oil palm
- The development of molecular tools for genome research in oil palm}
- Physiological and genetic studies of *Vigna* species
- Physiological, biochemical and molecular responses of bambara groundnut to drought

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Dr Mehdi Maqbool
Programme manager – CFFRC FoodPlus Programme

Mehdi completed his BSc in agriculture with a specialisation in Horticulture in 2004 and an MSc in 2006, from the Institute of Horticultural Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan,. After completing his masters he was appointed as a Horticulture Officer in a project related to *Establishing a Cold Chain System under National Trade Corridor Improvement*, which was funded by Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Board. In May, 2007, he joined the Department of Horticulture, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan as a Lecturer in Horticulture. In March, 2009 he was offered a scholarship for PhD studies which was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Malaysia through the

School of Biosciences, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. He completed his PhD publishing a number of research papers. Mehdi has been involved in developing strategies toward gaining a better understanding of the postharvest factors that play an important role in extending the shelf-life and maintaining fruit quality of fresh horticultural produce during and after storage with the main emphasis to develop some techniques to overcome the problems of fresh fruit industry.

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Dr Sean Mayes

Programme Director BamYield, Associate Professor in Crop Genetics University of Nottingham Division of Plant and Crop Sciences, Nottingham University.

Sean Mayes' research interests include; the dynamic change in plant genomes and the exploitation of the genetic variation to produce genetic markers for marker-assisted breeding in crop plants. Examples of recent research projects include several related to the bambara groundnut. These including the EU FP6 INCO-DEV 'BAMLINK' project investigating the genetics and extending the current knowledge of the physiology of bambara groundnut (*Vigna subterranea*). The programme developed physical and informational resources to facilitate subsequent breeding efforts and involved a unique collaboration between Africa and India in developing the research.

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Dr Odireleng (Ozie) Molosiwa

Dr Molosiwa joined the Nottingham University Bamlink research group in October 2007 on a Commonwealth PhD Scholarship and completed his PhD which examined ways to characterise the extent of genetic variation in bambara groundnut landraces and utilise this information to help account for the phenotypic variation observed within landraces. The project involved a combination of molecular genetic diversity analysis will development of potential cultivars for Bambara groundnut for a Botswanan environment.

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Dr Erik Murchie

Lecturer in Crop Science, University of Nottingham.

Before joining Nottingham, Erik worked as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) at the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Sheffield, U.K. He was also a post doctoral research associate at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Versailles, France. Erik's expertise and research interests focus on the factors that regulate and limit photosynthesis in crop plants, examining fundamental processes in crop plants such as light harvesting, carbon assimilation and energy dissipation, and identifying targets and strategies for improvement of crops in both optimal and suboptimal (stressful) environments. Recently an important focus of his research concerns the rates of leaf and canopy photosynthesis,. The processes of harvesting and converting photosynthetically active radiation in plants are capable of operation with a very high efficiency at the molecular level. However the upscaling of these processes to plants, canopies and agroecosystems involves losses caused by metabolic and environmental factors and his work has involved measuring this as a reduction in radiation - use efficiency (RUE).

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Dr David Ndzi

Principal Lecturer & Faculty International Co-ordinator, School of Engineering Univerisyt of Portsmouth

Dr David Ndzi is a Principal Lecturer in the School of Engineering. He belongs to the Microwave Telecommunication Systems Research Group where he investigates wireless broadband communications, especially the effective use and management of the frequency spectrum to support future applications.

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Mr. Azizi Meor Ngah

Programme Director CFFRC FoodPlus

Azizi is a widely respected Malaysian business leader with extensive experience in senior management and start-up companies. He completed his postgraduate studies and was awarded Master in Business Administration degree at the Henley Management College/Brunel, England in 1990. After working over 40 years in the agriculture sector (including a break for 6 years in the media/ICT industry), Azizi has become recognised as a supply chain specialist with the focus on food safety certification, traceability and produce brand management. He fully subscribes to the principle of the triple bottom line and social inclusiveness.

