

# Careers in Weed Science

## John Jachetta: A Career in Regulatory Affairs

### How did you begin working in Weed Science?

My career really started when I was nineteen and read Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book entitled "The Population Bomb". Dr. Ehrlich predicted that without substantial innovation, the world was headed toward increasing and disastrous food and water insecurity and continuous war. I knew then that food production was a problem worthy of a life's work. Opportunities for undergraduate research at UC Davis helped me see that I could have a career in research and Weed Science offered the greatest opportunity for impact on a global scale.

### Best advice for students and job seekers

Chemistry isn't hard.

Take every leadership opportunity offered and even some that aren't. If you can, take risks in your research that move the front of your science forward instead of filling in the middle. Publish a lot, it doesn't all need to be refereed, it can be just useful extension-like advice in regional or local newsletters; everything counts. Internships are great and produce many useful contacts. Present at every regional and national meeting that you can and you will be noticed. Leadership is obvious.

### What is exciting about the future of weed science?

There's never been a more critical time for research into food and fiber security. World populations are only increasing, and our needs have never been more acute. If ever there was a time when we needed to put our collective shoulder to the wheel and discover new and more sustainable solutions, now is it. Climate change is driving a global species redistribution that will require new knowledge to manage, weeds are evolving past our current solutions and food scarcity has never been solved in major parts of the world. While that's all a bit scary, we've also never had more tools (powerful ones too) to address our needs. What's needed now are new young scientists that can connect A.I with agronomy, plant genetics and our deepening understanding of plant ecology, biochemistry and physiology to create a world that we are proud to live in.



### Education

B.S. 1976 University of California, Davis  
*Plant Science*

M.S. 1979 University of California, Davis  
*Plant Physiology, ecology*

Ph.D. 2007 Oregon State University  
*Crop Science, botany, soil physics*

### Career Journey

Career Goal: Advance global food security and invasive species management through the discovery, advanced testing and development of crop protection products with special attention to and support of national objectives for minor crops, ecosystems management and sustainable practices.

2013 to current: Retired Research Fellow

2013 to current: Owner of Jachetta Consulting LLC

2008 to 2013: US Regulatory Science and Government Affairs Leader for Range and Pasture and Industrial Vegetation Management. Dow AgroSciences LLC

2001 To 2008: Global Regulatory Leader for Range and Pasture and Industrial Vegetation Management. Dow AgroSciences LLC

1997-2001 US Regulatory Affairs Manager: Dow AgroSciences LLC

1994- 1997: State Regulatory Affairs Manager: DowElanco

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1987- 1994 Senior Research Biologist: DowElanco  
Discovery Research.

1985-1987 Corporate representative to the Cornell  
Biotechnology Institute, Cornell University. Rhone-  
Poulenc Agrochimie

1983-1985 Senior Plant Physiologist, Rhone-Poulenc  
Agrochimie

## **Involvement in Professional Societies**

Weed Science Society of America

President 2010

Board of Directors

Science Policy Committee

Strategic Planning Committee

Sustaining Membership Committee

Undergraduate Research Awards Committee

Awards Parent Committee

Endowment Fund Committee

Herbicide Nomenclature Subcommittee

Education Committee

HRAC/GIFAP

Acetolactate Synthase Inhibitor Working Group

Spray Drift Task Force, Regulatory Subcommittee  
chairman

CropLife America Endangered Species Task Force  
Steering Committee, founding member and chair

FIFRA Endangered Species Task Force

## **Primary duties**

While I am primarily retired, I do some  
consulting on crop protection, FIFRA regulatory  
process and other pesticide issues.

## **What do you love about your job?**

As a retired scientist, I enjoy living on the North  
Umpqua River in Oregon where I'm known  
primarily for my floriferous and bountiful  
gardens. I've had the life's privilege of working  
on issues and problems that were important and  
needed solutions. But even more importantly,  
how everyone I was privileged to work with  
wove into the tapestry of a life to give it  
meaning.

## **Other interests?**

I'm an avid gardener and have a near-  
commercial cut flower garden that supplies my  
whole neighborhood with color. My garden is  
directly on the North Umpqua River, this is one  
of the country's finest steelhead fisheries, I've  
caught the fall silver salmon run on the Copper  
River in Alaska every year for the last 22-years in  
a row.

**If you are interested to hear more about John's  
story or ask any questions you can email him at  
jjachetta@gmail.com**