

## Education and Credentials

<b>Doctor of Philosophy, Civil Eng. (Hydrology and Water Resources)</b> Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI Dissertation: <i>GIS-Enabled Modeling of Michigan's Groundwater Systems</i>	<b>2006 – 2010</b>
<b>Doctor of Philosophy, Political Sci. and Geo. Eng. (Coursework)</b> Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey Coursework and Dissertation Research: <i>Transboundary groundwater modeling and conflict resolution for the management of water resources shared by Syria and Turkey</i>	<b>2004 – 2006</b>
<b>Master of Science, Hydrogeological Engineering</b> Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey Thesis: <i>Hydrogeological Investigation of the Coastal and Submarine Karstic Discharges Between Kalkan and Kekova (Southwestern Turkey)</i>	<b>2002 – 2004</b>
<b>Bachelor of Science, Hydrogeological Engineering, with Honors</b> Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey	<b>1998 – 2002</b>
<b>Seedsperson Registration</b> Florida Department of Agriculture West Virginia Department of Agriculture	<b>2024 – Present</b> <b>2018 – 2024</b>

## Professional Experience

<b>Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Response (RIDER) Center</b> <b>FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Tallahassee, FL</b> <b>Director of Community Engagement and Communications (full-time)</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://rider.eng.famu.fsu.edu">rider.eng.famu.fsu.edu</a></b>	<b>2024 – Present</b>
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RIDER is a research-intensive engineering center positioned in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering with 16 affiliated faculty and \$6+ million in total grant expenditures in 2024. 14 faculty are housed in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and 2 faculty are housed in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. Research accomplished at the Center focuses on advancing the quality of life in the communities in Florida and the Southeast region by identifying disaster response, improving infrastructure, investigating ways to minimize negative impacts of natural disasters, and developing new methods for economic and environmental sustainability.

- Communicate and collaborate with academic units at FAMU and FSU, including the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, FAMU Extension, and colleges at both institutions such as the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education, College of Nursing, FSU National MagLab and the Challenger Learning Center among others, and with local and regional non-profit organizations to maintain existing and build new community and research partnerships to advance the Center's community engagement, outreach and research profiles.
- Assist faculty for the development of community engagement and outreach components of their grant proposals for state and federal sponsoring agencies such as DOT, FDOT, NSF, DEP, and USDA among others.
- Lead the Center's re-branding efforts for community engagement, outreach and fundraising purposes.

- Write best practices documents and MOUs, when needed, for internal needs and to be used to streamline expectations from research and outreach collaborations with external partners.
- Organize workshops such as *how to write for public* workshops to improve the Center-affiliated faculty's publicly engaged research communication skills.
- Organize events that bring regional researchers and community stakeholders from North Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, Ohio and Florida together to expand the Center's outreach and research capacity in the southeast region.
- Organize the Center's faculty and student orientation.
- Initiate and organize the Center's research seminar series.
- Oversee the Center's social media accounts for engagement with academic and non-academic communities.
- Supervise the Center's Science Communication Team (SciCom) for daily and creative tasks, including preparation of coloring books for STEM education for kids and lab brochures to communicate research with general audiences.
- Lead the organization of on and off-campus community engagement events including public center tours, outreach events at Title-I elementary schools, tours for middle and high school students, open house events, and tours for prospective and existing community and academic research partners among others.
- Prepare and update the Manual for Standard Operating Procedures to streamline day-to-day functioning of the Center.
- Manage, re-design and re-organize the Center's website.
- Engage faculty and help with grant proposals to initiate the Center's sustainable agriculture research track to target USDA grants for farmer-centered research projects.
- Represent the Center at college events to engage with domestic undergraduate students to recruit them for graduate studies to do research with the Center's faculty researchers.
- Collaborate with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering establish micro-credentials/continuing education programming designed for working professionals and the public.
- Took the lead to establish the Center's online foundation and fundraising presence for fundraising campaigns with specific priorities and general donations.
- Create the Center's newsletter and organize and segment email lists for the alumni, community contacts, and current and potential sponsors to disseminate research news for relationship building and donor cultivation purposes.
- Work, communicate and collaborate with faculty, students and staff from vibrant, multi-cultural and multi-lingual backgrounds.

