



Howarth Bouis is an American economist whose work has focused on agriculture, nutrition outcomes, and reducing micronutrient malnutrition, also known as hidden hunger. He is the founder and former director of HarvestPlus, a global non-profit agricultural research program. He received the 2016 World Food Prize award recognizing his many years of pioneering work in expanding the impact of biofortification.

Matin Qaim is Professor and Chair of International Food Economics at the University of Goettingen in Germany. Before, he had research and teaching positions at the Universities of Hohenheim, Bonn, Kiel, and California at Berkeley. His main research areas relate to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture with project experience in numerous countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



Saurabh Mehta is an Associate Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology, and Nutrition in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. Dr. Mehta is a physician and an epidemiologist with expertise in infectious disease, nutrition, maternal and child health, and diagnostics. The central theme of his research is the interplay between nutrition and infection. He currently serves as principal investigator on two randomized efficacy trials to determine the effect of delivering micronutrients through biofortified crops on

nutrition and immune function in infants in India.

Torbert Rocheford is the Patterson Endowed Chair in Translational Genomics for Crop Improvement in the Purdue College of Agriculture's Department of Agronomy. He developed a bio-fortified orange corn to increase the amount of antioxidant carotenoids using traditional-breeding techniques. Dr. Rocheford co-founded the Purdue University-affiliated startup NutraMaize LLC to commercialize the corn in the United States.



Jan Low is a Principal Scientist at the International Potato Center (CIP) and led the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative, which reached 6.2 million households in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Low was awarded the World Food Prize in 2016 recognizing her pioneering efforts in developing delivery systems for orange-fleshed sweetpotato to combat the devastating effects of Vitamin A deficiency, particularly among young children and their mothers.

Ekin Birol is the Director of Impact and Strategy at HarvestPlus and Senior Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C. Dr. Birol works to conduct research to inform the development of targeted and cost-effective biofortification interventions, to estimate their acceptance, reach and effectiveness and to communicate research results to a wide range of audiences.



Dominique Van Der Straeten is a senior full professor at Ghent University and research director of the Laboratory of Functional Plant Biology where sustainable and nutritious plant production is a central theme. Dr. Van Der Straeten has initiated her research on the plant hormone ethylene at Harvard University, worked on ethylene interactions in plant growth, remote imaging of plant stress including nutrient stress, and biofortification of crop plants to eradicate micronutrient deficiencies.