

Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff received his B.S. (Horticulture and Plant Pathology) from the University of Georgia in 1976, his M.S. (Plant Pathology) from Virginia Tech in 1981, and his Ph.D. (Plant Pathology) from the University of Illinois in 1985. In 1986, Datnoff worked with USDA-ARS, and part of his research was conducted with CIMMYT in Mexico. In 1988, he joined the University of Florida's Plant Pathology Department focusing his research efforts on plant disease management and the control of fungal plant pathogens that cause soil-borne and foliar diseases in rice, turf and vegetables. In 2008, he became Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University. Datnoff pioneered early research efforts that highlighted the role of silicon in plant health, disease suppression, enhancement of host plant resistance, and the understanding of this resistance at both the physiological and molecular level. In 1990s, Datnoff initiated silicon research programs in Colombia and Brazil with subsequent collaborations with Canada, India and Japan. He also conceived and inspired a series of world conferences on silicon and agriculture. He has been an invited speaker, visiting professor, and mentor in many countries. Datnoff has authored two groundbreaking books: '*Silicon in Agriculture*' and '*Mineral Nutrition and Plant Disease*' (a perennial American Phytopathological Society (APS) Best Seller and a second edition in 2023), as well as '*Silicon and Plant Diseases*'. He also has received numerous awards for contributions to research (e. g. APS Fellow Award, APS International Service Award, APS Caribbean Division Frederick L. Wellman Award, Fulbright Fellow Award), teaching (e. g. University of Florida International Educator of the Year, College of Agriculture Award), and professional leadership (e. g. Universidad Nacional Agricultura Honduras-US Association Recognition Award, International Society for Silicon in Agriculture and Related Disciplines Recognition Award).