The Iowa Seed Association (ISA) recently awarded eight scholarships of $1,000 to students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. One student was also selected as the “Manjit K. Misra Outstanding Senior Seed Scholar,” receiving a $500 scholarship in addition to the $1,000 scholarship sponsored by the ISA. One student also received an award from the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA).

During the awards ceremony held at the Agribusiness Showcase and Conference on February 11, 2015 at the Varied Industries Building, Susana Goggi, Seed Physiologist, Dept of Agronomy, ISU read bios, accomplishments, and goals of each student.

Recipients of the ISA 2014-2015 academic year scholarships are: Jeffery Barnes, Hillary Kletscher, Katharina Wigg, Madison Schulte, Lucas Roberts, Morgan Shrader, and Catherine Leafstedt.

Kathryn Hoemann received the ISA and the Manjit Misra Outstanding Senior Scholarship. Brandon Miller was the ASTA scholarship recipient.

The ISA scholarships are open to students in any major in ISU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Scholarships are awarded on the bases of: academic excellence, leadership skills, interpersonal skills, and most important to the selection committee, a demonstrated interest in a career in the seed industry or seed science.

Also Pictured below are: Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, far right, Susana Goggi, second from right, Max Smith, AAI Chairman, far left, and Manjit K. Misra, ISA Director, 2nd from left.

Congratulations to all these students!
Thank You & Welcome from the ISA Board

The ISA Board of Directors would like to thank Adam Wilson for his years of service on the Board, most recently as Past President. Adam is the Business Manager for Keystone's Agricultural Division. He is a graduate of Iowa State University with a BS Degree in Agricultural Business. Adam lives in rural Monroe, Iowa with his wife and three children.

The ISA Board of Directors would also like to welcome Jeremiah Andorf to the ISA Board.

Jeremiah lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife and two children. Jerimiah works for Bayer CropScience as a Key Account Manager Retail.

Interlocking The Pieces For Global Food Security

The Global Food Security Consortium Spring Symposium scheduled April 14-15, 2015 in Ames, IA. This symposium is entitled “Interlocking the Pieces for Global Food Security.” Four sessions are planned under this broad theme of Nutrition, Capacity Building/Education, Private/Public Partnerships and Entrepreneurship, Production Environments - Seeds, Soil and Water.

The symposium is sponsored jointly by funding from the ISU Presidential Initiative supporting the Global Food Security Consortium and by a generous contribution from the family of Leroy Everson, former director of the Seed Laboratory to the ISU Seed Science Center.

The Global Food Security Consortium is a worldwide initiative centered at ISU, bringing interdisciplin ary, comprehensive, and innovative approaches to the problems of food security through focused research efforts. GFSC develops and promotes interdisciplinary and innovative research along with education and engagement programs bringing together plants, crops, and animals in a whole systems approach to issues of food security.

The Seed Science Center is a center of excellence in seeds at Iowa State University

For more information on the Consortium visit the Iowa State University Seed Science Center website.

Register for the ASTA 132nd Annual Convention

The 132nd Annual Convention convenes all sectors of the seed industry in Washington, D.C., June 17-20. The event begins with an opportunity to “Make Your Voice Heard” as you participate in ASTA’s Storm the Hill efforts on the afternoon of June 17 and the morning of June 18.

Join over 100 of your seed industry colleagues to advocate for the needs of your business and our industry with legislators and regulators. During the convention, you'll gain first-hand knowledge of the inner working of the democratic process as you learn about the legislative and regulatory issues facing the seed industry and agriculture, nationally and internationally. The convention also includes new twists on the traditional favorites among ASTA special events, including the 5K Fun Run, the Welcome Reception, Gala Banquet and opportunities for fun in the DC area for spouses and families. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to have ASTA guide you through the advocacy process and help shape the future of our industry.

Visit the ASTA Members Site for prices and schedule.
Jun 17, 2015 07:30 am - Jun 20, 2015 05:00 pm EST
As you will recall from Fall 2014, ASTA agreed to be a cosponsor of the annual SARE-CTIC cover crop survey for 2015 (now rebranded as the ASTA-SARE-CTIC cover crop survey).

ASTA would like to thank all those who contributed toward ASTA’s sponsorship of the 3rd annual survey: Albert Lea Seed House, Caudill Seed Company, CHS Inc, CISCO Companies, Curtis & Curtis, Inc., Grassland Oregon, Justin Seed Company, Mountain View Seeds, ProHarvest Seeds, Seedway, LLC, & Star Seed, Inc.

Data from the survey will be compared to the findings from the past two years and used to identify trends and details in cover crop practices. A few minutes of your time will help scientists, policymakers, leaders, and other industry stakeholders learn more about how producers use cover crops, and what the future might hold for this exciting and developing segment of our industry.

Click here for the ASTA-SARE-CTIC cover crop survey. (All answers are anonymous)

Additionally, all farmers who participate will be entered to win one of two $100 Visa gift cards. In order to be eligible for the drawing, you must fill out the survey no later than March 27, 2015.

SGS PROVIDES POLLEN AND NECTAR STUDIES

Exposure studies to address the risk of plant protection products to pollinators such as bees may be required to demonstrate pesticide safety.

SGS has launched pollen and nectar exposure study services to meet the requirements of new guidance issued by the European Commission (EC), EFSA and EPA, to address the risk posed to pollinators, such as bees and other non-target arthropods, by plant protection product (PPP) residues in nectar, pollen and guttation water.

The focus is not only on the acute toxicity to an individual bee, but also on the bee population level, which includes hives. Bees can be adversely affected by even low levels of pesticide residue. From a toxicological perspective, triggers have been established, for pollen and nectar, which are in the ultra trace range. Exposure due to spray, furrow application of granules to soil and exposure via treated seeds/dust is assessed separately.

Meeting the EC’s PPP risk assessment requirements may trigger a variety of field tests in all the relevant geographical, cultural and climatic conditions in EU, US and Brazil.

GLP STUDIES: The new guidance requires the industry to conduct Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) studies to complete the assessment. Conducting GLP studies over such large geographic areas requires the support of a contract research organisation, such as SGS, who have expertise, experience and facilities across Europe, North America and Brazil. In recent years we have developed new, dedicated, GLP protocols to enable the collection of pollen and nectar from certain crops.

DUST DRIFT STUDIES: Dust drift studies explore the amount, fraction size distribution and residue content in dust emitted during the sowing process from treated seeds, or pesticide granules applied in the row of sowing. Studies may differ depending on crop type, dose rate, and treatment recipe. All studies are relevant to the risk assessment.

IN THE FIELD: SGS has extended its network for GLP and dust drift studies, as well as its pollen and nectar sampling expertise to help the agriculture industry meet the new registration requirements.

Story Source:
The above story is based on materials obtained from SGS Newsletter. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.
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Iowa Seed Association Reminders & Events

- June 17-20, 2015

ASTA 132nd Annual Convention, Washington D.C.