

## DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

SERIES

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### **"The African Orphan Crops Consortium: An Uncommon Collaboration"**

by

*Dr Allen Van Deynze, Plant Sciences, University of California Davis, USA*

**LOCATION: Room 121B, Crop Science**

**DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 @10:30 AM**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the African Orphan Crops Consortium (AOCC) is improve the nutrition, productivity and climatic adaptability of some of Africa's most important food crops, helping to decrease the malnutrition and stunting rife among the continent's rural children. To achieve these goals AOCC is working with African governments and foundations to develop long-term support for plant breeding of crops important to African diets. The AOCC has begun by investing in training Africa's top breeders to integrate modern tools into their plant breeding programs; sequence the reference genomes and 100 lines for each of 101 African orphan crops. The crops were chosen based on surveys from over 100 scientist, sociologist, anthropologist from Africa or working in Africa. Although there is little research on each of the crops, they were chosen for their importance in African diets as well as their nutritional profiles. Examples include bambara groundnut, Ethiopian mustard, finger millet, spider plant, guava and baobab. This talk will focus on the attributes of the chosen crops as well as current progress in the AOCC program.

#### **Biography**

Dr. Allen Van Deynze is the Director of Research at the Seed Biotechnology Center and Associate Director of the Plant Breeding Center at University of California, Davis. Dr. Deynze's current research focuses on integrating genomics into plant breeding of California crops. He has programs on cotton, lettuce, carrot, spinach, tomato, potato and particularly improving disease resistance and quality in pepper. With Dr. Kent Bradford he co-developed and is organizer for the Plant Breeding Academy and past chair of the US Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee. He has been involved in International and National policy including working on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and US Regulations for Biotechnology. He is an instructor for the African Plant Breeding Academy and scientific co-leader for the African Orphan Crops Consortium.