

José E. Solórzano

José E. Solórzano was born in Danlí, Honduras. He grew up immersed in nature, cultivating the soil with multiple crops, and taking care of animals. While animals and plants were José's most daily adventures, he gained an interest in understanding microorganisms, especially fungi. However, José also wanted to teach and opted through high school to obtain a degree certifying him to teach elementary school education. In 2014, he moved to Catacamas, Honduras, where he went to the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura to obtain his bachelor's degree in Agronomic Engineering in 2018. In 2017, in his senior year, José was awarded a visiting research scholar position at Louisiana State University (LSU) at the Doyle's Mycology Lab to study the production of cercosporin among *Cercospora* species. In 2019, José became a master's student at LSU to study the production of secondary metabolites by the fungus *Xylaria necrophora* and their roles in the etiology of taproot decline of soybean, an emerging disease in the southern U.S. José finished his master's in 2021 and the same year started a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. Jose's current research focuses on studying the biology and ecology of the fungus *Phyllachora maydis* causing tar spot of corn, an emerging disease in the U.S. José's current and long-term interests include a desire for continuous learning, the use of a combination of fundamental and applied research to study diseases, understanding of how the environment and evolution influence disease and developing programs to prevent and mitigate emerging diseases.