

### **Panel 3. Canopy Management Panelist Biographies**

#### **Tom Davenport**

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My research interests in reproductive physiology of tropical fruit trees include flowering and fruit set mechanisms in citrus, mango, lychee, longan, carambola, and avocado. I have focused on avocado pollination because of its potential impact on fruit set and the disparity from classic dogma that the results in Florida have displayed. My research has determined that in humid climates, self-pollination is the norm in avocado flowers with pollen transfer usually occurring within flowers during the second floral opening. It leads to the conclusion that although the avocado has evolved an elegant mechanism to promote outcrossing, self-pollination is also available to perpetuate the species, depending upon environmental conditions.

#### **Reuben Hofshi**

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Reuben Hofshi is a California grower and packer who is interested in innovation and sharing of information through international collaboration. He plans to promote modern avocado horticulture among indigenous populations. He is particularly interested in the concepts of high density planting, making clonal propagation economical, pollination and increasing productivity through innovative farming practices. He is currently the Chair of the Production Research Committee.

#### **Cliff Lahav**

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Cliff Lahav is an Extension Advisor in Interior Valley Region (Sea of Galilee) in Israel. My previous experience was as a farmer in the avocado orchard at my home, Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagolan, for 15 years. My work has been focused on orchard canopy management, irrigation trials and new cultivar introductions. Also I have been interested in effects of growth regulators on crop yield and tree growth.

#### **Xuan Liu**

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My recent research interest in avocado focuses on understanding the controls of overall tree growth, and fruit development, maturation and ripening by carbohydrate production, partitioning and metabolism under different field climatic and management conditions. Specifically, we have investigated the tree seasonal carbohydrate fluctuation in relation to its growth cycling; leaf development and photosynthetic efficiency in response to stressing factors; carbohydrate transportation, accumulation and

utilization in determining fruit growth and ripening; biosynthetic pathways of carbon 7 sugars, D-mannoheptulose and its polyol, perseitol. Our ongoing avocado projects include assessing canopy profiles of carbon production and water consumption, regulating fruit ripening and elucidating its mechanism.

**Simon Newett**

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**Itzak Regev**

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I am an Extension Specialist for Subtropical Fruits in the Western Galilee in Israel. My main interest within the field of avocado is selection and introduction of new types to become new varieties. I am helping Emi Lahav in this project, doing much of the field work. My other interest is rootstocks and matching rootstocks to varieties. I have an interest and I am dealing with many types of exotic fruits and trying to establish these among the growers in order to diversify the subtropical fruit industry in my region and throughout Israel.

**Piet Stassen**

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Piet Stassen is currently the Division Manager for Crop Management at the ARC-ITSC. He has sixteen years experience as a researcher in the deciduous fruit industry, 7 years as University lecturer in Horticulture, and 6 years as Research Manager for Horticulture and Physiology of tropical and subtropical crops. He has specialized in horticulture and plant physiology (tree training and manipulation, rootstocks, light management, energy requirements, nutrient metabolism and allocation physiology). As a researcher in avocados for the last 6 years he has authored or co-authored 25 publications on avocado cultivation and physiology and has given 28 lectures on these subjects.

**Grant Thorp**

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**Jan Toerien**

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**Nigel Wolstenholme**

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Nigel Wolstenholme has been involved in avocado research since 1977. His field of interest has been the yield problem, and tree ecophysiology. Manipulation of trees to improve sustainable yield of quality fruit has been the focus of interest. He is one of 3 editors and a contributor to the CABI scientific text on avocado to be published during 2000.