

2018 SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE



MAY 23, 2018
STANISLAUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY
ROOMS D & E - MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

California  Seed
Association

2018 PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Chet Kurowski from HM Clause Inc., has 28 years in the vegetable seed industry and holds an MS degree in Plant Pathology from North Dakota State University. After nearly 19 years as an R&D pathologist he moved into a field pathologist role and has been working in that capacity for 8+ years. He has worked with production teams from around the world and has developed programs to prevent and mitigate diseases from entering seed production fields and greenhouses. His experience includes: risk assessments, root causes for disease outbreaks, disease diagnostics, disease trainings, and field inspections as his area of focus. He has been active in several plant pathology based organizations over the years: American Phytopathological Society (APS), ASTA Vegetable technical subcommittee (VTSC), and ISHI-Veg (development of seed testing methodology).

Tony Sandoval's involvement in vegetable and seed crops began at the early age of 12 when he was working alongside his family performing many crop and field activities in the production and hybridization of seed crops in the Northern Sacramento Valley. While attending school at California State University, Chico, he began his formal career in the seed industry working for Harris Moran Seed Company (now HM Clause, a business unit of Group Limagrain). Tony has continued to broaden his experience in the seed industry working with several crop species and in cross-functional teams and international projects while at Nunhems USA Inc. (a division of BayerCrop Science) and Seminis Vegetable Seeds (a division of Monsanto Company). He has held roles in Foundation Seed, Production, Quality Assurance and is currently the Production Manager for Northern California Seminis Vegetable Seeds.

Jennifer Petersen is the Vegetable Trait Integration Lead at Monsanto Vegetable Seeds. She has spent much of her career in the vegetable seed industry. She started off working for the first national organic seed company, Seeds of Change and found her passion in plant breeding, variety development and evaluation. She studied Horticulture at Oregon State University and went on to receive her Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of California, Davis then Petersen did postdoctoral work at the C.M. Rick Tomato Genetics Resource Center. As a postdoc she worked on unleashing important horticultural traits through understanding reproductive barriers between tomato and wild relatives. In her current role at Monsanto, she leads the Vegetable Trait Integration team where they use molecular markers to support the breeders to bring important traits into their breeding programs. In addition to her dedication to creating solutions for sustainable agriculture, she's passionate about STEM outreach and encouraging the development of women in science.

Thomas Turini is the vegetable crops Farm Advisor for Fresno County where he has served since 2007. His research and extension program addresses management of tomatoes, garlic, onions, melons and lettuce in large-scale agricultural operations in the county. A critical component of his program is diagnosis of production issues, which provides a service to clientele and helps to direct his program toward relevant issues. His research includes management of water and salinity in high yielding drip-irrigated processing tomatoes, evaluation of fate of herbicides in processing tomatoes under current production methods, and alternative nutritional regimes for processing tomato. His current work in the area of pest management includes the study of site-specific methods of control of white rot of garlic and onion, fusarium wilt of lettuce management, powdery mildew of melon fungicide resistance management and means of controlling insect pests of tomato with lower risk materials. He is serving as UC liaison for the California Garlic and Onion Research Advisory Board. Prior to taking his current position, he served as the Imperial County Plant Pathology Advisor. He received both a BS and MS from California State University, Fresno in Plant Science.

Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam is a Cooperative Extension Specialist in the field of Animal Genomics and Biotechnology in the Department of Animal Science at University of California, Davis. She received a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Melbourne in Australia, and both an MS in Animal Science, and a PhD in Genetics from UC Davis. Her publicly-funded research and outreach program focuses on the use of animal genomics and biotechnology in livestock production systems. Her current research projects include the CRISPR technology. She has given over 400 invited presentations to audiences globally, and uses a variety of media to inform general public audiences about science and technology. She frequently provides a credentialed voice on controversial topics including cloning and genetically engineered plants and animals.

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Alexander Mkandawire has been with California Crop Improvement Association (CCIA) for the past 11 years with major responsibilities for conducting field inspections and Seed Sampler Training Workshops across the state with the Association of American Seed Control Officials' (AASCO's) oversight. Industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) is a medieval plant that dates back to early human existence but was previously prohibited because of its generalized psychotic effects on humans, which are actually only caused by some varieties of *Cannabis sativa* that are not classified as Industrial Hemp. However, the crop has regained interest across the world over the last 10 years after the acceptance of its narrow definition, distinct characterization and identification of its newer and more healthful uses and products and its lack of the psychotic effects as originally thought of all *Cannabis* plants. Unfortunately, in the U.S., the status of Industrial Hemp can only be described at best as 'evolving' or 'morphing' on national, state and local levels due to legislation or lack thereof in the backdrop of growers who cannot wait to legally grow the crop. This presentation today will highlight the historical role, current issues and future perspectives of this potential but forgotten crop and its perceived impact on California agriculture and related industries.

Production Panel: Dennis Choate, Production Manager for Syngenta, A Representative from Sakata Seed America along with Beekeeper Gene Brandi will participate in a production panel discussion.

