

Juan David Arbelaez-Velez

Is an Assistant Professor of International Plant Breeding in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign focusing on utilizing genetic and genomic approaches to develop germplasm and cultivars that better resist damaging insects and diseases, tolerate abiotic stresses, improve the nutritional quality, and increase yields for crops that are foundational to food supply in countries where food insecurity is a significant problem.

He has worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) developing, testing, validating, and integrating next generation sequencing, marker assisted selection (MAS), and genomic selection (GS) strategies for germplasm enhancement for irrigated rice breeding programs in Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

He will participate in Thursday's seminar where he will share his experience in integrating different molecular breeding strategies in a globalized rice-breeding program.