

Rebecca Nelson is Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University. Her laboratory works on plant disease resistance and mycotoxin management, and on circular economy for organic resources, with a special interest in resource recovery from sanitation to agriculture.

From 2000-2021, she served as Scientific Director for The McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program, a grant-making program focused on supporting smallholder farmers' agroecological transitions in Africa and in the Andes. She has worked at the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru and at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

Rebecca received her BA from Swarthmore College and her PhD from the University of Washington. She was a MacArthur Fellow from 1996-2001.