



**Science
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Dubcovsky named 2026 World Agriculture Prize Laureate

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Jorge Dubcovsky, distinguished professor in the University of California-Davis Department of Plant Sciences. Photo by Jael Mackendorf/UC-Davis.

ASA and CSSA member Jorge Dubcovsky, distinguished professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California–Davis (UC–Davis) and Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher, has been named the 2026 World Agriculture Prize Laureate in the category for countries that have a developed economy. The award, given by the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for the Agricultural and Life Sciences, or GCHERA, recognizes his pioneering scientific achievements to improve wheat and strengthen global food security. Wheat, one of the world's most widely grown staple crops, provides essential nutrition for billions of people.

Dubcovsky is internationally recognized as one of the world's most influential wheat geneticists. Through [groundbreaking advances](#) in wheat genetics, genomics, and breeding, his research has enabled the development of more productive, resilient, and [climate-adapted wheat varieties](#) that benefit farmers and consumers across the globe. His discoveries have provided critical tools for addressing some of agriculture's most pressing challenges.

For more than three decades, Dubcovsky has led innovative research that has significantly advanced scientific understanding of wheat biology and accelerated the application of genomic technologies in crop improvement. His work has been instrumental in identifying and characterizing [key genes controlling yield, disease resistance](#), flowering time, nutrient use efficiency, and adaptation to diverse growing environments. These discoveries have been widely adopted by breeding programs and have contributed to the development of improved wheat varieties cultivated on millions of hectares worldwide.

Dubcovsky's collaborative approach has brought together researchers, breeding institutions, governments, and international agricultural organizations to accelerate the deployment of improved wheat technologies around the world. In addition to his scientific accomplishments, he has mentored generations of plant scientists and breeders who continue to advance agricultural innovation globally.

The World Agriculture Prize recognizes individuals whose research, innovation, leadership and service have generated exceptional contributions to agriculture and food security within developed nations while delivering benefits that extend globally.

Dubcovsky will be formally honored at the 2026 World Agriculture Prize Award Ceremony on October 28 at Nanjing Agricultural University in China.

—[Source: UC-Davis](#) (written by Amy M. Quinto)

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