



## **National Association for Plant Breeding PLANT BREEDING EDUCATOR AWARD 2025**

**TABARE ABADIE**  
**Corteva Agriscience**  
**Johnston IA**

The 2025 recipient of the National Association for Plant Breeding Plant Breeding Educator Award is Dr. Tabare Abadie, Corteva Agriscience, Johnston, IA. Abadie is Sr Research Manager and Distinguished Laureate at Corteva, where he currently serves as Recruiting Lead, Seed Product Development.

The newly-created Plant Breeding Educator Award of the National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB), recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary impact on students, staff, other plant breeders, the scientific community, or the general public through their exceptional skills, innovation, and commitment to plant breeding education.

*In his nomination package, one colleague observed: Tabaré's dedication to plant breeding education is unparalleled. Through his leadership in professional societies, his advocacy for inclusivity in the field, and his commitment to students' support, he embodies the highest standards of this award. His transformative contributions to education, mentorship, and outreach have left a lasting impact on the plant breeding community and the current and next generation of scientists.*

Over a 46-year career in academia and industry, Tabare has excelled in education, career development, and mentoring, especially in the areas of plant breeding and quantitative genetics. He began his professional career in 1979, reaching the level of Professor of Plant Breeding and member of the Graduate School of the Universidad de la República (UDELAR) and Programa para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Básicas (PEDECIBA), in Uruguay. In addition to his teaching and graduate student advisor responsibilities, he also served as a wheat and barley breeder, releasing eight widely accepted cultivars, and worked broadly in extension, collaborating directly with agronomists and farmers.

In 2003 Abadie joined DuPont Pioneer, leading a multinational team in molecular breeding and creating educational programs. In 2008, he initiated the Plant Sciences Symposia Series, which reached over 70 universities and centers on five continents, benefiting thousands of graduate students worldwide. This student-led program provides a platform for students to expand their professional network and develop skills that support their academic training.

During his career mentoring numerous students and young professionals through various programs, he has been especially involved over the past 20 years coordinating the Pioneer/Corteva internships. In this program Abadie has provided guidance and coaching for several hundred students yearly. In addition, he has served in the Golden Opportunity Scholars Program, chairing it three times, and actively participated in several minority-serving organizations and initiatives.

*As one colleague highlighted: “Tabare launched an initiative that ended up on the globally recognized Plant Sciences Symposia Series – PSSS, a transformative model of public private engagement, reaching out >16 countries across 6 continents, >70 universities and >40,000 students, and counting. Tabare has been instrumental on Corteva’s DELTA symposium (Developing Emerging Leaders and Talent in Agriculture), which is a strategic venue to bring and hire scientific talent from underrepresented minorities.”*

Abadie has served on several boards and is currently at the Integrated Breeding Platform and the American Society of Agronomy. He holds an Ing. Agr. degree from the University of Uruguay, MSc and PhD degrees in Plant Breeding from the University of Minnesota and did a postdoc at UCDavis. He is a 2021 Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and was named a Distinguished Corteva Laureate in 2022.

*As one colleague concluded: “Dr. Abadie’s career is distinguished by his exceptional mentorship and dedication to education, shaping the careers of countless individuals in both academia and industry. As an educator, he has not only fostered scientific innovation but also cultivated professional relationships and established enduring public-private collaborations that have significantly advanced the field.”*



Dr. Tabare Abadie, Corteva Agriscience, is the 2025 recipient of the new Plant Breeding Educator Award of the National Association for Plant Breeding.



Dr. Tabare Abadie, Corteva Agriscience, the 2025 recipient of the new Plant Breeding Educator Award of the National Association for Plant Breeding for his long lasting contributions to the Plant Breeding Pioneer/Corteva internship program and Plant Sciences Symposium Series."