

Adam H. Sparks


professional profile

- Wide ranging career demonstrating consistent success both in a non-profit international NGO and academia.
- Experience in conceptualising projects through successful grant applications, project management and attaining desired results.
- Extensive background of experiences in working with diverse partners.
- Broad experience in effective communication ranging from peer-reviewed journal articles to extension presentations and popular press.

contact

Centre for Crop Health
University of Southern
Queensland
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Australia
adam.sparks@usq.edu.au
+61 (4) 1548 9422
adam.h.sparks

web

adamhsparks.github.io
0000-0002-0061-8359 
Adam H. Sparks
@adamhsparks
adamhsparks

skills

GIS
modelling
R programming

experience

2016–Present	University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba, Queensland, AUS	Associate Professor
2012–2015	International Rice Research Institute Los Baños, Laguna, PHL	Scientist I
2011–2012	International Rice Research Institute Los Baños, Laguna, PHL	Post-Doctoral Fellow
2009–2010	Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas, USA	Post-Doctoral Research Associate
2002–2004	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, Nebraska, USA	Research Technologist
2000–2003	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Clay Center, Nebraska, USA	Research Technician
1999–2000	Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana, USA	Assistant Director
1997–1999	Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana, USA	Research Technician

education

2009	Ph.D. Plant Pathology Epidemiology and Ecology of Plant Pathogens Dissertation: <i>Disease risk mapping with metamodels for coarse resolution predictors: global potato late blight risk now and under future climate conditions</i>	Kansas State University, USA
2007	Post Graduate Certificate Geography Geographic Information Science	Kansas State University, USA
2000	B.Sc. Agronomy Soil and Crop Management	Purdue University, USA

publications

peer reviewed

Crop health and its global impacts on the components of food security

S. Savary, S. Bregaglio, L. Willocquet, D. Gustafson, D. Mason D'Croz, A. Sparks, N. Castilla, A. Djurle, C. Allinne, M. Sharma, V. Rossi, L. Amorim, A. Bergamin, J. Yuen, P. Esker, N. McRoberts, J. Avelino, E. Duveiller, J. Koo, K. Garrett

Food Security 9.2 (Apr. 2017) pp. 311–327. Springer Nature. DOI: 10.1007/s12571-017-0659-1

getCRUCLdata: Use and Explore CRU CL v. 2.0 Climatology Elements in R

A. H. Sparks

The Journal of Open Source Software 2.12 (Apr. 2017). The Open Journal. DOI: 10.21105/joss.00230

GSODR: Global Summary Daily Weather Data in R

A. H. Sparks, T. Hengl, A. Nelson

The Journal of Open Source Software 2.10 (Feb. 2017). The Open Journal. DOI: 10.21105/joss.00177

bomrang: Fetch Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology Weather Data

A. H. Sparks, M. Padgham, H. Parsonage, K. Pembleton

The Journal of Open Source Software 2.17 (Sept. 2017). The Open Journal. DOI: 10.21105/joss.00411

Spatial modelling of rice yield losses in Tanzania due to bacterial leaf blight and leaf blast in a changing climate

C. Duku, A. H. Sparks, S. J. Zwart

Climatic Change 135.3-4 (Jan. 2016) pp. 569–583. Springer Nature. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-015-1580-2

Decision tools for bacterial blight resistance gene deployment in rice-based agricultural ecosystems

G. S. Dossa, A. Sparks, C. Vera Cruz, R. Oliva

Frontiers in Plant Science 6.305 (May 2015). Frontiers Media SA. DOI: 10.3389/fpls.2015.00305

Farmers' Preference for Rice Traits: Insights from Farm Surveys in Central Luzon, Philippines, 1966-2012

A. G. Laborte, N. C. Paguirigan, P. F. Moya, A. Nelson, A. H. Sparks, G. B. Gregorio

PLOS ONE 10.8 (Aug. 2015) e0136562. Public Library of Science (PLOS). DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0136562

Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM): innovating the rice field data capture and monitoring using smartphone