**WVU, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, Morgantown, WV**

**2018 – 2024**

**Service Assistant Professor (part-time)**

**Dean's Office**

**2021 – 2024**

**Department of Geology & Geography**

**2018 – 2021**

- Established and organized Seedy Talks for Eberly College at WVU, introducing the nationally known speaking series for community engagement and outreach with a focus on topics related to food security, seed and food sovereignty, local economies, and food and farm traditions of underrepresented minoritized communities.
- Enhanced Eberly College's and WVU's profile across the fields of food security through a variety of publicly engaged activities, workshops, and media appearances, which also helped close the communication gap between the University and communities in and beyond West Virginia.
- Organized workshops to improve faculty skills and knowledge in publicly engaged scholarship and research, strengthening students' academic experience at WVU.
- Collaborated with WVU faculty across the institution to write interdisciplinary grants for rural communities in West Virginia.

- Facilitated and organized numerous speaking events at the University, in addition to conducting a variety of workshops and special events. Details available in later CV listings.
- Reported directly to dean and associate dean for project development and success, and post-project evaluation purposes.

**Two Seeds in a Pod Heirloom Seed Company**

**2013 – Present**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**2024 – Present**

**Reedsville, WV**

**2018 – 2024**

**Tampa, FL**

**2013 – 2018**

**Co-Founder / Co-Owner**

**Website: [twoseedsinapod.com](http://twoseedsinapod.com)**

- Built and established an heirloom seed company, introducing more than 150 new agricultural seed varieties to the commercial seed market for small farmers and home gardeners across the U.S. to grow, spurring homestead production, community-supported agriculture, and farmers' markets.
- Farmed in urban and rural settings in Florida and in rural settings in West Virginia for over 13 years and in two very different hardiness zones and under challenging climate conditions.
- Coordinated and led community seed saving workshops and farm tours on the company farm to enhance community-based experiential learning.
- Created the only publicly available comprehensive seed grower's manual to specifically guide beginner-level seed growers and farmers through fundamental operations of commercial seed production.
- Effectively prepared contracts and worked with farmers across the U.S. to produce commercial quality seeds for the company's seed catalog and to fulfill existing seed contracts.
- Served on the Slow Food Ark of Taste Committee for the South.
- Gained 13 years' experience in business management and marketing for an online seed company selling more than 250 commercial seed varieties and other products.

**Anatolian Seeds Recovery and Preservation (ANATOHUM) Project**

**2012 – Present**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**2024 – Present**

**Reedsville, WV**

**2018 – 2024**

**Tampa, FL**

**2012 – 2018**

**Founder / Seed Keeper / Farmer / Curator / Public Scholar**

- Spearheaded evaluation and documentation of hundreds of open-pollinated seed varieties from Turkey via ANATOHUM Project, archiving cultural and traditional significance, as well as culinary uses.
- Worked with the USDA plant germplasm system to evaluate a variety of seed accessions for potential commercial production and plant breeding projects.
- Evaluated, documented, and commercially introduced dozens of open-pollinated agricultural crops for yield, flavor, disease tolerance, and adaptability to changing climate conditions in Florida and West Virginia.
- Engaged with regional seed companies and organizations, including Southern Exposure Seed Exchange (VA), Uprising Seeds (WA), The Utopian Seed Project (NC), Avoca Seed (OR), and Sow True Seed (NC), for interregional seed evaluations and preservation studies.
- Collaborated with local farmers and community gardens to test plant performances in variable field settings and growing conditions.
- Partnered with a small restaurant in Safety Harbor, FL, to explore market potential of heirloom seeds within the restaurant kitchen.

**Co-founder and website administrator**

**Website: [seedgrowers.org](http://seedgrowers.org)**

- Conceptualized and organized an online platform that brings seed professionals together to create a free, publicly available information database on topics related to commercial seed production, American seed industry, community-based seed saving, cultural preservation for seeds and seed justice.

**Culturally-Informed Community Seed (CICS) Pledge**

**2025 – Present**

**Co-creator**

**Website: [cicspledge.org](http://cicspledge.org)**

- Co-developed the Code of Ethics as an evaluation metric for small seed industry accountability and a market enhancement measure to help consumers identify companies, seed growers and/or farmers committed to equity and increased cultural competency in their seed work.

**Morgantown Seed Preservation Library, Morgantown, WV**

**2018 – 2024**

**Founder**

Coordinated Seedy Talks speaker series with a focus on food security and environmental studies. Organized community engagement events, including community seed swaps that promoted cultural preservation and storytelling for food traditions.

- Developed a technical manual to establish a public seed browsing and checkout system for the use of Morgantown Public Library patrons.
- Worked with WVU Library staff to create an online seed display system for Appalachian seed varieties.

