

Dr. Ji-yun Jin of IPNI Honored with 2010 IFA Norman Borlaug Award

The laureate of the 2010 International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) Norman Borlaug Award for excellence in crop nutrition knowledge transfer is Dr. Ji-yun Jin, Director of the IPNI China Program and Professor with the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Beijing. Since 1985, Dr. Jin has been working on ways to improve soil fertility and fertilizer management practices in order to increase crop productivity and farmers' incomes in China. He is also currently Professor of Plant Nutrition and Fertilization at CAAS and President of the Chinese Society of Plant Nutrition and Fertilizer Sciences.


Much of Dr. Jin's work has been devoted to developing knowledge transfer tools that can be used to pass the results of laboratory research on to farmers. The technologies developed by Dr. Jin have been widely disseminated through field demonstrations, farmer meetings, field inspection activities, brochures, leaflets, videos, TV, radio, posters, and websites. A television series on soil fertility management techniques developed by Dr. Jin was distributed through the China Central Agricultural Broadcasting School and CCTV agricultural channel. It is estimated that more than 400 million farmers are being influenced by these activities in support of technology transfer.

As Director of the IPNI China Program, Dr. Jin coordinates the efforts of a staff of soil scientists working in

agronomic research and education throughout the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Jin is the 19th recipient of the IFA award, and the fourth Chinese national. He was nominated by Sinofert and selected by an independent jury. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1985 with a Ph.D. in soil science. He also received an M.S. in plant nutrition from CAAS. Dr. Jin will formally accept the award at the opening session of the IFA annual conference June 1 in Paris.

The IFA International Crop Nutrition Award was recently renamed the IFA Norman Borlaug Award in recognition of Dr. Borlaug's outstanding and tireless contribution to fighting hunger throughout the world. Effective knowledge transfer is needed for the wider adoption of improved nutrient management practices. This is the first time the award has been given to recognize excellence in crop nutrition knowledge transfer, or achievement in "last-mile" delivery.

For more about the award, visit the IFA website at: www.fertilizer.org. 



Dr. Ji-yun Jin


Shamie Zingore Joins Staff of IPNI as Director of Africa Program

Dr. Shamie Zingore is joining the staff of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) as Regional Director for Africa. He will be based in an office being established in Nairobi, Kenya, effective May 1.

"This announcement marks a major milestone for our organization and we are optimistic it will result in important progress for agriculture in Africa. Shamie Zingore has the right combination of education, research experience, and practical knowledge to get this new program up and running," said IPNI President Dr. Terry Roberts. "Our Board of Directors is firmly in support of this significant commitment for IPNI to adapt agronomic education and research that will succeed in Africa. Dr. Zingore will have a great opportunity to move forward in this effort."

Born in 1976 in north-east Zimbabwe, Dr. Zingore was brought up in Harare. He received his B.Sc. and Masters degrees in Soil Science at the University of Zimbabwe in 1999 and 2002, respectively. He worked for the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering as research assistant before studying for a Ph.D. at Wageningen University in The Netherlands, with support from the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (TSBF-CIAT). His Ph.D. dissertation was on integrated analysis of soil fertility management in African smallholder farming systems.

On completion of his Ph.D. in 2006, Dr. Zingore took a research position with TSBF-CIAT and led implementation of regional projects that developed principles for improving management of fertilizers and organic nutrient resources within complex and heterogeneous crop-livestock farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa. He worked extensively with farmer groups, input suppliers, and other stakeholders in agricultural research and development to develop innovations, build capacity, and promote information exchange on soil fertility management practices for enhancing productivity of agriculture in Africa. He has a strong interest in application of crop-soil models and decision support systems to improve recommendations for fertilizer and soil fertility management.

Dr. Zingore has an extensive list of publications in peer-reviewed international journals and in conference proceedings, and has also authored book chapters. 



Dr. Shamie Zingore