
LUIS HERRERA

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SPEAKER AT:

THE FUTURE OF PLANT GENOMES. HARVESTING GENES FOR AGRICULTURE

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Luis Rafael Herrera Estrella, PhD. Full professor and Director of the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity ([LANGEBIO-CINVESTAV IRAPUATO](#)).

Dr. Luis Herrera Estrella, received a Ph.D. in plant molecular biology from the State University of Ghent, Belgium, where he also conducted postdoctoral research. In 1986, he was hired as a Full Professor at the Plant Biotechnology Unit of the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV) in state of Guanajuato, México, to create the department of Genetic Engineering where he established the first group in Latin America with the capacity to carry out research in plant genetic engineering. In 1990, the department of Plant Genetic Engineering at Cinvestav was designated "Biotechnology and Education Center for Latin America" by UNESCO" and Dr. Herrera-Estrella was appointed as Director of the Center where he made important contributions in the study of gene regulation and in the development of gene transfer methods. Dr. Herrera-Estrella was selected in 2003 as foreign member of the US National Academy of Sciences.

In 2005, four scientists under the leadership of Dr. Herrera-Estrella created in Mexico the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity (Langebio), an institution with the capacity to provide massive sequencing services for all public and private institutions in the country with the aim to study the genetic diversity to contribute to the characterization and sustainable use of Mexican natural resources. Current research is primarily focused to the development transgenic plants better adapted to marginal soils and Genomics Analysis of endemic plants from Mexico. The major projects that he has coordinated at Langebio are the followings: the Palomero maize genome sequencing, the avocado genome sequencing, the development of technologies for clonal propagation of seeds, and the development of genetic modifications to produce transgenic crop plants with increased efficiency to use phosphorus fertilizers.

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