

Ricardo Romero

Romero joined the USDA APHIS office in Montevideo, Uruguay in May 2003, as an Agricultural Scientist for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, after sixteen years of agricultural scientific work at Uruguay's National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) and Iowa State University (ISU).

As an expert in agriculture and scientific issues, he performs the full range of reporting, advisory, and related functions in the field of animal and plant health. He represents APHIS in bilateral negotiations between the US and the three countries, for all sanitary and phytosanitary issues, having as a main priority to protect the American agriculture and promote safe trade between those countries and the US.

In 2005, following a restructuring of the area APHIS offices, the former Area Director position in Montevideo was moved to Argentina. Consequently, Romero assumed full responsibilities on animal health issues for Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay; as well as plant issues with Paraguay and Uruguay, reporting directly to the APHIS attaché in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and to the Regional Director in Santiago, Chile.

In 1987 he joined INIA as a scientific researcher on Agricultural Meteorology and Crop Production. His work experience includes numerous research studies, most of them funded by international organizations (FAO, UNDP, Inter-American Institute for Climate Change-IAI, World Bank, IDB) related to agriculture production and global change. He is author of several publications. In 2002, he also taught courses at ISU. He resigned his position in 2003 to join APHIS.

Mr. Romero was born in Montevideo in 1962. He graduated as an Agronomy Engineer at the University of Uruguay in 1986. In 1992, Romero relocated to Ames, IA to pursue postgraduate studies at ISU, first at the Master of Science degree level, and later at the PhD level on Crop Production and Physiology, where he completed courses with a PGA of 3.85. He is a member of the ISU Honor Society of Agriculture Gamma Sigma Delta. He speaks several languages (English, French, Italian, and Portuguese). He is married and the proud parent of a 3 months old baby named Juan Ignacio, and a fourteen-year old girl named Francisca.