J. M. Maloon, E. J. P. Quilang, M. R. O. Mabalay, J. L. Dios, A. C. Arocena Jr. J. R. F. Mirandilla, P. A. Mabalot, M. I. Barroga, R. T. Dollontas, G. C. Peralta, G. Mesa, B. T. Salazar, G. D. Balleras, N. B. Detoito, G. Arida, D. K. M. Donayre, E. C. Martin, G. F. Estoy, A. Nelson, A. Sparks, J. V. Raviz, A. G. Laborte, T. O. Setiyono, A. A. Maunahan, A. B. Rala, J. E. Villa, N. P. Castilla, Z. M. Bhatti, D. D. Maco, R. S. Bayot, M. Barbierri

Philippine Journal of Crop Science (2015)

Climate change may have limited effect on global risk of potato late blight

A. H. Sparks, G. A. Forbes, R. J. Hijmans, K. A. Garrett

Global Change Biology 20.12 (May 2014) pp. 3621–3631. Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.12587

A review on crop losses, epidemiology and disease management of rice brown spot to identify research priorities and knowledge gaps

M. K. Barnwal, A. Kotasthane, N. Magculia, P. K. Mukherjee, S. Savary, A. K. Sharma, H. B. Singh, U. S. Singh, A. H. Sparks, M. Variar, N. Zaidi

European Journal of Plant Pathology 136.3 (Mar. 2013) pp. 443–457. Springer Nature. DOI: 10.1007/s10658-013-0195-6

Taking transgenic rice drought screening to the field

A. C. M. Gaudin, A. H. A. H. Sparks, I. H. Slamet-Loedin

Journal of Experimental Botany 64.1 (Dec. 2012) pp. 109–117. Oxford University Press (OUP). DOI: 10.1093/jxb/ers313

An economic assessment of the impact of mango pulp weevil on the agricultural sector of Palawan, Philippines

J. D. McKinley, A. H. Sparks, V. O. Pede, B. Duff

The Philippine Agricultural Scientist 95.3 (2012) pp. 286-292

Complexity in climate-change impacts: an analytical framework for effects mediated by plant disease

K. A. Garrett, G. A. Forbes, S. Savary, P. Skelsey, A. H. Sparks, C. Valdivia, A. H. C. Bruggen, L. Willocquet, A. Djurle, E. Duveiller, H. Eckersten, S. Pande, C. Vera Cruz, J. Yuen

Plant Pathology 60.1 (Jan. 2011) pp. 15-30. Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-3059.2010.02409.x

International Agricultural Research Tackling the Effects of Global and Climate Changes on Plant Diseases in the Developing World

S. Savary, A. Nelson, A. H. Sparks, L. Willocquet, E. Duveiller, G. Mahuku, G. Forbes, K. A. Garrett, D. Hodson, J. Padgham, S. Pande, M. Sharma, J. Yuen, A. Djurle

Plant Disease 95.10 (Oct. 2011) pp. 1204-1216. *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/pdis-04-11-0316

A metamodeling framework for extending the application domain of process-based ecological models

A. H. Sparks, G. A. Forbes, R. J. Hijmans, K. A. Garrett

Ecosphere 2.8 (Aug. 2011) art90. Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1890/es11-00128.1

Beyond Yield: Plant Disease in the Context of Ecosystem Services

M. R. Cheatham, M. N. Rouse, P. D. Esker, S. Ignacio, W. Pradel, R. Raymundo, A. H. Sparks, G. A. Forbes, T. R. Gordon, K. A. Garrett

Phytopathology 99.11 (Nov. 2009) pp. 1228-1236. *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phyto-99-11-1228

Ecology and Epidemiology in R: Disease Forecasting

P. D. Esker, A. H. Sparks, L. Campbell, Z. Guo, M. Rouse, S. D. Silwal, S. Tolos, B. Van Allen, K. A. Garrett

The Plant Health Instructor (2008). *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phi-a-2008-0129-01

