Technological Contributions Awards

Sukup Global Food Security Award

The Sukup Global Food Security Award recognizes an individual or group performing exemplary work in the enhancement of food security by innovative engineering or the application of engineering in the production and distribution of food, including the storage and handling of grains, oilseeds, and other food products.

The award was endowed by the Sukup Manufacturing Co. in 2016.

The award consists of an engraved recognition item and a cash prize of $1,000.

Previous Sukup Global Food Security Award Winners

2016 ......................................................... Carl J. Bern
2017 ........................................................... Digvir S. Jayas
2018 ........................................................... Manjit K. Misra
2019 ........................................................... Kenneth Hellevang

Dirk E. Maier, ASABE Fellow, PE, is the recipient of the 2020 Sukup Global Food Security award for his career devoted to enhancing food and nutrition security worldwide through development and delivery of innovative engineering for stored product protection.

Maier is a professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering at Iowa State University and director of the Consortium for Innovation in Post-Harvest Loss and Food Waste Reduction. He has visiting faculty appointments at three universities in Africa. He is faculty advisor and mentor to the Iowa State University Engineers Without Borders student chapter which is building a new clinic in Northern Ghana. Maier is responsible for leading an internationally-recognized research and outreach program in post-harvest engineering and technology applied to grain and feed operations and processing. He also leads international outreach of the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, which focuses on enhancing the market preference, consumption, and utilization of Iowa and US corn, soybeans, and their value-added products for the global grain and feed industry.

Maier’s current research involves value-added processing of crops and products. His Consortium initiative has enhanced the national and international reputation of Iowa State University as a leader in the fight against global food and nutrition insecurity. The initiative is developing practical approaches to measure value chain loss and waste, increasing efficiencies in the global food system to sustainably preserve nutrients, and achieving sustained, scalable implementation of appropriate technologies to preserve, process, package and transport nutritious foods.

A 34-year member of ASABE, Maier has been extensively involved in a number of ASABE committees including the Processing Systems ISO TAG Feed Machinery Standard Development committee. Maier also maintains membership with the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS), US Quality Grains Research Consortium (NC-213), Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering, Cereals and Grains Association, and American Feed Industry Association.

Maier has had a prolific publishing career, and is the author or coauthor of more than 250 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and outreach publications. Throughout his career, Maier has been recognized with a number of awards. He has received 5 Educational Aids Blue Ribbons and an ASABE Superior Paper award. He received the 2000 ASABE Nolan Mitchell Young Extension Worker award and was inducted as an ASABE Fellow in 2018. Maier received the Grain Industry Leader award from GEAPS, International Agriculture Award from Iowa State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University’s Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department.