Between June and July 2010, Azizi was appointed by the Prime Minister's Office to head the Agriculture Lab to produce a 10 year blueprint in the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) for Malaysia (2010-2020) under the National Key Economic Areas (NKEA). In April 2011, Azizi was again invited to lead the PEMANDU Lab on Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRI); the purpose is to find a way to enhance the performance of the Small Medium Enterprises (SME) in Malaysia, an extension of the New Economic Model (NEM) that stresses high income, sustainability and inclusiveness.

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Heni Purnamawati

Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Agriculture Faculty, Bogor Agricultural University.

Heni's recent research includes work on increasing peanut production through improvement of Source and Sink, Assembling resistant peanut cultivars to leaf spot and balanced source and sink capacity for increased productivity. Also the improvement of production technology for increasing soybean adaptation to drought and acid soil. Proposed research on bambara groundnut includes work focused on studying the relationship between plant growth characters and yield and improving cultivation technology

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Dr Rumiana Ray

Lecturer in Crop Science, Faculty of Science

Current research is focussed on protecting crop yield, quality and safety through effective disease control strategies. Research strands include pre-harvest control of Fusarium mycotoxins, targeted crop protection through improved disease diagnostics, cultivar resistance and chemical control, and integrated disease management using forecasting and risk assessment tools. Current projects include forecasting eyespot disease development and yield losses in winter wheat, and the development of an agronomy toolkit - from Field to Malt, for the protection of the quality and safety of UK barley against Fusarium head blight. Research work is funded by the UK Cereals and Oilseeds Levy Board, BBSRC, TSB and Agronomy and Agrochemical Industry.

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Mrs Noor Shazliana Aizee Abidin
Lecturer School of Bioprocess Engineering,UniMAP

Area of Interest: Food Technology, food chemistry, functional food
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Mrs Endah Sri Redjeki
PhD research student, breeder and lecturer

Endah is an experienced lecturer from the University of Muhammadiyah Gresik in Indonesia. She is currently carrying out PhD research sponsored by an Indonesia Government Scholarship at the University of Nottingham. Her research is focussing on patterns of genetic diversity in Indonesian bambara groundnut landraces, she is a bambara groundnut breeder in her own country.

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Prof. Ir. Dr. Ibni Hajar Hj Rukunudin
Lecturer of School of Bioprocess Engineering, UniMAP

Professor Ibni earned his PhD at Iowa State University, having completed his M. App Sc at UNSW and his B.Eng at UPM. He lectures and undertakes research in a number of areas in food engineering, post harvest engineering, farm mechanization and in-factory air quality.
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Dr. Ajit Singh
Associate Professor, School of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Dr Singh undertook his B.Sc. and M.Sc. studies at Allahabad, India and a Ph.D. at Ibadan , Nigeria (1999). He Specialises in Agronomy and Biostatistics. His research interest includes utilisation of natural resources and the manipulation of traditional cropping practices to increase food production. Particularly, incorporation of legumes and legume residues into cereal based cropping systems and assessment of nitrogen fixation. Other areas include seed technology and manipulation of plant processes to increase production and seed biology.

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Professor Aik Chin Soh
Director, Field Research Centre & Research Programme Director (BiomassPlus)

Professor Aik Chin is a leading international oil palm breeder and geneticist. He was the Head of Applied Agricultural Research (equivalent to Director/CEO) supervising over 30 research scientists at Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn. Bhd. He obtained his B.Agric.Sc

(Hons) in 1971 from University of Malaya where he was awarded the Malaysian Rubber Fund Board Scholarship and the Varsity Senior Scholarship. Currently, he works as a private consultant, lectures and supervises MSc & PhD students at UNMC and as the Director of the CFFRC Field Research Centre. Current and previous interests include:

