



2023 Agroecology Symposium

Agro-Informatics for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management

Dr. Allen Dray, Acting Research Leader at the USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Lab, Davie, FL, conducts research on the ecological genetics and biocontrol of invasive plants in the Florida Everglades. Dr. Dray's early research included the benthic fauna, including aquatic worms, from rivers, lakes, estuaries, the Gulf of Mexico and the Bering Sea. Formerly, Dr. Dray served as a Senior Biologist at the University of Florida, where he collaborated with the USDA to develop, release, and establish insect controls for *Hydrilla verticillate*, *Pistia* and *Eichhornia crassipes*. Dr. Dray has a Ph.D. degree from Florida International University and a master's degree from University of Vermont.

Dr. Sushma Sood, Acting Research Leader at USDA ARS Sugarcane Research Station, Canal Point, conducts research on the germplasm of sugarcane and its relatives with resistance to the major diseases. Dr. Sood authored or co-authored 80 peer-reviewed articles, three book chapters, and six technical publications. She participated in team research resulting in the release and registration of 51 CP (Canal Point) sugarcane cultivars for sugar and two cultivars for biofuel feedstock. These cultivars are grown in Florida, Texas, Central America, and many other countries. She received her Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University, and M.S. from Kanpur University, India.

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Allen Dray
Acting Research Leader
USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Lab



Dr. Sushma Sood
Acting Research Leader
USDA-ARS Sugarcane Field Station

Thursday, March 16th, 2023
GC 243, Modesto Maidique Campus
Florida International University

It is open to the public

RSVP to ktaibibr@fiu.edu

Please visit <http://campusmaps.fiu.edu/> for map and parking information. Please follow signs and park in Blue Garage.

Agenda

8:45 am Registration	12:00 pm Networking Lunch
9:15 am Welcome Address: Provost Dr. Elizabeth Bejar	1:15 pm Oral Presentations
9:30 am Keynote Talks (Drs. Dray & Sood)	3:30 pm FIU Agroecology Alumni Network
10:50 am Awards Ceremony	4:30 pm Closing Remarks
11:00 am Poster Presentations	

This event is sponsored by the Agroecology Program under the Institute of Environment via the USDA-NIFA NNF, MSP HSI and REEU Grants.

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