

Komal Attri, ASPB Ambassador

2025 End of the year report

Okay to share publicly

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and gain experience as an ASPB Ambassador in 2025. I am also very thankful for the Ambassador travel award and waived registration that gave me an opportunity to attend the Plant Biology 2025 meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I am a plant molecular biologist by training, and in my current position as a Research Scientist II at Iowa State University, I am pursuing research on investigating the biosynthesis of plant diterpenoid natural products and elucidating their roles in plant-microbe interactions.

As an ASPB ambassador in 2025:

- I contributed to the ambassador's social media outreach activities by creating an introductory video about my research and experience as an ambassador. Here's the link for it: https://aspb1.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/sites/AmbassadorsWorkingTeam/Shared%20Documents/General%201/Social%20Media%20Posts/Raw%20Videos/Komal_Intro.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=lqpmUI
- I participated in a focus group meeting organized at the Plant Biology 2025 meeting where we openly discussed about how Plant Biology conferences can be further enhanced. I was also able to communicate to other participants about how they can become an ambassador and amplify the goals of ASPB. I also emphasized the importance of increasing ASPB's visibility for graduate students and opportunities to serve on different committees.
- I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Ambassador's game night where I also met fellow ambassadors.
- I presented my postdoc research that I conducted at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign through a poster and here is a picture that was clicked for a feature story of me being an ASPB Ambassador for the RIPE project that I contributed to during my postdoc.

At the Plant Biology 2025 meeting, I had the opportunity to hear from great scientists including Dr. Cary Fowler, a 2024 World Food Prize laureate, who made tremendous contributions in creating the Global Seed Vault. Being involved with ASPB has allowed me to connect with people from various career stages. As an early-career plant biology scientist, the ASPB ambassador program has given me a unique opportunity to build connections that would otherwise have been difficult. A greater goal for us being scientists is to be able to share the progress in plant biology research with the general public and being able to emphasize what we as plant scientists do and why that's important. I am passionate to work towards this goal in the coming year through the ASPB Ambassador's program.

