

IPNI Scholar Award Recipients - 2018

IPNI recently selected the winners of its Scholar Award Program. In 2018, 31 graduate students representing 11 countries were chosen.

“Every year we have assembled a very impressive group of scholars from across the globe,” said Dr. Terry L. Roberts, IPNI President. “Each individual selected should be very proud of this accomplishment. They are already contributing greatly to the field of plant nutrition,” added Roberts.

Regional committees of IPNI scientific staff select the recipients of the IPNI Scholar Award. The awards are presented directly to the students at a preferred location and no specific duties are required of them. Each scholar receives the equivalent of US\$2,000.

Short biographies for the six Scholar Award winners from South Asia are provided below. Brief details about the 25 other scholars follow and are organized according to IPNI Program. **BCSA**

Mr. Vijay Kumar Didal, the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, is working towards his Ph.D. in agronomy. His



Mr. Didal
India



Mr. Praharaj
India



Ms. Rani
India



Mr. Sarkar
India



Ms. Thakur
India



Mr. Ishfaq
Pakistan

dissertation title is “*Enhancing nitrogen use efficiency in different establishment methods of rice (Oryza sativa L.)*.” Mr. Didal’s research work focused on the application of the right dose of nutrients, as per the guidance of Nutrient Expert and recommended dose of fertilizer, with neem-coated urea and vermicompost in different establishment methods of rice (normal transplanting and mechanized system of rice intensification). Following his Ph.D., he wants to pursue postdoctoral research and continue research in the areas of enhancing nutrient use efficiency and biofortification for producing nutrient-enriched crops through the adoption of 4R practices.

Mr. Subhashisa Praharaj, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, India, is working towards his Ph.D. in agronomy. His dissertation title is “*Agronomic biofortification of bread wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) with zinc*.” His research is focused on alleviating the malnutrition problem (induced by zinc deficiency) through the agronomic biofortification approach. Mr. Praharaj would like to be actively engaged in research to further find solutions for addressing micronutrient malnutrition problems, especially in developing countries.

Ms. Sarita Rani, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana, India, is earning her Ph.D. in agronomy. Her dissertation title is “*Integrated nutrient management for pearl millet-wheat cropping system under saline conditions*.” One of the objectives of her research is to study the effect of different integrated nutrient management treatments on growth, yield attributes, yield, and quality parameters of pearl millet-wheat cropping system under saline conditions. After completing her Ph.D., she would like to join Agriculture Research Services and assist her country in developing new technologies.

Mr. Sukamal Sarkar, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal, India, is working towards his Ph.D. in crop husbandry. His dissertation title is “*Cropping system intensification through inclusion of pulses in rice-based system in the salt-affected coastal zone of West Bengal*.” One of the major themes of his Ph.D. is optimizing the sowing date of rice for escaping inundation during initial growth. Mr. Sarkar’s continued interest is in developing climate resistant rice based cropping systems, through the reorientation of the crop calendar and inclusion of pulses in coastal saline zone of West Bengal.

Ms. Jagriti Thakur, Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India, is earning her Ph.D. in soil science. Her dissertation title is “*Standardization of irrigation and fertigation schedules for apple under high density plantation*.” One of the objectives of Ms. Thakur’s research is to determine the optimum irrigation schedule and fertilizer level for fertigation of high-density apple. Following her Ph.D., she would like to render her services as a global competent soil conservationist and help people to think about environmental stewardship and ecosystem sustainability.

Mr. Muhammad Ishfaq, Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, is earning his Ph.D. in soil science. His dissertation title is “*Soil-potassium dynamics-based fertilizer recommendations in three alluvial soils differing in clay content*.” One of Mr. Ishfaq’s research objectives is to develop precise and site-specific potassium recommendation for different regions of Pakistan. He plans to develop himself as a productive researcher, who can contribute to soil sustainability and food security related challenges.

NORTH & WEST AFRICA



Ms. Boughanem
Algeria



Mr. Agbodan
Togo

Ms. Wassila Boughanem, Djilali Bounaama University, Khemiss Meliana, Algeria, is earning her Ph.D. in crop improvement.

Mr. Kodjovi Mawuégnigan Léonard Agbodan, University of Lomé, Lomé, Togo, is working towards his Ph.D. in plant conservation biology.

