

Ruben A. Chavez Viteri



Ruben is a fourth-year PhD student from Ecuador. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from The University of Tampa, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In his PhD program, Ruben is developing a Near Infrared Red/ Visible Light/ Ultraviolet light spectrometer to detect aflatoxin and fumonisin in corn. His research goal is to create a sorting platform with a spectrometer capable of removing mycotoxin-contaminated corn kernels and minimizing food waste while improving food security. As an IAFNS Research Assistant, Ruben is working on a project to enhance the dissemination and impact of a validated and ready-to-use bulk product sampling model to improve food safety sampling plans. This model, developed as part of a project supported by the IAFNS Food Microbiology Committee, enables users to maximize the probability of finding a target hazard in an ingredient or finished product, particularly with non-uniform and low-level contamination. [Read more](#) about the bulk product simulation model.

Ruben is a scientist who is passionate about improving food safety and security to benefit consumer health and reduce food waste. He is a food lover, and he likes to improve his culinary skills in his leisure time. He loves to practice sports, especially soccer, and spend time with his loved ones and friends.