

Qin Zhang was born September 9, 1956, in Yongkang, a county in Zhejiang Province, China and raised in Yiwu, a neighboring county to Yongkang. He received a BS in mechanical engineering (1982) from Zhejiang Agricultural University in China, an MS in agricultural engineering (1988) from the University of Idaho, and a PhD in agricultural engineering (1991) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Qin Zhang
(2017 photo)

Prior to joining WSU, Dr. Qin Zhang first worked as a senior engineer at Caterpillar Inc, and then as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for a total of 16 years.

Dr. Qin Zhang joined WSU on July 16, 2009 and was appointed as a professor in agricultural automation in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering and a senior scientist at the Center for Precision and Automated Agricultural Systems (CPAAS) located in Prosser. The following year he was appointed as the Director for CPAAS.

Dr. Zhang is an internationally recognized authority in agricultural automation and mechanization, making major contributions to the areas of automated and/or intelligent agricultural machinery, agricultural robotics, and agricultural cybernetics. He is known around the

world for his work on tractor auto-guide technologies, robotic machinery for crop production, and cybernetics theory for crop production automation. He has also served as the Editor-in-Chief, then the Chair Editor to "Computers and Electronics in Agriculture", one of the most impactful professional journals in the field of study and the Editor-in-Chief for Encyclopedia of Smart Agriculture Technologies. Recognized by his peers, Dr. Qin Zhang was a recipient of the John Deere Gold Medal, a major award for recognizing distinguished achievement in the application of science and art to the soil by an engineer given by ASABE. He was also elected as a Member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the International Academy of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (IAABE), and a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).

Dr. Zhang is known for building collaborations across disciplines all over the world to solve automation and mechanization problems in crop production and for sharing his expertise and research results with farmers, research peers, and industry. He initialized an international network of precision agricultural centers and organized two summits for enhancing collaborations among the participating centers. This directly resulted in WSU establishing formal partnerships in agricultural robotics research and education with Kyoto University in Japan, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Bio-economy e.V. (ATB) in Germany, University of Technology Sydney in Australia and Valencia Polytech University in Spain. Such collaborations impactfully strengthen WSU's capacity and reputation in agricultural automation research and graduate education which contributed greatly to make WSU CPAAS be one of the highly recognized centers internationally in the field of precision agriculture and agricultural robotics. He has co-organized a "Next Leaders" event under CIGR (International Commission for Agricultural and Biological Engineering) umbrella to recognize the emerging academic leaders in agricultural mechanization from around the world, involve them in a networking event

which would provide the opportunity to learn the most up-to-date knowledge and to build connections for future academic exchanges in their special field of study.

His wide-ranged research programs have resulted in an extensive list of publications and invited presentations. He authored or edited 12 books, authored or co-authored 28 separate book chapters, 200+ refereed journal articles, 60+ other peer reviewed articles, more than 250 published proceedings articles, and been awarded 12 U.S. patents. He also been invited to give 19 keynote speeches and 38 invited talks at international professional conferences, plus numerous invited seminars, and guest lectures at 60+ universities and research institutes worldwide. He has also given talks at more than a dozen major agricultural equipment manufacturers in North/South America, Europe, and Asia. He has also been an important part of the Department's graduate program: mentored/mentoring 9 PhD students as the major advisor and serving on numerous graduate student committees including 15 PhD committees and 6 MS committees.

Dr. Qin Zhang is a life member the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), and a life member of the Club of Bologna. His professional service included chairing several professional committees, chairing a few international conference organization or scientific committees, serving on journal editorial boards and book series editor. He has served as the Editor-in-Chief of Computers and Electronics in Agriculture from 2011 to 2021, and the Chair Editor of that Journal since 2022. He is also serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of Smart Agriculture Technologies, published by Springer Nature.