



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PLANT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH.

E-NEWS



Important Upcoming Dates:

Staff Meeting—TBA, 12:00 -1:00pm at 311 Latham

Donut Tuesday—TBA, 8:30am at 311 Latham

Faculty Meeting—TBA, 3:00-4:15pm at Fralin Auditorium

Graduate Student Lunch with Director-TBA, 12:00-1:00pm at 311 Latham

SPES Social—TBA, 4:00 - 6:30pm at Rivermill

Announcements/News:

Can newer irrigation techniques save water? Maria Balota's graduate student Sayantan Sarkar has written an interesting blog regarding new irrigation techniques how all plants need water to grow well. And, water can be a limiting factor in good crop yields on farms. Relying on natural rainfall to come at the right time, in the right place, is an unreliable way to assure we have enough food to feed the world. Read more at: <https://sustainable-secure-food-blog.com/2020/05/07/can-newer-irrigation-techniques-save-water/>





Announcements/News:

Maria Balota's research is a "Integration of High Throughput Phenotyping (HTP) for Enhancing Breeding Programs in Senegal, Ghana, and Uganda", this is an extension of the Virginia Tech's initiative of Smart Farming to the eastern and western Africa through smart technologies to improve peanut breeding programs in these countries. As the PI of the project, Maria works with graduate students and peanut breeders in each country to implement the smart phenotyping technologies. Read more about it at: <https://mailchi.mp/39cd265bc1b6/peanut-innovation-lab-january-2020-newsletter-5221438?e=75c40cf92a>

New Employees:

Mike Flessner has two new employees , PhD student Cynthia Sias and Masters student Matthew Spoth.

Publications:

Jayesh B. Samtani , Jillian Rajevich & Sanghamitra Das (2020): Evaluating Supplementary Nutrients to Improve Strawberry Fruit Quality and Yield, International Journal of Fruit Science, DOI: 10.1080/15538362.2020.1774470.