



*Covering Environments—The CEAC Monthly Seminars*

**January 27, 2017 @ 4:15pm**

## **CEAC Leading Activities for the New Age of Arizona Agriculture**

*Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, 1951 E Roger Rd*

### **Gene Giacomelli, PhD**

Professor of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering

Adjunct Professor Dept of Plant Sciences

Member Bio5 Institute

Director of the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center

University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

In this inaugural seminar of the Spring semester, Dr. Giacomelli will discuss how today's research activities at CEAC – including both instructional and outreach programs – have positioned CEAC at the University of Arizona to reach national leadership in meeting current and future food production needs within controlled agriculture environments.

Giacomelli's forward looking presentation will demonstrate how a global shift in agriculture, dictated by diminishing resources (water, arable lands), increasing deleterious weather conditions and societal demand for safe, high-quality vegetables, is focusing on crop production in protected environments to meet the nutritional needs of the accelerated growth in the world's population.

As director, since 2000, Giacomelli has been highly instrumental in leading the activities and projects which have positioned CEAC for its present success and its continued leadership in the technology and biology of producing food crops anywhere, anytime, regardless of external environmental conditions. This forward looking and innovative culture, fostered at CEAC, is arguably best demonstrated by the Mars-Lunar Greenhouse Project which is designed to provide fresh crops to astronauts in extraterrestrial environments. Based on plant science and environmental technologies, this self-sustaining facility is positioned to be the model system on which life away from earth would be supported.

In the monthly seminars to come, CEAC faculty, staff and students will describe their own contributions to the national and global needs to produce food crops in the novel and complementary branch of production agriculture in controlled environments. Together this semester's presentations will create a map for the future directions of controlled environment agriculture research and instruction at the University of Arizona and elsewhere.

Dr Giacomelli has BS [Rutgers University] and MS [U of California, Davis] degrees in engineering, and has earned his PhD in Horticultural Engineering [Rutgers University].

<http://cals.arizona.edu/earthlight/> <https://cals.arizona.edu/abe/people/gene-giacomelli>