



Pragyan Paramita Rout

Ms. Pragyan Paramita Rout, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, is pursuing her Ph.D. in soil science and agricultural chemistry. Pragyan’s dissertation title is “*Development and Standardization of Sensors for Soil Moisture Monitoring and Precision Nutrient Management for Growing Flower Crops Under Fertigation and Matric Suction Irrigation.*” Her research work aims at developing and standardizing various cost effective sensors for soil moisture monitoring and precision nutrient management (for flower crops in both greenhouse and field conditions). Upon completing her degree and pursuing a post-doctoral fellowship, Pragyan would like to build a career in precision agriculture using sensors for water management and nutrient management.



Vijayakumar Shanmugam

Mr. Vijayakumar Shanmugam, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India, is working towards a Ph.D. in agronomy. His dissertation title is “*Potassium Management in Aerobic Rice–Wheat Cropping System.*” The objectives of Vijayakumar research are to find out the effect of rate, method, and time of potassium (K) application on growth and productivity of aerobic rice and wheat crops; assess the effect of K fertilization on grain quality and nutrient use efficiency of aerobic rice and wheat crops; estimate the residual effect of K fertilization on soil fertility; and work out the economics of different treatments. One of Vijayakumar’s future goals is to establish a career in agricultural research, with strong fundamentals in agronomy and soil science.



Arunbabu Talla

Mr. Arunbabu Talla, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, India, is earning a Ph.D. in agronomy. His dissertation title is “*Planting Time and Nitrogen Management for Improving Hybrid Rice Production under Changing Climate of Subtropical India.*” His research is focused on mitigating the adverse impact of climate change on hybrid rice production in sub-tropical climates, by addressing location specific agro-adaptation technologies. Mr. Talla’s long-term goals involve the improvement of sustainable agricultural productivity in farmers’ fields, through precision agriculture. This includes site specific nutrient management, measuring nutrient losses, and improving nutrient management plans for higher input use efficiency.



Abdul Rehman

Mr. Abdul Rehman, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, is completing a Ph.D. in agronomy. His dissertation title is “*Exploring the Role of Zinc Nutrition in Yield Improvement, Grain Biofortification and Resistance against Abiotic Stresses in Wheat.*” The outcomes of this research will improve wheat productivity by encouraging zinc application in wheat and developing a cost effective technique. After completing his Ph.D., Abdul wants to pursue additional research in improving biofortification and resistance against abiotic stresses in rice, wheat, and chickpea through the application of micronutrients.

IPNI Appoints Potassium Program Director

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has appointed Dr. T. Scott Murrell as Director of its new Potassium Program.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Murrell has worked for IPNI (2007 to present) and its predecessor the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI; 1996 to 2007) as IPNI Director of the North America Program and PPI Regional Director of the Northcentral U.S. Program, respectively. Most recently, Dr. Murrell’s focus within the IPNI North American Program has been on the improvement of nutrient management within corn-soybean cropping systems, data management for soil testing and crop nutrient uptake, and soil potassium assessment. Dr. Murrell will continue his work with data management as that is an integral component of potassium plant nutrition and management.

“All IPNI scientists’ activities include agronomic programs that address potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other plant nutrients as part of the Institute’s regional and global tactical plans,” explained IPNI President Dr. Terry L. Roberts. “Our addition of a Potassium Program Director completes our team of Directors that will have primary and global focus on each of the major nutrients.” 



Dr. T. Scott Murrell, Director of the IPNI Potassium Program.