

Dr. Luis Herrera-Estrella

Doctor Luis Herrera-Estrella is President's Distinguished Professor of Plant Genomics at Texas Tech University and Emeritus Professor at CINVESTAV in Mexico. He was born in Mexico City and received his MSc. from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Mexico City and his PhD from the State University in Ghent, Belgium. He has made important contributions to the field of plant molecular biology, especially in the study of gene regulation and in the development of gene transfer methods. While still working as a Ph. D. student he published the first report showing the successful transfer and expression of a bacterial gene in plant cells. He pioneered the development of dominant selectable markers and the use of reporter genes for plant systems, which became two of the most important tools in the study of Plant Biology. More recently, he developed a system for selective fertilization of crops that allows a reduction in the use of fertilizers and herbicides to achieve high crop yield. Dr. Herrera-Estrella has graduated 43 PhD and 15 MSc students and was the founding Director of the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity (Langebio) in Irapuato, Mexico, and the Institute for genomics for Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance (IGCAST) at Texas Tech University in the US. He received the National Science Prize from the Mexican Government and was elected member of the US National Academy of Science in 2003. Dr. Herrera-Estrella has published over 200 research papers that have been cited over 26,000 times.