

Highlights from our 2019 NAPB Borlaug Scholars



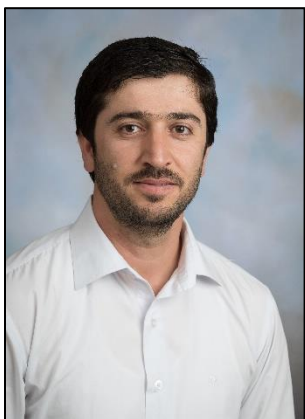
“Being a Borlaug Scholar represents much more than just financial support. This incredible scholarship has helped my career in many ways. Starting from the mentoring perspective, I was able to connect with high leaders in the industry. Their impact in global agriculture, experiences, and knowledge were inspiring and helped guide my future steps to achieve my goals. The mentoring relationship also expanded from just 1-1 interactions. JD and his colleagues from Bayer Crop Science visited our research station – Mizzou Fisher Delta Research Center – and got to know about our soybean breeding program, on-going research and personnel. It was a day full of great discussions and learning experiences!

Another highly important perspective of being a Borlaug Scholar is exposure. NAPB does an incredible job advertising the recipients in multiple venues – at their annual meeting, ASTA, podcasts, newsletter, and much more. This scholarship gave me great exposure and has helped to open new doors in my career. I connected with many different companies and universities, which for sure will be beneficial for my future after completing my studies.” - **Caio Canella Vieira, University of Missouri**



“When my advisor suggested I apply for the Borlaug Scholars program, I had no idea the experiences or opportunities that would follow. Upon being selected, I was excited to attend the annual meeting, as it would be my first professional society conference. From my initial email exchange with the plant breeder who volunteered as my mentor, to meeting my mentor at the first poster session of the conference, I started gaining diverse perspectives on different career paths and areas of study. I had so many inspiring conversations throughout the meeting, with professors, industry professionals, and fellow students. I already know the connections I made will continue on during my career. I recently reconnected with one of the Borlaug Scholars at another conference, and many of us

will likely meet again in the coming years. Experiencing the atmosphere at the NAPB meeting, the spirit of collaboration and the shared excitement of discovery, reaffirmed my choice to join this community. I am immensely grateful for being chosen as a Borlaug Scholar and for the many opportunities I have already gained through this program.” - **Elizabeth De Meyer, Cornell University**



“Being a Borlaug scholar was the greatest opportunity that I have ever experienced in my professional life. The opportunities for networking, being paired with an experienced mentor and interacting with the individuals from public and private breeding sectors were unique. Borlaug has been an important name to me from the first time I learned about it, and I’m very happy that this name is tied to my professional career now.” - **Zaki Afshar, Colorado State University**



“The opportunity to be a Borlaug Scholar was impactful on several levels. I was most excited to be paired with a mentor during the NAPB conference and that experience has already been highly beneficial. My mentor has already given me a lot of information, guidance, and advice about career paths in industry and in plant breeding in general. Although I have noticed this before, I was really struck at NAPB but how small of a community plant breeding really is. The Borlaug Scholar opportunity helped me to make my own plant breeding network a little bit larger and the plant breeding world a little bit smaller. I was also really excited to meet the other Borlaug Scholars and all of the other students at the conference. These people will be my colleagues in the future and building relationships now will help us all get off to a better start in our careers.” - **Daniel Sweeney, Cornell University**



“One of the many highlights of this opportunity was our trip to learn more about the facilities and resources at the University of Georgia. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about their programs, some of the research happening there, and, most of all, the conversations with other conference attendees during the tour.” - **Adrienne Blakey, Oklahoma State University**

NAPB
Borlaug Scholars



When I applied for the opportunity to be a Borlaug Scholar, I wasn't entirely sure what I was getting myself into aside from attending a plant breeding conference in Georgia. I cannot state how great an experience attending this conference was. Aside from the beautiful resort destination, getting to network with a large variety of professionals from public and private industry, from all over the country and even abroad, has played a very important role in my networking abilities. I met with many plant scientists who all introduced me a different side of the industry and gave me a new an idea of what they looked like. Every moment at this conference was beneficial to building myself as a plant scientist.

By far, the best part of being a Borlaug Scholar was meeting the other Scholars. The three other women I roomed with, two graduate students and one other undergrad student, where absolutely wonderful. Meeting them was the highlight of the week; they taught me so much in such a short amount of time. If you're considering applying to be a Borlaug Scholar, go prepared to attend some seminars and other activities, but definitely be ready to meet peers who understand your area of study and want to see you succeed. – **Tannis Anderson, University of Minnesota**



2019 Class of NAPB Borlaug Scholars with their Mentors in Callaway Gardens, GA

Photo by Kevin Falk, 2018 Borlaug Scholar



To apply for the 2020 NAPB Borlaug Scholars Travel Grant and Mentoring program, please click on the appropriate link:

Graduate Student Self-nomination form

<https://www.plantbreeding.org/awards/view/207>

Undergraduate self-nomination form

<https://www.plantbreeding.org/awards/view/206>

NAPB Members are encouraged to complete an NAPB Mentor Profile to enter our mentor volunteer database:

Mentors apply at: <https://www.plantbreeding.org/awards/mentor/application>

Donors may contribute using credit cards here:

<https://www.a-s-f.org/napb-borlaug-scholars-donations>

Senior NAPB members aged 70½ may find tax advantages by donating directly from required distributions from IRAs or retirement accounts. Or, they may prefer to donate appreciated stock for tax purposes. We can arrange that. Please consult your financial advisor for details and/or contact Donn Cummings for further information: donncummings1@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO SUPPORT NAPB BORLAUG SCHOLARS!

