

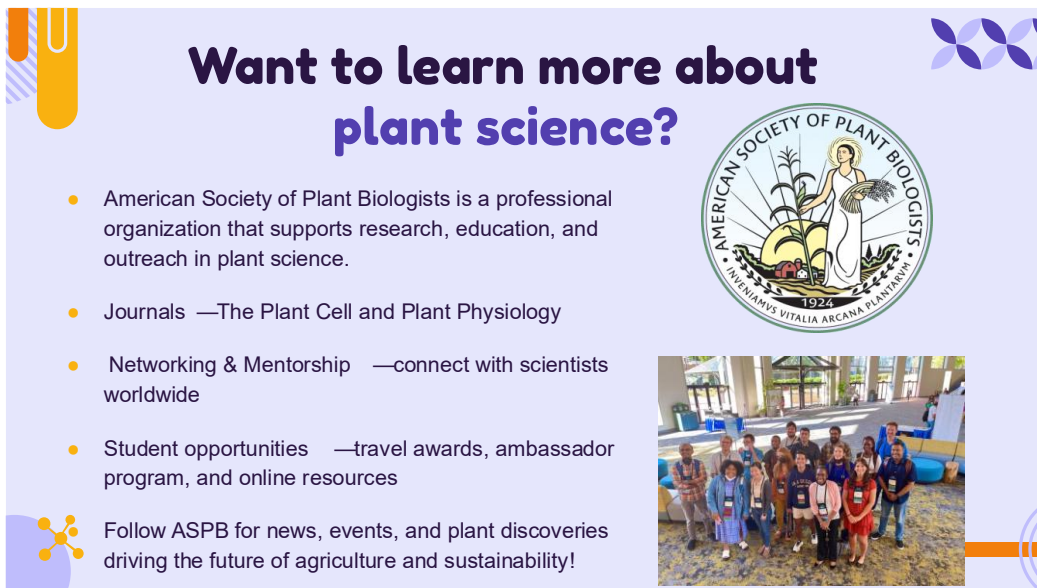
Maria Clara Faria - ASPB Ambassador
2024 End of the year report
It is fine to share this information publicly

Throughout 2025, I had the honor of serving as one of the American Society of Plant Biology's (ASPB) ambassadors. This allowed me to actively take part in activities, outreach, networking with scientists and students and sharing my research through presentation. This report summarizes my involvement within the ASPB community over the past year.

Helping in SURF alumni program

During this year, I helped the ASPB SURF program by helping contact previous SURF participants to update their current email information, learn about their current positions, and track where they are now in their careers. I also assisted with coordinating and scheduling alumni interviews that will be conducted in early next year to further assess the long-term impact of the SURF program.



Undergraduate teaching and ASPB outreach in plant science



Want to learn more about plant science?

- American Society of Plant Biologists is a professional organization that supports research, education, and outreach in plant science.
- Journals —The Plant Cell and Plant Physiology
- Networking & Mentorship —connect with scientists worldwide
- Student opportunities —travel awards, ambassador program, and online resources

Follow ASPB for news, events, and plant discoveries driving the future of agriculture and sustainability!



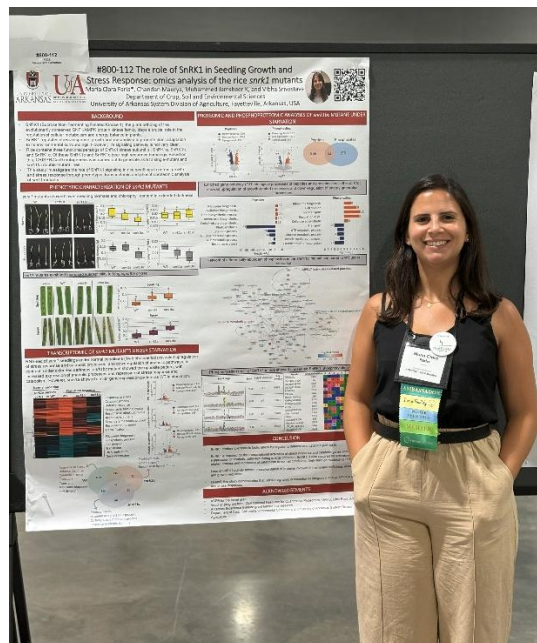
As a Graduate Assistant, I taught one class in the Introduction to Plant Science course, where I presented on agricultural biotechnology and gene editing in crops. During this class, I also introduced the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) through a dedicated slide, highlighting its mission, journals, networking and mentorship opportunities, and student resources. This outreach helped increase undergraduate awareness of both plant biotechnology and ASPB as a professional community in plant science. Unfortunately, I do not have a photo of me teaching the class; therefore, I am providing an image of the slide I presented during the lecture.

Networking at ASPB game night



I participated in networking activities during the ASPB Annual Meeting by helping engage in the Game Night event. This activity brought together conference attendees in an informal and welcoming setting, where participants played games, interacted, and connected with colleagues across career stages and institutions. The event was a success, with strong participation and positive engagement, and attendees clearly enjoyed the opportunity to network in a relaxed environment. I also greatly enjoyed being part of the game night and I look forward to participating again at the next ASPB Annual Meeting.

Poster presentation in the ASPB Annual Meeting



I presented a research poster at the American Society of Plant Biologists Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, held July 26–30, 2025. The poster, titled “The Role of SnRK1 in Seedling Growth and Stress Response: Omics Analysis of the Rice *snrk1* Mutants,” highlighted my ongoing research on the role of SnRK1 in regulating seedling growth and stress responses. This presentation provided an opportunity to engage with conference attendees, discuss my findings, and receive valuable feedback from other researchers.