Ecology and Epidemiology in R: Spatial Analysis

A. H. Sparks, P. D. Esker, G. Antony, L. Campbell, E. E. Frank, L. Huebel, M. N. Rouse, B. Van Allen, K. A. Garrett

The Plant Health Instructor (2008). *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phi-a-2008-0129-03

Ecology and Epidemiology in R: Disease Progress over Time

A. H. Sparks, P. D. Esker, M. Bates, W. Dall'Acqua, Z. Guo, V. Segovia, S. D. Silwal, S. Tolos, K. A. Garrett

The Plant Health Instructor (2008). *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phi-a-2008-0129-02

Ecology and epidemiology in R: modeling dispersal gradients

P. D. Esker, A. H. Sparks, G. Antony, M. Bates, W. Dall'Acqua, E. E. Frank, L. Huebel, V. Segovia, K. A. Garrett

The Plant Health Instructor (2007). DOI: 10.1094/PHI-A-2007-1226-03

An Introduction to the R Programming Environment

K. A. Garrett, P. D. Esker, A. H. Sparks

The Plant Health Instructor (2007). *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phi-a-2007-1226-02

Writing Teaching Documents as a Class Project

K. A. Garrett, P. D. Esker, A. H. Sparks, L. C. Scharmann

The Plant Health Instructor (2007). *Scientific Societies*. DOI: 10.1094/phi-t-2007-1226-01

conferences/proceedings

Fungi and bacteria associated with the Peanut Kernel Shriveling (PKS) disease in the Bundaberg region

D. L. Adorada, S. M. Thompson, R. A. Grams, E. E. Adorada, A. H. Sparks, G. Wright, D. O'Connor, G. J. Ash

- Proceedings of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2017 Meeting (2017)
- Lowering thresholds of qualitative plant risk prediction algorithms: sensitivity versus specificity of Irish Rules for potato late blight development**
M. Cucak, A. H. Sparks, R. Fealy, D. Griffin, K. Lambkin, S. Kildea
Euroblight Workshop (2017)
- Mungbean and Sorghum Disease Update**
L. Kelly, J. White, M. Sharman, H. Brier, L. Williams, R. Grams, D. Weir, A. McKay, A. H. Sparks
GRDC Updates (Jondaryan) (July 19, 2017). *Jondaryan, Queensland, Australia*
- Do Alternate Wetting and Drying Irrigation Technologies and Nitrogen Rates Affect Rice Sheath Blight?**
A. H. Sparks, N. P. Castilla, B. O. Sander
Proceedings of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2017 Meeting (2017)
- Evaluation of correlation methods for co-occurrence network construction of rice crop health survey data**
S. Jaisong, N. P. Castilla, C. T. Magculia, S. Savary, I. B. Pangga, A. H. Sparks
Proceedings of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2015 Meeting (2015)
- Mapping Rice Diseases for Targeted Deployment of Resistant Varieties in India**
A. H. Sparks, M. Noel
Proceedings of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2015 Meeting (2015)
- Modeling the impact of disease resistance on rice yields in the Philippines and Indonesia**
A. H. Sparks, J. Anaurio, C. Duku, M. Noel, D. Raitzer
Proceedings of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society 2013 Meeting (2013)
- Spatial modelling of rice yield losses due to bacterial leaf blight and leaf blast in a changing climate**
A. H. Sparks, C. Duku, M. Noel, S. J. Zwart
Acta Phytopathologica Sinica vol. 43:Supplement (2013)
- Predisposition factors affecting brown spot disease development in rice**
N. J. Magculia, A. H. Sparks
Phytopathology vol. 102:S4.74.7 (2012)
- Putting information to use: Decisions at different scales**
S. Savary, A. H. Sparks, A. Nelson, N. McRoberts, P. D. Esker
Phytopathology vol. 102:S4.162 (2012)
- Preventing what ails rice with a strategic, statistical, prescriptive model system**
A. H. Sparks, S. Savary, A. Nelson
Phytopathology vol. 102:S4.113.7 (2012)
- Income inequality and economic growth in the Philippines**
G. B. Ballesefin, V. O. Pede, A. H. Sparks
The Conference Secretariat, 2011 PAEDA Biennial Convention (2011)
- An economic assessment of the impact of mango pulp weevil on the agricultural sector of Palawan, Philippines**
J. McKinley, V. O. Pede, A. H. Sparks, B. Duff
The Conference Secretariat, 2011 PAEDA Biennial Convention (2011)
- Refined empirical models for predicting Fusarium head blight epidemics in the United States**
A. Sparks, D. Shah, E. DeWolf, L. Madden, P. Paul, K. Willyerd
Phytopathology vol. 101:S223 (2011)
- Crop losses in highly populated areas: A global perspective**
L. Willocquet, A. Nelson, A. Sparks, A. Laborte, S. Savary
Phytopathology vol. 101:S223 (2011)
- Metamodels for scaling potato late blight risk analysis in climate change scenarios**
A. H. Sparks, G. Forbes, R. Hijmans, K. Garrett

