

Professor Pamela Ronald GCHERA Laureate 2020



Distinguished Professor Pamela Ronald of the Department of Plant Pathology and the UC Davis Genome Center and Director, Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy of the University of California, Davis will be awarded the World Agriculture Prize 2020 in a global ceremony to be held on December 1, 2020 transmitted virtually from Nanjing Agricultural University Peoples Republic of China at 9 a.m. Dr. Ronald will participate from the University of California-Davis campus, November 30, 2020 5:00 p.m.

With this award GCHERA (Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences) recognizes Professor Ronald's exceptional and significant lifetime achievements in the field of agricultural and life sciences.

Dr. Ronald was selected by National Geographic as an innovator who is transforming her field of research "by creating, educating, provoking, and delighting" and by Scientific American as one of the world's 100 most influential people in biotechnology. With her collaborators, she received the 2012 Tech Award for the innovative use of technology to benefit humanity.

Ronald's book, "Tomorrow's Table" was named an influential book with the power to inspire college readers to change the world. Her 2015 TED talk has been viewed by more than 1.8 million people. In 2019, she received the ASPB Leadership Award, an honorary doctorate from the Swedish Agricultural University and was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Maurice Moloney, Chair of the 2020 GCHERA World Agriculture Prize Jury says "Professor Pamela Ronald is an outstanding scientist with a history of major discoveries in plant molecular genetics including innate immunity, mechanisms of disease resistance and responses to environmental stress. Her work on rice has benefited millions of farmers in Asia. As a speaker and author, she has also reached a wider, non-specialist audience in explaining the benefits of plant genetics and biotechnology in agriculture and food".

Professor David Zilberman of UC Berkeley stated in his nomination letter: "Pamela was elected a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and is becoming one of the leaders and thinkers in modern agriculture. She has made major breakthroughs in developing solutions to major agricultural challenges, introduced a new agricultural management paradigm, and her work on public attitudes towards agricultural technology expanded our knowledge, and influenced the real world."

Professor Marc van Montague in his letter of support stated "Ronald's research on the genetic basis of resistance to disease and tolerance to stress for more than 30 years excels in creativity and technical quality." He also shares this about her work "Pamela has also been tireless in promoting the acceptance of biotechnology by the environmental and policy making communities. She believes that the greatest challenge of our time is how to nourish the growing population without further destroying the environment. For this reason, Pamela

established the Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy at UC Davis (IFAL)". IFAL aims to provide the next generation of scientists with the training, support, and tools they need to become effective communicators and infuse scientifically sound information into the public discourse.