



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

hcs.osu.edu/news

Seed Biology Program Launches New Website



www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~seedbio/

Seed physiology/biochemistry, 5) Seed genetics/molecular biology, and 6) Weed seed ecology. The [Seed Biology Program](#) has launched a new website to better communicate the breadth and scope of the teaching, research and outreach efforts of this interdisciplinary program.



Graduate student Roel Rabara updated the Ohio State Seed Biology Program website to include more recent material.

Production of high-quality seed is the cornerstone of American agriculture. The specialized nature of the seed industry and the unique biology of seeds as life in suspended animation have given rise to seed biology as an important discipline. Seeds are vital as propagating units for the tree, landscape, flower, turf, vegetable, fruit, and agronomic crop industries.

In the Ohio State University Seed Biology Program, faculty from the Departments of Horticulture & Crop Science, Plant Pathology, Plant Biology, and the School of Environment and Natural Resources study seeds and their performance. The integration of these basic and applied disciplines results in breadth in student training and comprehensive research programs. American seed companies are one of the significant agricultural industries benefiting from the advances in seed research and increased student training.

Research in seed biology is the foundation of plant science study. The focus of Seed Biology Program is on 1) Seed production, 2) Seed quality, 3) Seed pathology, 4) Seed physiology/biochemistry, 5) Seed genetics/molecular biology, and 6) Weed seed ecology. The [Seed Biology Program](#) has launched a new website to better communicate the breadth and scope of the teaching, research and outreach efforts of this interdisciplinary program.

"We have found that many of our current students and visiting scientists have first found out about us by discovering the website through an online search. An Internet search of "seed biology" returns The Ohio State Seed Biology Program as a top hit on all the search engines," explains Professor **Miller McDonald**. "Horticulture & Crop Science Graduate Student Roel Rabara has been working hard on updating our webpage, giving it a fresher look and adding more recent material. In addition to the factual information about the academic program, the website features a widely used [Virtual Seed Herbarium](#). This illustrated seed identification test has proven to be useful to many students and technologists across the country."

Seed biology is an important component of OSU's international programs in agriculture. A first step in establishing a successful agricultural program in developing countries is to provide growers high-quality seed of superior varieties in sufficient quantity and at reasonable cost. Faculty in the OSU Seed Biology Program have collaborated with or participated in seed development projects in such countries as China, India, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Sudan, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Colombia, Mexico, Uganda, and Poland. The OSU Seed Biology Program affords a unique opportunity for national and international outreach, workshops, and training programs.

In addition to Dr. McDonald, Ohio State faculty involved in the Seed Biology Program include: **Mark Bennett, Jim Beuerlein, John Cardina, Karl Danneberger, Kent Harrison, JC Jang, Mark Loux, Jim Metzger, Sally Miller, Emilie Regnier, Landon Rhodes, Dan Struve, Mark Sulc, David Tay, Peter Thomison, and Tara VanToai.**

Story, photos and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).
Published December 01 2006 - <http://HCS.OSU.EDU>