Phytopathology vol. 100:S121 (2010)

Anticipating and responding to biological complexity in the effects of climate change on agriculture

K. Garrett, G. Forbes, S. Pande, S. Savary, A. Sparks, C. Valdivia, C. Vera Cruz, L. Willocquet
IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science vol. 6:37 (2009)

Adapting disease forecasting models to coarser scales: Global potato late blight prediction

A. H. Sparks, G. Forbes, K. A. Garrett
Phytopathology vol. 99:S122 (2009)

Adapting global disease forecasting models for readily available weather data sets in GIS

A. H. Sparks, K. A. Garrett, G. A. Forbes
Proceedings of the 10th International Epidemiology Workshop (2009). Geneva, NY, USA

Regional predictions of potato late blight risk in a GIS incorporating disease resistance profiles, climate change, and risk neighborhoods

A. H. Sparks, R. Raymundo, R. Simon, G. Forbes, K. A. Garrett
Phytopathology vol. 98:S149 (2008)

book chapters

Chap. Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Rice Production

E. Kannan, A. Paliwal, A. Sparks
Mohanty, S., P. G. Chengappa, M. Hedge, J.K. Ladha, S. Baruah, E. Kannan, and A. V. Manjunatha, Elsevier,
"The Future Rice Strategy for India", 2017

Chap. Plant pathogens as indicators for climate change

K. A. Garrett, M. Nita, E. D. DeWolf, P. D. Esker, L. Gomez-Montano, A. H. Sparks
Letcher, T. M., Elsevier, "Plant Pathogens as Indicators of Climate Change", 2016

Chap. An introduction to key distributions and models for epidemiology using R

K. A. Garrett, P. D. Esker, A. H. Sparks
Stevenson, K. and M. Jeger, APS Press, Minneapolis, MN, "Exercises in Plant Disease Epidemiology", 2014

Chap. Cambio climático, enfermedades de las plantas e insectos plaga

K. A. Garrett, G. A. Forbes, L. Gómez, M. A. Gonzáles, M. Gray, P. Skelsey, A. H. Sparks
Jiménez, E., Plural editores, "Cambio climático y adaptación en el Altiplano boliviano", 2013

reports

Is rice improvement still making a difference? Assessing the economic, poverty and food security impacts of rice varieties released from 1989 to 2009 in Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

D. A. Raitzer, A. H. Sparks, Z. Huelgas, R. Maligalig, Z. Balangue, C. Launio, A. Daradjat, H. U. Ahmed
A report submitted to the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC). 128 pp.

Evaluation of seed treatment for controlling seedling diseases and compatibility with Rhizobium inoculants, 2003.

