

MISA 2026

Materials Innovation *for* Sustainable Agriculture

October 10-11th, 2026
Orlando, FL

The Eleventh Annual Materials Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Symposium
University of Central Florida, Live Oak Event Center, 4115 Pyxis Lane, Orlando, FL

Saturday, October 10th

7:30 am – 8:00 am: Registration (Lobby area)
Breakfast (Live Oak Ballroom)

Opening Remarks

8:00 am – 8:05 am: Dr. Swadeshmukul Santra, Professor of Chemistry and Director of Materials Innovation for the Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) Center, University of Central Florida, USA

8:05 am – 8:15 am: Dr. Lei Zhai, Professor of Chemistry and Director of NanoScience Technology Center, University of Central Florida, USA

Session I: Trunk Injection for Crop Protection (Live Oak Ballroom)

Moderator: Dr. Jim Graham (University of Florida, USA)

8:15 am – 8:30 am: Session Introduction

8:30 am – 9:30 am: Dr. Srdjan Acimovic, Virginia Institute of Technology, VA, USA
“Keynote: Management of apple scab and fire blight using trunk injection”

9:30 am – 10:10 am: Brandon Page, CRAFT Foundation Inc., FL, USA
“Trunk injection technology in citrus”

10:10 am – 10:25 pm: Coffee Break

10:25 am – 11:05 pm: Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, University of Florida, SWFREC, UF/IFAS, FL, USA
“Automation in trunk injection for HLB management”

11:05 pm – 11:45 pm: Dr. Jorge Pereira, University of Central Florida, USA
“Innovative adjuvant technology for oxytetracycline trunk injection”

11:45 pm – 1:00 pm: **Networking lunch with Stakeholders (Live Oak Ballroom)**
(Meet 1-to-1 with NSF Program Director, Dr. Nora Savage; Moderator: Dr. Andre Gesquiere, University of Central Florida, USA)

Session II: Student/Postdoc Research Dissemination (Live Oak Ballroom)

Moderators: Giulio Diracca and Preeti Maiti (University of Central Florida, USA)

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm: **Poster Presentation (Live Oak Ballroom)**

Session III: Plant Disease Management (Live Oak Ballroom)

Moderator: Dr. Inga Meadows (Bartlett Tree Experts, Charlotte, NC, USA)

2:15 pm – 2:20 pm: Session Introduction

2:20 pm – 3:00 pm: **Dr. Megan Dewdney**, Citrus Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Lake Alfred, FL, USA
“Foliar diseases of citrus in Florida: Current management strategies and challenges”

3:00 pm – 3:40 pm: **Dr. Sanju Kunwar**, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Quincy, FL, USA
“Sustainable Management of Bacterial Diseases in Specialty Crops: Challenges, Innovations, and Future Opportunities”

3:40 pm – 3:55 pm: Coffee Break

3:55 pm – 4:35 pm: **Dr. Chun-Hsiang (Sean) Wang**, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL, USA
“Alternaria Leaf Blight of Carrot in Florida: Pathogen Identity, Seed Health Management, and Fungicide Delivery”

4:35 pm – 5:15 pm: **Melissa M. Deinys**, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA
“BabyBlue and MgSuN: Advanced Copper and Cu alternatives for crop protection”

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm: Break

Session IV: Industry-Academia Partnership (Live Oak Ballroom)

Moderator: Everton Luiz Vieira Aguilar De Souza and Dr. Swadeshmukul Santra (University of Central Florida, USA)

5:30 pm – 6:10 pm: **Dr. Shadia M. Ihlaseh Catalano**, Genetic and Molecular Toxicology Group Leader, CORTEVA Agriscience, USA
“Pesticide Safety Assessment and Career Pathway Beyond Academia”

6:10 pm – 6:50 pm: **Mrs. Cristina Porciuncula Krzyzaniak**, Bayer, USA
“Importance of Academia-Industry Partnership Towards the Professional Development of Young STEM Scientists”

6:50 pm - 8:45 pm: Networking Dinner with stakeholders (Meet 1-to-1 with NSF Program Director, Dr. Nora Savage; Moderator: Dr. Andre Gesquiere, University of Central Florida, USA)

8:45 pm: Day 1 program adjourns

Sunday, October 11th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Registration (Lobby area)**

Session V: Student Mixer (Live Oak Ballroom)

Moderators: Giulio Diracca and Preeti Maiti (University of Central Florida, USA)

9:00 am – 9:10 am: Session Introduction

9:10 am – 9:50 am: **Dr. Amit Naskar**, Oak Ridge National Lab, TN, USA
“Advanced Bioproducts from Lignin via Reactive Extrusion”

9:50 am – 10:30 am: **Dr. Andre Gesquiere**, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA
“REU Opportunities for students”

10:30 am – 11:10 am: **Dr. Andrea Bardales**, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA
“The Scientist-Entrepreneur: Calibrating Pipettes & Pitch Decks”

11:10 am – 1:00 pm: Networking lunch (meet 1-to-1 with NSF Program Director, Dr. Nora Savage)
Moderator: Dr. Andre Gesquiere, University of Central Florida, USA.

1:00 pm: **Symposium Adjourns**