Jennifer Romero, M.S. Plant Pathology UCR, B.S. Loyola Marymount University. She has worked for California Dept. of Food and Agriculture since 2005 as a district plant pathologist and since 2017, Jennifer has worked for CDFA as the lead for the seed export program. Prior to CDFA, Jennifer worked for New Mexico State University as a Research Specialist and Monrovia Nursery Company as a plant pathologist. Her research has been on insect vectored viruses of vegetables and an endophytic fungus of locoweed. Jennifer's presentation will cover how county, state, and USDA Export Services staff and the seed industry interact within the seed export system in California. She will outline the current web of interactions and methods for improvement and consistency.

Laufer Group International Ltd. has established a complete logistics and service platform for over 60 years that helps customers improve the way they handle their logistics. They can provide shipping flexibility, enhanced operational control, and exceptional customer service that make a difference in the way our customers think about logistics.

2018 PROGRAM

The **Seed Industry Conference (SIC)** is an educational event that is planned and coordinated by the California Seed Association (CSA). The basic purpose of the conference is to provide key production and field employees of seed operations with an educational program consisting of both managerial and technical information specific to the industry. The Seed Industry Conference emphasizes practical skills and techniques that are of direct and immediate benefit to the participants. Because some of the participants who attend the SIC may not attend the CSA Annual Convention, the conference provides an opportunity to network with others in the industry. The Seed Industry Conference also gives the association the opportunity to showcase some of the current programs and activities of CSA.

- 8:00 am - 8:15 am Registration - Rooms D & E - *Continental Breakfast Available*
- 8:15 am - 8:20 am CSA Welcome and Acknowledgements by Marc Maxey, Monsanto and Donna Boggs, CSA
- 8:20 am - 11:15 am Production and Breeding Workshop
- Understanding Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) by: Chet Kurowski, HM Clause
- Best Practices for Field Sanitation & Biosecurity For (CGMMV) by: Tony Sandoval, Monsanto Co.
- Resistant Breaking Strains on Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWF) by: Thomas Turini, Fresno Cooperative Extension
- Breeding for Resistance Tolerance by: Jennifer Petersen, Monsanto Co.
- 11:15 am - 12:00 nn Understanding CRISPR Technology by Alison Van Eenennaam, Ph.D., UC Davis
- 12:00 nn - 12:45 pm Lunch and Networking Opportunities
- 12:45 pm - 1:15 pm Mechanization & Machinery in the Seed Industry by: Don Lusk, Satake USA
- 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm Seeds and Bees: A Great Match. A Production Panel on Brassica Seed / Flower Seed / Onion Seed And the Relationship with Pollinators including Bee Health
Including: Dennis Choate, Syngenta, A Representative from Sakata Seed America
And Beekeeper Gene Brandi
- 2:15 pm - 2:50 pm Industrial Hemp The "Other" Cannabis Plant in California Update by: Alexander B. Mkandawire, California Crop Improvement Association
- 2:50 pm - 3:30 pm The Cooperative Efforts Between The Seed Industry and the CDFA County Inspectors
by: Jennifer Romero, California Department of Food & Agriculture
- 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm Transportation and Logistics by Laufer Group International Ltd.
- 4:15 pm - 4:30 pm Reasons & Ways to Engage and Get Involved / Closing Remarks - Marc Maxey, Monsanto

SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

HISTORY

The Seed Industry Conference, (SIC) sponsored by the California Seed Association, (CSA) focuses on current issues of importance to those involved in all aspects of the seed industry.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the conference is \$85 which includes lunch. Pre-registration for the conference is strongly encouraged. Please return the enclosed pre-registration form to the CSA office located at 1521 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 by **May 22, 2018**

LOCATION

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Harvest Hall Rooms D & E
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B
Modesto CA 95358
Stanislaus County, State of California
Telephone: (209) 525-4730

DIRECTIONS

From North:

- Take Highway 99 to Crows Landing Rd. Exit
- Go Right on Crows Landing Rd. (South)
- Office is on the corner of Service and Crows Landing

From South:

- Take Highway 99 to Mitchell Rd. Exit
- Go Right on Mitchell Rd. (North)
- Go Left on Service Rd. (1st light on Mitchell)
- Office is on the corner of Service and Crows Landing

LODGING - (hotels within 5-15 minutes of event location)

The Ramada Modesto - (209) 353-0240, www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada/modesto-california

DoubleTree Modesto - (209) 526-6000, www.modesto.doubletree.com

Best Western Townhouse Lodge - (209) 524-7261, www.bestwestern.com

SpringHill Suites Modesto - (209) 526-2157, www.springhillsuites.marriott.com

2018 SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Marc Maxey, Monsanto

Nicole Hostert, California Crop Improvement Association

Susan DiTomaso, Seed Biotechnology Center, University of California, Davis

George Gough, Monsanto

Paul Scaroni, White Seed Co.

Donna Boggs, California Seed Association

Lora Velardo, California Seed Association