L. J. Geisler, A. H. Sparks
Fungicide and Nematicide Tests 59:ST025

Evaluation of seed treatment fungicides for controlling soybean seedling diseases, 2003

L. J. Geisler, A. H. Sparks
Fungicide and Nematicide Tests 59:ST025

invited talks

2016	Using modelling and mapping for digital insights into diseases in the rice field 2016 Korean Society of Plant Pathology Fall Meeting and International Conference Seoul National University Pyeongchang, Gangwon-do, Korea
2014	Taking sustainable crop protection from the field to the cloud 4th International Rice Congress (IRC2014) Bangkok, Thailand
2014	Impact of climate change on rice diseases Workshop on the impact of climate change on crop pests and diseases, and adaptation strategies for the Greater Mekong Sub - Region (GMS) Hotel Continental Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
2014	Epidemiology and Disease Management of rice brown spot: Research priorities and knowledge gaps 66th Annual Indian Phytopathological Society Meeting Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya University, Raipur, India
2013	Biosecurity risks in Southeast Asia impacting on human food supplies Pacific Environmental Security Forum Australian Department of Defence (ADoD) and U. S. Pacific Command (US-PACOM) Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
2010	Global potato late blight risk in response to climate change, possible futures for a historic disease Emerging infectious diseases in response to climate change. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York, USA

doctoral dissertation mentorship

Current	Mladen Cucak (Collaborator) Maynooth University/TEAGASC, IRL Can we still use 'Irish Rules' to forecast development of potato late blight epidemics in Ireland?
Current	Iklhas Al Hadeethi (Associate Supervisor) University of Southern Queensland, AUS Modelling the effects of the interaction of carbon dioxide and temperature on concentration of crops' protein using diverse statistical methods
Current	Mela Aryal (Associate Supervisor) University of Southern Queensland, AUS Modelling plant functional group responses to rising carbon dioxide concentration
2016	Sith Jaisong (Principal Supervisor) University of the Philippines, Los Baños, PHL Network analysis of rice crop health survey data for characterization of yield reducing factors of tropical rice ecosystems in south and southeast Asia

master's thesis mentorship

2017	Patrick Kiplimo Toroitich (Collaborator)	Strathmore University, KEN
	A model for early detection of potato late blight disease: A case study in Nakuru County	
2016	Jerico Bigornia (Principal Supervisor)	University of the Philippines, Los Baños, PHL
	Environmental performance of water saving technologies for irrigated low-land rice production	

extramural support

2017	USQ Research Infrastructure Program 2017	AUD 25000
	PIs: D. Adorada, A. Sparks, A. Young	
2016-2019	EPIC (Developing Ecologically-based Participatory IPM package for rice in Cambodia)	USD 2.2 million
	PIs: B. Hadi (IRRI), A. Sparks, V. Kumar (IRRI), A. Stuart (IRRI), R. Oliva (IRRI), I.R. Choi (IRRI)	
2016-2019	Syngenta-IRRI Scientific Knowledge and Exchange Program	USD 484,274
	Phase III, Sub-Project 1 - Crop Health Management PIs: A. Sparks (IRRI) and K. K. Fui (Syngenta)	
2015-2017	Identifying resistant rice germplasm to false smut using combined screening approaches and understanding the mechanisms underlying rice resistance	USD 653,914
	Epidemiology and environmental characterisation of false smut, PIs: B. Zhou (IRRI), C. M. Vera Cruz (IRRI) and A. Sparks (IRRI)	
2013-2017	PRISM (Philippine Rice Information System)	USD 2.8 million
	Component B - Crop Health Monitoring, PIs: A. Nelson (IRRI), A. Sparks (IRRI), G. S. Arida (PhilRice), E. J. P. Quilang (PhilRice)	
2013-2015	Syngenta-IRRI Scientific Knowledge and Exchange Program	USD 454,640
	Phase II, Sub-Project 2 - Crop Health Management PI: A. Sparks (IRRI) and K. K. Fui (Syngenta)	

awards

2016	GovHack 2016 First Place Award for Paddock to Plate Category, John Conner Hack
	As part of the Toowoomba Trio with K Pembleton and G Grundy

professional certifications

PRINCE2 Foundation (2014) candidate number: P2R/009385 HiLogic Pty Ltd.

professional affiliations

Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS)

American Phytopathological Society (APS)

International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP)

professional service

Section Editor Tropical Plant Pathology

Member Australia National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network

Member ExtensionAUS Field Crop Diseases Community of Practice

Member International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018 Epidemiology Committee