

## **Življenjepis**

Anže Švara je po diplomi in magisteriju iz biotehnologije na Univerzi v Ljubljani doktoriral na KU Leuven v Belgiji, kjer se je ukvarjal z raziskavami odpornosti rastlin na bolezni. Svojo znanstveno pot je nadaljeval kot podoktorski raziskovalec na Cornell University v ZDA, kjer je poglobljajal znanje s področja genomike in žlahtnjenja sadnih vrst. Leta 2025 je postal docent na University of Saskatchewan v Kanadi, kjer vodi raziskave in razvoj novih sadnih sort odpornih na nizke temperature. Njegovo delo se osredotoča na uporabo genomskih pristopov za optimizacijo žlahtnjenja rastlin in izboljšanje odpornosti proti okoljskemu stresu in boleznim, kot je škrlup pri jabolkah. Je avtor številnih znanstvenih člankov v mednarodno priznanih revijah. Za svoje raziskovalno delo je prejel več uglednih nagrad in štipendij, vključno s štipendijami FWO in BAEF. Poleg raziskovanja je vključen v pedagoško delo, kjer predava in mentorira študente na različnih stopnjah študija. Sodeluje tudi v strokovnih združenjih ter kot recenzent in urednik v znanstvenih revijah.

### **Ponedeljek 13. aprila ob 15:00 A1 na Oddelku za agronomijo, Jamnikarjeva 101. Predavanje “Razvoj genomike sadnih vrst: študije jablane in inovacije na Univerzi v Saskatchewanu”**

Predstavil bo razvoj raziskav genomike v sadjarstvu s fokusom na jablani ter njihov pomen za sodobne žlahtniteljske programe. Poseben poudarek bo namenjen razvoju genomskih pristopov v jablani od platform za genotipizacijo jablan in referenčnih genomov do kartiranja kvalitativnih in kvantitativnih lastnosti za namen razumevanja evolucije, domestikacije in optimizacije žlahtnjenja jablane. Prikazano bo kako so bile genomske študije v preteklosti uporabljene v praksi, zlasti pri razumevanju genetske osnove pomembnih agronomskih lastnosti, kot so kakovost plodov, odpornost proti boleznim in prilagoditev na okoljske razmere. Del predavanja bo posvečen trenutnim in načrtovanim genomskim raziskavam pri jablani in drugih sadnih vrstah v okviru programa ki ga vodi Anže, USask Fruit Program v Saskatoonu v Kanadi. Predstavljeni bodo aktualni projekti, usmerjeni v integracijo genomskih, fenotipskih in okoljskih podatkov, ter raziskovalne in žlahtniteljske smernice. Predavanje bo zaključeno z razpravo o prihodnjih izzivih in priložnostih genomike v žlahtnjenju sadja in trajnostnem sadjarstvu.

### **Ponedeljek 20. aprila ob 14:00 A1 na Oddelku za agronomijo, Jamnikarjeva 101. Predavanje in konzultacije “Razvoj in financiranju mednarodne kariere poti v akademskem svetu”**

Predavanje bo diskusijsko zasnovano in bo ponudilo vpogled v gradnjo uspešne mednarodne študijske in raziskovalne kariere. Na podlagi osebnih izkušenj bo predavatelj predstavil ključne faze poti od študenta v Sloveniji do vodenja mednarodno usmerjenega raziskovalnega programa. Udeleženci bodo imeli priložnost razmisliti o svojih kariernih poteh in prepoznati strategije, ki lahko podprejo njihov akademski in profesionalni razvoj v tujini.

Predavanje se bo osredotočilo na pet ključnih tem: Kje začeti? Kako izbrati ustrezen študijski ali raziskovalni program? Kako vzpostaviti stik z mednarodnim mentorjem? Kako pridobiti

financiranje za študij, raziskovanje in mobilnost? Kaj je pomembno v izbirnih postopkih in kako izstopati?

Predavanje je namenjeno študentom magistrskega, doktorskega študija in raziskovalcem na začetku kariere, ki razmišljajo o mednarodnih akademskih ali raziskovalnih priložnostih ali se nanje pripravljajo.

### **Biography**

Anže Švara obtained his BSc and MSc in Biotechnology from the University of Ljubljana and completed his PhD at KU Leuven in Belgium, where he focused on research on plant disease resistance. He continued his scientific career as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University in the USA, where he deepened his expertise in genomics and fruit crop breeding. In 2025, he became an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, where he leads research and the development of new fruit varieties resistant to low temperatures. His work focuses on the application of genomic approaches to optimize plant breeding and improve resistance to environmental stress and diseases such as apple scab. He is the author of numerous scientific publications in internationally recognized journals. For his research, he has received several prestigious awards and fellowships, including FWO and BAEF fellowships. In addition to research, he is actively involved in teaching, lecturing and mentoring students at various levels. He also participates in professional associations and serves as a reviewer and editor for scientific journals.

**Monday, April 13 at 15:00, Room A1, Department of Agronomy, Jamnikarjeva 101**

**Lecture: “Advances in Fruit Crop Genomics: Apple Case Studies and Innovations at the University of Saskatchewan”**

The lecture will present the development of genomics research in fruit science with a focus on apple and its importance for modern breeding programs. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of genomic approaches in apple, from genotyping platforms and reference genomes to the mapping of qualitative and quantitative traits aimed at understanding evolution, domestication, and breeding optimization. It will demonstrate how genomic studies have been applied in practice, especially in understanding the genetic basis of key agronomic traits such as fruit quality, disease resistance, and environmental adaptation. Part of the lecture will be dedicated to current and planned genomic research in apple and other fruit crops within the USask Fruit Program in Saskatoon, Canada, led by Anže. Ongoing projects focused on integrating genomic, phenotypic, and environmental data, as well as research and breeding directions, will be presented. The lecture will conclude with a discussion on future challenges and opportunities of genomics in fruit breeding and sustainable fruit production.

**Monday, April 20 at 14:00, Room A1, Department of Agronomy, Jamnikarjeva 101**

**Lecture and consultations: “Developing and Funding an International Academic Career Path”**

This discussion-based lecture will provide insight into building a successful international academic and research career. Drawing on personal experience, the speaker will present key stages of the journey from being a student in Slovenia to leading an internationally oriented research program. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their own career paths and identify strategies that can support their academic and professional development abroad.

The lecture will focus on five key topics: Where to begin? How to choose the right study or research program? How to establish contact with an international supervisor? How to secure funding for studies, research, and mobility? What matters in selection processes, and how to stand out?

The lecture is intended for MSc, and PhD students, as well as early-career researchers who are considering or preparing for international academic or research opportunities.