

Camilo de Lelis Morello

Dr Morello received a Bachelor degree in Agronomy from Santa Catarina State University in 1989, and a Master's degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Federal University of Lavras in 1992. He gained his Doctoral degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding from São Paulo University/"Luiz de Queiroz" College of Agriculture. He was a Visiting Scientist at Texas A&M University/Cotton Improvement Program in 2010/2011. Dr Morello was professor at Tocantins University from 1993 to 2001, teaching genetics and plant breeding. Since 2001, he is researcher at Embrapa/National Cotton Research Center and since 2006 he leads Embrapa's cotton breeding program. The current research activities are dedicated to the development of cotton germplasm adapted to the Brazilian "cerrado". The research group lead by Dr Morello released 15 cotton varieties, including conventional and GM cotton, achieving higher lint yield, resistance to tropical diseases, nematodes, fiber quality and earliness. The major contributions for Brazilian cotton improvement were BRS 336, a high quality fiber variety; BRS 372, a multiple diseases-resistant high-yielding variety, combining resistance to *Ramularia areola*, a leaf spot disease; CNPA GO 2010-139, an early and resistant to multiple diseases germplasm, and CNPA GO 2012-1167, a root knot nematode resistant and high fiber quality germplasm. He is the author in more than 20 scientific papers and four book chapters. He was honored as Embrapa's researcher of the year in 2010 and received Scientific Research Awards from Brazilian Cotton Congress in 2007, 2011 and 2013, for papers on "New sources of resistance to cotton ramularia leaf spot", "BRS 336: A high-quality fiber Upland cotton cultivar for the Brazilian cerrado" and "Leaf-level carbon isotope discrimination and its relationship with yield components as a tool for cotton phenotyping in unfavorable conditions", respectively.