**Michigan State University, Dept. of Civil & Env. Eng., East Lansing, MI**

**2006 – 2010**

**Research Assistant / Ph.D. Student**

**Workshops / Events**

**Presenter**

1. *Öztan, M. (2024). Publicly Engaged Communication*, workshop for *New Faculty Academy*, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, West Virginia University, 06 February 2024.
2. *Growing seeds and seeds' cultural significance*, workshop for senior citizens at the Westside Senior Center, Westover, WV, 15 April 2022.
3. *Seed saving*, workshop for Morgantown community members, Morgantown Public Library, Aull Center, Morgantown, 5 April 2022.
4. *Seed saving*, workshop and farm tour, Reedsville, WV, organizer, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.

**Organizer**

1. *Rooted in Resilience: Farmers and Researchers Respond to Disasters and Disruptions* summit, RIDER Center, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, 3-4 February 2026.
2. *Faculty and student orientation*, RIDER Center, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, 18 April 2025.
3. *Graduate student research poster and essay competition*, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, 4 April 2025.
4. *How to write for the public (and not just your academic peers)*, workshop for faculty and staff at the RIDER Center, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Presenter: Dr. Cynthia Greenlee, September-October 2024.
5. *Uprooting Racism in the Food System*, training for faculty and staff at the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences,

- WVU, and non-profit farming organizations across WV (Facilitators: Naima Penniman and Leah Penniman, Soul Fire Farm), 20 January 2022.
6. *How to write for the public (and not just your academic peers)*, workshop for Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, WVU, Presenter: Dr. Cynthia Greenlee, 21 September 2022.
  7. *Eberly Eats!: Celebrating Our Communities*, A college-sponsored community dinner with a focus on engagement of a rural community in Valscreek, West Virginia, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, WVU, 26 October 2022.
  8. *Seed of Art Exhibit*, WVU Downtown Campus Library, Morgantown, WV, Organizer, October-November 2019.
  9. *Meetings among WVU faculty and Valscreek (McDowell County, WV) community to incubate grant applications and future collaborations on local economic development projects*, WVU, Organizer, 27-28 October 2022.

## Publications

### Publicly Accessible Publications

1. Öztan, M. (2023). Fundamentals of Commercial Seed Production in West Virginia. <https://twoseedsinapod.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Fundamentals-of-Commercial-Seed-Production-in-West-Virginia.pdf>.
2. Öztan, M. (2023). Wheat, In H. Bae and A. Oelsner, *Companion Planting Zine*. Second Generation Seeds. <https://www.secondgenerationseeds.com/companion-planting>.
3. Öztan, M. (2022). Grief and growing: An immigrant seed keeper's story of cultivating connection. In C. Greenlee, *Crop Stories: Collards* (pp 38-44). The Utopian Seed Project.

### Journal Articles

1. Oztan, M., and M. Axelrod. (2011). Sustainable transboundary groundwater management under shifting political scenarios: the Ceylanpinar Aquifer and Turkey-Syria relations. *Water International*, 36 (5), 663-677.
2. Bayari, S., N. N. Ozyurt, M. Oztan, Y. Bastanlar, G. Varinlioglu, H. Koyuncu, H. Ulkenli, and S. Hamarat. (2010). Submarine and coastal karstic groundwater discharges along the southwestern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. *Hydrogeology Journal*, 19 (2), 399-414.

### Book Chapters

1. Rodriguez, F. and M. Öztan (2025). Traditional knowledge in community-based seed work in the American Southeast: An Analysis of Small-scale American Seed Industry with Regional Case Studies. In *Re-imagining Food Systems: Connecting Research with Citizen Politics*. Vernon Press. *In print*.
2. Li, S. G., H. S. Liao, S. Afshari, M. Oztan, H. Abbas, and R. Mandle. (2009). A GIS-enabled hierarchical patch dynamics paradigm for modeling complex groundwater systems. In Hanrahan G. (Ed.) *Modeling of pollutants in complex environmental systems* (pp. 177-216). Glendale, AZ: ILM Publications.

### Media Appearances

### Newspaper and Magazine Articles

1. Skinner, J. (2025, July 15). Adapting taste to the changing climate. *Gravy*. <https://www.newsbreak.com/rough-draft-atlanta-1587615/4109960367790-in-my-garden-adapting-taste-to-the-changing-climate>.
2. Costello, M. (2023, February 3). Making Pictures of the Animals We Eat, Food for Thought. *National Gallery of Art*. <https://www.nga.gov/stories/making-pictures-of-the-animals-we-eat.html>.

