



# Introduction of New LSU AgCenter Faculty

*La. Agricultural Technology & Management Conference  
Feb. 9, 2024*

**Michael E. Salassi**  
Executive Associate Vice President &  
Director – La. Ag. Experiment Station  
LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA



LSUAgCenter.com

# Dr. Eric DeBoer

- Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Management
- School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences – LSU Campus
- Started July 1, 2023
- Degrees:
  - B.S. – Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, 2010
  - M.S. – Horticulture, University of Arkansas, 2018
  - Ph.D. – Horticulture, University of Arkansas, 2023
- Responsibilities:
  - 60% extension/30% research/10% teaching
  - Turfgrass management



# Dr. Andre Gama

- Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology
- Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology – LSU campus
- Started August 1, 2023
- Degrees:
  - M.S. – Plant Pathology, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2017
  - Ph.D. – Plant Pathology, University of Florida, 2021
- Responsibilities:
  - 70% research/20% extension/10% teaching
  - Sugarcane pathology



# Dr. Prashant Jha

- **Professor of Weed Science**
- **School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences – LSU campus**
- **Started September 1, 2023**
- **Degrees:**
  - **M.S. – Agronomy, Haryana Agricultural University, India, 2004**
  - **Ph.D. – Plant and Environmental Science, Clemson University, 2008**
- **Experience:**
  - **Montana State University – 2010-2019**
  - **Iowa State University – 2019-2023**
- **Responsibilities:**
  - **70% research/30% teaching**
  - **Weed science**



# Dr. Vinit Sehgal

- Assistant Professor of Soil Physics
- School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences – LSU campus
- Started October 1, 2023
- Degrees:
  - B.E. – Civil Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology, India, 2013
  - M.S. – Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech University, 2017
  - Ph.D. – Water Management & Hydrological Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2023
- Responsibilities:
  - 70% research/30% teaching
  - Soil physics and environmental modeling



# Dr. Manoch Kongchum

- Associate Professor of Agronomy
- H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station
- Started position November 15, 2023
- Degrees:
  - B.S. – Agricultural Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand, 1987
  - M.S. – Environmental Sciences, LSU, 2005
  - Ph.D. – Agronomy & Environmental Mgt (Soil Fertility), LSU, 2005
- Responsibilities:
  - 90% research/10% extension
  - Rice agronomy



