

PROFESSIONAL VITAE

Fred Bliss is Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis and retired from the Vegetable Division of Monsanto. A plant breeder, he has led improvement programs for cowpea, common bean, tomato, stone fruits and tree fruit rootstocks. He is author or co-author of more than 100 journal articles and twenty book chapters and review articles. Topics include: Genetic analysis and expression of bean seed protein; breeding dry and snap beans for improved performance; domestication and evaluation of common bean; transformation studies in common bean; breeding legumes for increased fixation of atmospheric nitrogen; molecular genetic maps for *Prunus* (stone fruits); breeding improved rootstocks for peach and sweet cherry and education of plant breeding students.

After receiving the Ph.D. degree from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, he joined the Dept. of Horticulture at U.W.-Madison, in 1966. In 1988, he accepted the Lester Endowed Chair in the Pomology Dept. at UC Davis until 1998, when he became Director of Worldwide Breeding, Seminis Vegetable Seeds. He has held management positions at Seminis (now Monsanto) until retiring in early 2010. His recent activities include work with the FAO on the Global Initiative for Plant Breeding, consulting to the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission and a study at UC Davis to survey information about education and preparation of future plant breeders. He has been an active participant in numerous research and development projects globally including work in Nigeria, Somalia, Honduras and Brazil and a consultant for numerous international studies. He is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Panels for the U.S.-based BeanCAP and RosBREED programs and the Integrated Breeding Platform program for the Generation Challenge Program.

EDUCATION

B.S., University of Nebraska, 1960 (Agronomy, with Distinction)

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1965 (Horticulture – Genetics)

Post Doctoral Fellow, University of Minnesota, 1965 – 1966 (Genetics)

EMPLOYMENT

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Horticulture

Assistant Professor 1966 – 1971

Associate Professor 1971 – 1976

Professor 1976 – 1988

University of California – Davis, Department of Pomology

Professor & Will W. Lester

Endowed Chair 1988 – 1998

Emeritus Professor 1999 – Current

Seminis, Inc. later Monsanto 1998 – 2010

Director, World Wide Breeding: April 1, 1998 – September 30, 2000.

Member, Strategic Support Team: October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001.

Senior Director, R&D Strategic Opportunities and R&D

Technology Support: October 1, 2001 – 2005.

Senior Director, Special Projects: 2005 – Jan., 2010.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc.

- Program Direction and Management
 - ❖ As Director of Worldwide Breeding, responsible for 9 direct reports (Breeding Associate Directors & Regional Assoc. Dir.) and 113 Indirect reports (Plant Breeders).
 - ❖ As Sr. Director, R&D Strategic Support, responsible for 6 direct reports who manage Molecular Markers, Cell Biology, Pathology, Vegetable Qual. & Nutrit., Genetic Engr. and Foundation Seed worldwide..
- Strategic Planning and Resource Optimization
 - ❖ As member of Strategic (Value Capture) Support Team, participate in the restructuring of Seminis and optimization of internal organization and resources.
 - ❖ Member of R&D Management Team responsible for optimization of R&D organization and resources.

University of California, Davis

- Director, Laboratory for Genetic Identification, Department of Pomology, University of California – Davis (1995 – 1998).
- Chair, Department of Pomology, University of California – Davis (1991 – 1994).
- Chair, Plant Biology Graduate Group (1990 – 1992).

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- Consultant to Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission for fruit breeding. Wenatchee, WA, 2004 – present.
- Consultant to FAO of the United Nations, Rome, Italy. Development of program for improving breeding capacity, i.e., the Global Initiative for Plant Breeding, 2005 – present.
- Scientific Consultant for Vegetable Breeding. Empire Research Laboratory (formerly Ag Images). Davis, California 1994 - 1998.
- Scientific Consultant, Agracetus Corporation, Middleton, Wisconsin, 1982 -1991.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International

- Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel, Integrated Breeding Platform program for the Generation Challenge Program, January, 2010 – present (2012).

National

- Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel, RosBREED Program, USDA, 2009 – present (2012).
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel, BeanCAP Program, USDA. 2009 –2011.
- Member, GRIN-Global Technical Steering Committee. June 2008 –May 2010.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- President, American Society for Horticultural Science, 1998 - 1999.
- Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, American Society for Horticultural Science, 1992 – 1994.