- Breeding, genetics and biotechnology of tropical crops with experience in chilli pepper, maize, papaya, cacao and oil palm.
- Agronomy and crop physiology particularly with respect to resource (light, water, nutrients, gas, labour) use efficiency (RUE) in cropping systems (mono/mixed/intercropping) systems.
- Renewable energy production through biomass/biofuel crops.
- Varietal and agronomic development of underutilized plant species (UPS).
- High tech agriculture.
- Field experimentation and applied statistics

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Dr Prakit Somta

Kasetsart University, Thailand

Prakit's recent research has focussed on genetics and breeding, employing both conventional and molecular methods, of legume crops. Recent projects include; the development and characterization of genic microsatellite markers for mungbean. Mining sequence databases, and transferability of the markers to Asian Vigna species. The genetics of the resistance to powdery mildew disease in mungbean. Quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping for CLS resistance in mungbean.

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Dr Debbie Sparkes

Associate Professor in Agronomy, Faculty of Science, University of Nottingham

Dr Sparkes research interests fall within two main areas; crop physiology and sustainable agriculture. Current and recent research includes:

Exploiting resource use efficiency and resilience of ancient wheat species. A combination of early domestication of crop plants and modern plant breeding has led to reduced genetic diversity in crop species compared to their wild progenitors making them more susceptible to biotic and abiotic stresses, making it difficult to select for crop varieties that perform well in harsh environments. Landraces and progenitors of modern genotypes could provide the genetic diversity required to maintain genetic progress of crops such as wheat by repeating the evaluation of the ancient wheat species in terms of radiation capture and conversion to see whether these trends are consistent across seasons and growing conditions. Comparisons of spelt, einkorn and emmer with a range of elite varieties of wheat currently in use in the UK may lead to improvements in water use efficiency, N uptake efficiency and N utilisation efficiency.

Bioenergy from wheat straw: In this research project we have characterised a wide range of wheat germplasm for biomass production examining partitioning between grain and straw, cell wall deconstruction and subsequent fermentation to ethanol. We have also investigated the impact of N application and plant growth regulators on the balance of grain/straw yield and straw digestibility. Current work is developing a life-cycle analysis for bioenergy from wheat straw and investigating grower attitudes to this potential new market.

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Prof Dr Ir Sudarsono

Professor in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Prof. Sudarsono is a lecturer and research scientist at the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture (AGH), Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Bogor, Indonesia. He coordinates the Plant Molecular Biology Lab in the Dept. of AGH where a number of MSc. and PhD. graduate students from IPB Graduate Program work and conduct their thesis or dissertation research.

Prof. Sudarsono's academic activities include giving lecture for the IPB Graduate Program (AGH634. Plant Genetic Engineering; AGH635. Molecular and Cellular Analysis in Plant

Breeding) and conducting research about application of biotechnology and molecular biology to support breeding of tropical crops.
Since 1996, Prof. Sudarsono has directed more than 50 MSC and close to 50 PhD graduate students, respectively. This research mainly addressed problems associated with plant disease resistance and stress tolerance in a number of tropical crops.

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En. Fathinul Syahir Bin Ahmad Saad
Lecturer, UniMAP

En. Fathinul is a lecturer at UniMAP. B.Sc. (Computational & Electronic Physic) from UN and an M.Eng. (Electrical & Electronic) from USM. His recent work includes projects examining the use of machine vision in rapid grading systems.
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Rachael Symonds
Associate Professor, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Rachel is based at UNMC as an associate professor in plant biotechnology. She is interested in all aspects of the molecular physiology of plant abiotic stress tolerance with a particular focus on drought stress tolerance and water relations in vegetables. Previously based in Taiwan at the AVRDC- The World Vegetable centre she was involved in characterising wild species for abiotic stress tolerance traits. These were then integrated into mapping populations to identify major genes and QTLs associated with abiotic stress.
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Yusuf Yunusa Muhammad
PhD Student and Lecturer

Yusuf is a lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. He is currently a 3rd year PhD student at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus, studying the Physiological, Biochemical and Molecular Responses of Bambara Groundnut to Drought.
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