

ASPB Ambassador Annual Report

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During this reporting period, I actively participated in numerous virtual (Visio) meetings organized within the ASPB Ambassador network. These meetings provided a valuable platform for connecting with Ambassadors from many countries, fostering a strong sense of international community and shared purpose within ASPB. Through these interactions, I gained new perspectives on outreach, education, and the role of plant science in addressing global challenges.

I was particularly engaged in group communications and discussions where Ambassadors shared experiences, ideas, and outreach materials. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn from colleagues who created high-quality, impactful videos that explain plant science concepts and highlight the societal value of scientific research to young scientists and the broader public. These efforts clearly demonstrated the power of science communication and the importance of making plant biology accessible, engaging, and relevant.

Although my direct participation in outreach activities was limited earlier in the year due to my research position within a federal facility at the USDA, I remained actively involved in discussions and planning. I am now based at a university (RWTH Aachen University), which provides a more flexible academic environment and direct contact with students. As a result, I am enthusiastic and fully committed to increasing my active participation in ASPB Ambassador activities, particularly those focused on mentoring, outreach, and science communication for early-career researchers and students.

Overall, my experience as an ASPB Ambassador has been highly enriching, both scientifically and personally. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and supportive network, and I look forward to contributing more actively to the coming year, particularly in promoting plant science, mentoring young scientists, and enhancing public understanding of the critical role of plant biology in society.