How Will We Sustainably Feed 10B People?

Cornell Digital Ag Meeting - Monday Feb 26 @ 11am-1pm
Room 122, Gates Hall - Cornell University - Ithaca, NY

**Background:** An interdisciplinary group of Cornell faculty from multiple colleges (CALS, CIS, CoE, CVM, JCB) began meeting in early 2017 to formulate a digital agriculture (DA) initiative, with the conviction that Cornell is uniquely equipped to lead in this emerging arena that will benefit the public for generations. We define DA to mean the application of computational and information technologies coupled with nanotechnology, biology, systems engineering and socio-economics to both the research and operational sides of agriculture and food production. We held a Retreat on Oct 10 that was attended by ~70 members of the faculty, and initiated an extended white paper to define a research agenda for DA that will build a pipeline of discovery and innovations for the next 10+ years.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting is to apprise the Cornell faculty on progress since our Retreat in October, and to seek their further input on the white paper, as well as ideas for educational programming and outreach. We also welcome input from both seasoned and early career Cornell scientists and engineers, who may not be actively involved in DA, to provide added expertise to define the research, educational activities and outreach. Faculty both within and outside of CALS, CIS, CoE, CVM and JCB are encouraged to participate. We will serve a light lunch (sandwiches, wraps, and drinks), but please feel free to bring your own.

**Call for presentations:** We welcome three-minute lightning presentations regarding DA-related research from faculty who did not present at the Retreat, or at previous DA seminars or meetings. Please respond to Prof. José Martínez (martinez@cornell.edu) with a three-sentence abstract. Please be aware that the number of slots is limited.

**Next steps - beyond Feb 26:** We seek founding sponsors who support the overarching goal of feeding the global population sustainably, and plan to invite their input and feedback on the underlying research agenda described in the white paper. After receiving commentary from potential sponsors, we plan to publish an updated version of our white paper as a technical report for general distribution in the community.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jim Ballingall, Executive Director at jmb436@cornell.edu.