



## [ MEET OUR SCIENTISTS ]

### *Spotlight on Asian soybean rust research with Jillian Foerster*

At Corteva Agriscience, we believe that the global scientific community can do truly innovative work when we collaborate. That's why we're bringing together thought leaders from around the world to stimulate the development of groundbreaking and sustainable agricultural solutions.

To learn more about some of the research being done, we caught up with Jillian Foerster, Technology Deployment Lead for North American Regional Crops.



#### **What led you to an interest in science and plant breeding in particular?**

**Jillian:** Why did I become a scientist? I liked to solve puzzles as a kid, and I was always really intrigued by science. I wanted to do something that contributed to society. I was particularly drawn to plant breeding—it was a way to breed crops to help feed the world.



#### **What challenge is your research focused on?**

**Jillian:** Asian soybean rust. It's a really devastating pathogen for Latin American soybean growers. They can see upwards of 90% yield loss. There are currently no genetic solutions. There's no variety on the market today that has disease resistance to Asian soybean rust.



#### **Are you working with other research groups on this project? What types of solutions are you hoping to develop?**

**Jillian:** That's where the Open Innovation piece comes in. We got connected with a start-up in California. They've been working with us as sort of another prong in our approach. I'm very optimistic that we, within the company, will come up with a very holistic solution that will provide really strong resistance and also be a durable product that will last a long time.