

# **2016 SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE**



**JUNE 30, 2016**  
**STANISLAUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER**  
**3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY**  
**ROOMS D & E - MODESTO, CALIFORNIA**

California  Seed  
Association

# SPEAKERS INFORMATION

**Tom Moore, HM Clause:** *Tom Moore (M.Sc. Horticulture, New Mexico State University) is currently the West Coast Production Manager for HM Clause. In that role, Tom is responsible for domestic and international production of foundation and stock seed, plus all commercial small seed production within the USA. He has traveled extensively throughout the main seed production areas of the world to inspect seed fields to insure the highest quality. Previous assignments were as the Offshore Production Manager, Quality Assurance Director, and Market Seed Quality Manager. Tom reviewed specific Phytosanitary requirements for each species to insure worldwide trade. Prior to HM Clause Tom worked for Rio Colorado Seeds as the Director of Production and Operations. RCS provided an excellent opportunity to build the Stock Seed, Production, and Operation programs from the ground up. Tom serves on several committees within the American Seed Trade Association, is Past Chairman of the ASTA Phytosanitary committee, and the ASTA International Executive Committee. Tom is currently the ASTA representative to the International Seed Federation Phytosanitary committee. He is also a member of the California Seed Association, and the Asia Pacific Seed Association.*

**Phyllis Himmel, Ph.D., UC Davis:** *Dr. Himmel joined the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center in July 2015 to lead the seed industry funded Collaboration for the Identification of Plant Pathogen Strains (CPPSI). She brings 25 years of experience in disease resistance discovery and development, research leadership, product discovery and development in the Agricultural Sciences. Phyllis received her MS and PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Arizona. After a 3 year USDA/ARS Post Doc researching WSBMV in hard red winter wheat at the University of Illinois, Phyllis joined the Asgrow (later Seminis, Monsanto) Vegetable Seed Company as a research pathologist. She established and led a program to identify and develop resistance in vegetables to viral pathogens and eventually led the global pathology team of 64 scientists and staff as Director of Research Pathology. Phyllis joined Marrone Bio Innovations in 2010 and while there, held personnel and product management roles in the discovery and development of plant and microbe based biopesticides. As director of CPPSI, Phyllis leads the CPPSI working group in the development of differential host sets, reference pathogen strains and instructional white papers. These differentiating host sets and strains can be used by scientists to identify and calibrate plant pathogen strains used in research and in the development of disease resistant vegetable varieties. The CPPSI working group was launched by the American Phytopathological Society and the International Seed Federation in 2007 to develop a US-based system to facilitate the standardization of plant pathogen strain naming. Phyllis is one of the original members of this CPPSI working group. Four differentiating host sets and strains were developed and launched in 2013 as the CPPSI system was launched: Tomato ToMV, Spinach Downy mildew, Melon Fusarium wilt and Pepper Bacterial spot. All sets are available and can be ordered on the CPPSI website: [www.cppsi.org](http://www.cppsi.org). CPPSI is now funded by members of ASTA. The working group is currently developing differentiating host sets and strains for Lettuce Downy mildew, Pepper TSWV, Tomato TSWV and Watermelon Fusarium wilt. The CPPSI working group also collaborates with commercial, registration and regulatory organizations in the EU to facilitate the standardization of plant pathogen strain naming between the EU and US.*

**Hank Hill, Seed Dynamics:** *Seed Physiologist, Seed Dynamics Inc. since 1991. Work related research areas include development of priming and pelleting products primarily concentrating on vegetable and flower seeds the purpose of which is to: improve responses to environmental stresses (including circumvention of dormancy), increase stand establishment rates, and increase the shelf life of products. Most recent projects include: the development of priming technology to overcome physiological problems with wild-land and bio-fuel non-domesticated plant species. Educational experience includes: Ph. D. in Agronomy at the University of Florida specializing in seed technology, M.S. University of Arizona.*

**John Heaton, California Department of Food & Agriculture:** *John Heaton received a Minor in Chemistry and a BS in Plant Science from CSU Sacramento. While working as an Asst. Plant Breeder for Pioneer Seeds in Woodland, he obtained a Masters of Science in Agronomy from UC Davis. He later worked as a Staff Research Associate in the Small Grains Breeding Program at UC Davis, where he did conventional plant breeding for development of new varieties. During his years as a Research Associate, John gained extensive experience conducting field trials, environmental studies, database management and statistical analysis. After almost 15 years of research at UC Davis, John accepted a position in 2000 at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, where he evaluated pesticide data to support registration. In 2005, he found his combination of seed research and pesticide regulation gave him unique qualifications for a position as Senior Agricultural Biologist directing the Seed Services Program at CDFA. Over the last eleven years the title has changed several times but the job has remained the same. As the Seed Control Official for California, John was responsible for managing a statewide program and enforcing the California Seed Law. He accepted other duties such as serving as the California representative from the National Plant Board on a Committee assigned to audit the National Seed Health System in 2010. John sees the value of being active in professional organizations and currently serves as the Secretary for the Association of American Seed Control Officials as well as the Chairman for their Seed Sampler Qualifications Committee.*