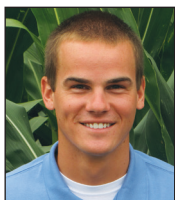
EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ms. Moreblessing Chimweta, Bindura University of Science Education, Bindura, Zimbabwe, is earning her Ph.D. in flood-recession cropping.



Ms. Chimweta
Zimbabwe

NORTH AMERICA



Mr. Bernhard
United States



Ms. Croat
United States



Ms. de Oliveira Silva
United States



Ms. Olmedo Pico
United States



Mr. Ortez
United States

Mr. Brad Bernhard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States, is working towards his Ph.D. in crop sciences.

Ms. Samantha Croat, North Dakota State University, United States, is earning her M.Sc. in soil science.

Ms. Amanda de Oliveira Silva, Kansas State University, United States, is earning her Ph.D. in Agronomy with emphasis on crop physiology, plant nutrition, and soil fertility.

Ms. Lia Belen Olmedo Pico, Purdue University, United States, is working towards her Ph.D. in crop physiology.

Mr. Osler Ortez, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States, completed his Master's degree in agronomy at Kansas State University.

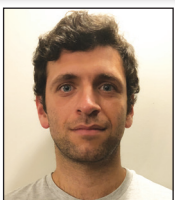
SOUTH AMERICA



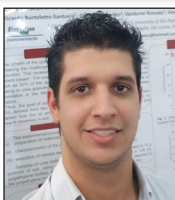
Mr. Arata
Argentina



Ms. Girón
Argentina



Mr. Romero
Argentina



Mr. Bortoletto-Santos
Brazil



Mr. Sarfaraz
Brazil



Mr. Saturnino-Pinto
Brazil



Mr. Sattolo
Brazil



Mr. González-Osario
Colombia

Mr. Agustín Francisco Arata, National University of the Center of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, is working towards his Ph.D. in agricultural sciences at the University of Buenos Aires.

Ms. Paula Girón, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is working towards her M.Sc. in soil science.

Mr. Juan Ignacio Romero, University of Tucuman, Argentina, is working towards his M.Sc. in agricultural sciences.

SOUTH AMERICA continued

Mr. Ricardo Bortoletto-Santos, University of São Paulo, Brazil, is working towards his Ph.D. in chemistry with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa Instrumentation).

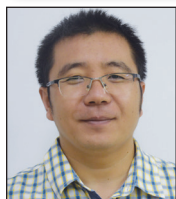
Mr. Qamar Sarfaraz, Federal University of Santa Maria, Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, is working towards his Ph.D. in soil fertility and plant nutrition.

Mr. Webert Saturnino-Pinto, the Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil, is working towards his D.Sc. in soils and plant nutrition.

Mr. Thales Sattolo, University of São Paulo, Brazil, is working on a Ph.D. in soil fertility. Mr. Sattolo obtained his M.Sc. at the College of Agriculture “Luiz de Queiroz”, University of São Paulo (ESALQ/USP).

Mr. Hernán González-Osario, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia, is working on a Ph.D. in biotechnology.

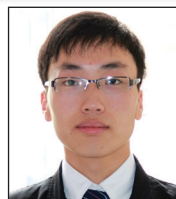
CHINA



Mr. Cai
China



Mr. Guo
China



Mr. Ma
China



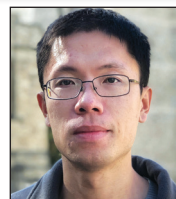
Mr. Riaz
China



Mr. Tang
China



Mr. Yang
China



Mr. Yao
China



Ms. Zhang
China

Mr. Zejiang Cai, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China, is earning his Ph.D. in soil science.

Mr. Junjie Guo, Nanjing Agricultural University, China, is earning his Ph.D. in plant nutrition.

Mr. Qingxu Ma, Zhejiang University, China, is completing his Ph.D. in plant nutrition.

Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Huazhong Agricultural University, China, is working towards his Ph.D. in plant nutrition.

Mr. Zheren Tang, Fudan University, China, is earning his Ph.D. in environmental engineering.

Mr. Xiao Yang, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, is working towards his Ph.D. in horticulture.

Mr. Zhiyuan Yao, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China, is earning his Ph.D. in plant nutrition.

Ms. Jiajia Zhang, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China, is working towards her Ph.D. in plant nutrition.

EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



Mr. Timokhin
Russia

Mr. Artyom Timokhin, Omsk State Agrarian University, Russia, is working on his M.Sc. at the Faculty of Agrochemistry, Soil Science, Ecology and Environmental Engineering.