



David Bergvinson is a Senior Program Officer for Science & Technology within the Agricultural Development team of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. David brings technical (PhD, Biology, U. Ottawa) and profession experience in crop protection and maize breeding as well as experience in integrated forest pest management (Masters in Pest Management, Simon Fraser University). During his 12 years at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), he lead the Entomology Unit that developed insect resistant maize varieties for Africa and Asia using conventional and transgenic (i.e. Bt) approaches.

During his last three years at CIMMYT he managed a drought tolerant maize breeding network in Southeast Asia. David emphasized the importance of involving farmers in the early stages of selection of experimental varieties to ensure higher adoption rates – a philosophy he continues to follow at the foundation to ensure crop improvement grants remained focused on improving the lives of smallholder farmers in Africa and Asia. David currently manages seven crop improvement grants for maize, rice, cowpea, groundnut, common beans, soybean, chickpea, and pigeonpea. He also manages a grant to develop a molecular breeding platform for staple crops in developing countries. Additional grants include improved agronomic practices for the sustainable intensification of cereals in South Asia and weather forecasting for eastern and southern Africa.