

Harmandeep Singh Khurana Joins Staff of IPNI as Deputy Director, India Program-West Zone

Dr. Harmandeep Singh Khurana has joined the staff of IPNI as Deputy Director, India Program-West Zone, effective July 1, 2008. He will be working in coordination with Dr. K.N. Tiwari, Director of the IPNI India Program.

“Dr. Khurana has an outstanding record of academic achievement plus valuable experience as a researcher focused on understanding factors that influence plant nutrition, including soil fertility, fertilizer rates and application timing, and management systems to optimize nutrient uptake efficiency in cereal crops. With his post-doctoral responsibilities and previous work related to the rice crop in India, he is well-qualified for this new role,” said IPNI President Dr. Terry L. Roberts. “His related skills in programming and statistics, laboratory procedures, and communications are unique.”

In 2005, Dr. Khurana received his Ph.D. in Soils at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), in Ludhiana, India. He earlier earned his Masters degree in 2001 and B.S. in 1999 at the same university. From 2006 until 2008, Dr. Khurana was Postdoctoral Associate, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition, in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. In that responsibility, he modified and tested a soil-water-plant-atmosphere simulation model related to site-specific management and analyzed the fate of excess N in soil and water.

Recently, he was involved in testing and improving the algorithm for an optical sensor to improve N use efficiency through understanding the complexity of factors that affect prediction of the genotypic yield performance of corn and wheat. During 2005 and 2006, Dr. Khurana was Assistant Professor, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition, at PAU, with 100% research responsibility.

Dr. Khurana has received numerous awards and recognition for academic and research achievements, including best all round postgraduate student of PAU Award in 2002 and All-India Best Ph.D. Thesis Presentation Award, Indian Society of Soil Science, 2005.

His publications include research, extension, and popular articles, proceedings papers, and abstracts. He has also prepared a considerable number of presentations and invited lectures.

Dr. Khurana is active in professional societies, including the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Indian Society of Soil Science, Punjab Academy of Sciences, and “Global Response”, an environmental and educational network. **BC**



Dr. Khurana

Raúl E. Jaramillo Joins Staff of IPNI as Deputy Director, Northern Latin America

Mr. Raúl E. Jaramillo joined the staff of IPNI as Deputy Director, Northern Latin America, effective June 1, 2008. He is based in the Quito, Ecuador, office of the Institute and will work in coordination with Dr. José Espinosa, Director of the IPNI Northern Latin America Program. That region now includes Mexico and the Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

“We are very glad to have Raúl Jaramillo joining in the important work of IPNI. While he is just completing his Ph.D. degree, he has a wealth of knowledge and experience in international settings that will serve well in this new role,” stated IPNI President Dr. Terry L. Roberts. “His background in both soil science and plant nutrition will be a valuable asset.” Mr. Jaramillo is expected to complete his Ph.D. program at the Pennsylvania State University in fall 2008.

A native of Quito, he completed undergraduate studies in Agronomy at the Central University in Quito in 1994. He then worked with the International Potato Center (CIP) in Quito as a research assistant in the breeding program for Late Blight resistance. In addition to plant selection, he took part in projects dealing with participatory research

and integrated management of plant diseases.

In 1998, Mr. Jaramillo joined the Soil Sciences program at the Wageningen Agricultural University in Holland and received his M.Sc. degree with specialization in Land Use Evaluation in 2000. His thesis on the impact of insecticides was used as input information by the “Tradeoffs” projects, a joint venture of CIP, Wageningen University, and Montana State University, focused on the evaluation of economic tradeoffs between agriculture and the environment. After graduation, he worked for 2 more years with Tradeoffs and related projects in Ecuador on the study of land use effects on agricultural sustainability.

Mr. Jaramillo began his Ph.D. program in the Laboratory of Plant Nutrition at Penn State in 2002, under the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Lynch. He contributed in the analysis of plant and root traits involved in the acquisition of nutrients and water. He also investigated the distribution of phosphorus-deficient soils around the world and the interaction between increased carbon dioxide and soil type (soil fertility) in plant growth. **BC**



Raúl E. Jaramillo