**Elina L. Niño, Ph.D. – Apiculture Extension and Research:** *Elina Niño, an assistant Cooperative Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology and Nematology, specializes in apiculture. Niño completed her Ph.D. in entomology at The Pennsylvania State University before joining the UC Davis faculty in 2014. Her research interests include: Honey bee biology, health, and reproduction, pollination biology, insect ecology, evolution, genomics, chemical ecology and reproductive physiology. Her research and extension goals are to provide stakeholders with practical tools that better equip them to confront these challenges. Her primary research focus is to characterize biological factors that regulate honey bee queen reproduction. By better understanding these factors, we can improve the honey bee breeding protocols necessary for creating and maintaining resilient honey bee stock.*

**Special Agent, Dennis Guertin, FBI:** *Special Agent Dennis D. Guertin is the Strategic Partnership Program and InfraGard Coordinator for the Sacramento Division of the FBI, responsible for outreach and coordination with over 120 cleared defense contractors, academic institutions and private industry segment representatives in the region. Special Agent Guertin entered the FBI in September 1997 and has served in San Francisco, Washington Field Office and in FBI Headquarters as a supervisor in the Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence and Intelligence Divisions. While assigned to Counterterrorism, Special Agent Guertin program managed and oversaw FBI counterterrorism operations and investigations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. SA Guertin deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and served as the FBI Senior Representative to the Commander of a Joint Special Operations Task Force. Upon return to the United States, SA Guertin was promoted and served as the FBI senior counterintelligence advisor to the Central Intelligence Agency, Iran Operations Division. SA Guertin subsequently supervised a Human Intelligence Squad at Washington Field Office before transferring to the Sacramento Division in July 2014.*

# 2016 PROGRAM

The **Seed Industry Conference (SIC)** is an educational event that is planned and coordinated by the California Seed Association (CSA). The basic purpose of the conference is to provide key production and field employees of seed operations with an educational program consisting of both managerial and technical information specific to the industry. The Seed Industry Conference emphasizes practical skills and techniques that are of direct and immediate benefit to the participants. Because some of the participants who attend the SIC may not attend the CSA Annual Convention, the conference provides an opportunity to network with others in the industry. The Seed Industry Conference also gives the association the opportunity to showcase some of the current programs and activities of CSA.

7:45 am - 8:15 am	Registration - Rooms D & E - <i>Continental Breakfast Available</i>
8:15 am - 8:30 am	CSA Welcome and Acknowledgements
8:30 am - 9:10 am	Basic Phytosanitary 101: Key Updates from Around The World by: Tom Moore, HM Clause
9:10 am - 9:50 am	Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification (CPPSI) by: Phyllis Himmel, UC Davis
9:50 am - 10:00 am	Coffee Break
10:00 am - 10:40 am	New and Modern Plant Breeding Techniques by: A Representative from Monsanto Company
10:40 am - 11:20 am	Seed Treatment and Priming Techniques by: Hank Hill, Seed Dynamics Inc.
11:30 am - 12:20 pm	Lunch and Networking Opportunities
12:20 pm - 1:00 pm	California Seed Law, A Model for Other States and Countries by: John Heaton, California Department of Food & Agriculture
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	Honey Bees and Seed Production by: Elina L. Niño, Ph.D. – Apiculture Extension and Research, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology
1:50 pm - 2:30 pm	The Strategic Partnership Program of the FBI and Seed Espionage by: Special Agent, Dennis Guertin, Federal Bureau of Investigation
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Opportunities To Get Involved / Closing Remarks - George Gough, Monsanto Company

# SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

## HISTORY

The Seed Industry Conference, (SIC) sponsored by the California Seed Association, (CSA) focuses on current issues of importance to those involved in all aspects of the seed industry.

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the conference is \$75 which includes lunch. Pre-registration for the conference is strongly encouraged. Please return the enclosed pre-registration form to the CSA office located at 1521 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 by **JUNE 24, 2016**.

## LOCATION

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
Harvest Hall Rooms D & E  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B  
Modesto CA 95358  
Stanislaus County, State of California  
Telephone: (209) 525-4730

## DIRECTIONS

From North:

- Take Highway 99 to Crows Landing Rd. Exit
- Go Right on Crows Landing Rd. (South)
- Office is on the corner of Service and Crows Landing

From South:

- Take Highway 99 to Mitchell Rd. Exit
- Go Right on Mitchell Rd. (North)
- Go Left on Service Rd. (1st light on Mitchell)
- Office is on the corner of Service and Crows Landing

## LODGING - (hotels within 5-15 minutes of event location)

The Modesto Hotel - (209) 577-3825, [www.hotelinmodesto.com](http://www.hotelinmodesto.com)

DoubleTree Modesto - (209) 526-6000, [www.modesto.doubletree.com](http://www.modesto.doubletree.com)

Best Western Townhouse Lodge - (209) 524-7261, [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

SpringHill Suites Modesto - (209) 526-2157, [www.springhillsuites.marriott.com](http://www.springhillsuites.marriott.com)

## 2016 SEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

George Gough, Monsanto

Nicole Hostert, California Crop Improvement Association

Susan DiTomaso, Seed Biotechnology Center, University of California, Davis

Paul Scaroni, White Seed Co.

Donna Boggs, California Seed Association

Lora Velardo, California Seed Association