



THE TRANSFORMATIVE
POWER OF OIL PALM

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International

OIL
PALM
Conference

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF OIL PALM

PLENARY:

OxG interspecific hybrids: a 50-year leap into the future of oil palm productivity.



DR. HERNÁN MAURICIO ROMERO ANGULO

Senior Researcher, Director of Research and Full Professor
Cenipalma and Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

SESSION 4

ADVANCES IN OIL
PALM LETHAL WILT.

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Dr. Romero is a biologist from the National University of Colombia, where he worked on the use of plant hormones to induce growth in native forest plants in Colombia. He then did his master's degree working on the characterization of potato frost tolerance responses and completed his PhD with pioneering research on the role of the enzyme Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase in plant tolerance to oxidative stress.

Dr. Romero is a Plant Physiologist and Plant Breeder with extensive experience in plant tolerance to abiotic stress and disease. He has worked in oil palm since the mid-1990s when he initiated pioneering work in the management of bud rot disease through the characterization of physiological resistance responses and the use of resistance inducers and other growth regulators. His work has led to important milestones such as the determination of the optimum harvesting point and the development of parthenocarpy fruit induction technology in OxG interspecific hybrids (ANA artificial pollination technology), which have revolutionized the oil palm industry in Colombia and other countries with OxG hybrid crops. It has also contributed to the development of oil palm cloning technology in Colombia, which has led to the development of the It has also contributed to the development of oil palm cloning technology in Colombia that has led to the commercial production of clones with resistance to PC. Recently, Dr. Romero's group has been able to identify the causal agent of oil palm lethal wilt, a fundamental step in the management of the disease.

Dr. Romero is a Full Professor at the National University of Colombia, has contributed to the education of numerous undergraduate and graduate students and has co-authored more than 120 scientific articles, books, and book chapters. He currently serves at Cenipalma as Coordinator of the Biology and Breeding Program and Director of Research.