3. Cohen, B. (2022, April 23). Meet the Modern Farmer Saving Turkey's Heirloom Seeds. *Modern Farmer*. <https://modernfarmer.com/2022/04/two-seeds-in-a-pod-turkish-heirloom-seeds/>.
4. Kasey, P. (2022, April 12). The Seed Keepers. *WV Living Magazine*. <https://wvliving.com/the-seed-keepers/>.
5. Costello, M. (2020, December 18). Behind the podcast: Producer's field notes from the Pickle Shelf Radio Hour. *The Daily Yonder*. <https://dailyyonder.com/behind-the-podcast-producers-field-notes-from-the-pickle-shelf-radio-hour/2020/12/18/>
6. Costello, M. (2020, December 7). Connections to home, family roots, and more: Seed saving in pictures. *The Daily Yonder*. <https://dailyyonder.com/connections-to-home-family-roots-and-more-seed-saving-in-pictures/2020/12/07/>
7. Cotrill, C. (2020, February 11). Morgantown Public Library takes on planting, seeds with emerging service. *The Morgantown News*. [https://www.wvnews.com/morgantownnews/news/morgantown-public-library-takes-on-planting-seeds-with-emerging-service/article\\_08b46192-3440-53a8-afe5-9f706920b1aa.html](https://www.wvnews.com/morgantownnews/news/morgantown-public-library-takes-on-planting-seeds-with-emerging-service/article_08b46192-3440-53a8-afe5-9f706920b1aa.html)
8. Nierenberg, A. (2019, December 3). Serving up West Virginia history, not all of it sweet. *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/03/dining/west-virginia-food-history.html>
9. Swisher, K. (2019). The Flavor of West Virginia. *WVU Eberly College magazine*.
10. Hebel, H. (2019). WVU professors plant the seeds of history through heirloom seed preservation. *The Daily Athenaeum*.
11. Young, M. (2019, September 1). Preserving the seeds of history, one plot at a time. *Charleston Gazette*. [https://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/gardening/preserving-the-seeds-of-history-one-plot-at-a-time/article\\_fe74fd11-1e8d-5806-9c68-683ea2976052.html](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/gardening/preserving-the-seeds-of-history-one-plot-at-a-time/article_fe74fd11-1e8d-5806-9c68-683ea2976052.html)
12. Reiley, L. (2019, January 28). After 26 years, Sweetwater Organic Community Farm in Tampa calls it quits. *Tampa Bay Times*. <https://www.tampabay.com/food-news/after-26-years-sweetwater-organic-community-farm-in-tampa-calls-it-quits-20190128/>
13. Reiley, L. (2018, February 1). Top 50 restaurants of Tampa Bay-Pizzeria Gregario. *Tampa Bay Times*. <https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2018/food/top-50-restaurants/>
14. Kerr, M. (2014). Heirloom harvester. *Edible Tampa Bay*. <https://edibletampabay.ediblecommunities.com/things-do/harvesting-heirloom-seeds-preserves-cultural-heritage>

## Podcasts

1. Munniksma, L. (2022, December 21). Growing Good with Dr. Mehmet Öztan [Audio podcast episode]. In *Hobby Farms* podcast series. <https://www.hobbyfarms.com/podcasts/>.
2. Costello, M. and A. Dawson. (2020). Obsessions, Love Affairs and Other Seedy Stories [Audio podcast episode]. In *The Pickle Shelf Radio Hour*. <https://www.pickleshelfradio.com/>
3. Smith, C. (2020, September 15). Grand Mother Okra [Audio podcast episode]. In *The Okra Podcast*. <https://theokrapodcast.buzzsprout.com/1218326/5443858-grand-mother-okra-featuring-mehmet-oztan-and-vivien-sansour>

## Publications Featured In

1. Öztan, M. (2020). Untitled chapter, In B. Cohen, *Salvando nuestras semillas: La Práctica y filosofía* (pp 64-67). Small House.
2. Öztan, M. (2019). Untitled chapter, In B. Cohen, *Saving our seeds: The practice & philosophy* (pp. 64-67). Small House.

## Citations in Books

1. Smith, Chris. (2026). *Saved By Seeds: Embracing Diversity, Adaptation, and Resilience*. Chelsea Green Publishing. In print.
2. Goldman, Amy. (2019). *The melon* (pp. 219). City Point Press.
3. Smith, Chris. (2019). *The whole okra: A stem to stem celebration* (pp. 201, 230). Chelsea Green Publishing.

## **Documentary / Television Appearances**

1. Costello, M., A. Dawson. (2021, September 15). *Homegrown Foodways in West Virginia: Turkish Cuisine and Seed Keeping with Mehmet Öztan* [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6ZkPZNj3k8>.
2. Hudock, M. (2019, April 12). *Morgantown geographer establishes seed preservation library*. WBOY 12 News. <https://www.wboy.com/news/local/monongalia-and-preston/morgantown-geographer-establishes-seed-preservation-library/>

## **Audio Recording**

1. Öztan, M. (2025). Grief and growing: An immigrant seed keeper's story of cultivating connection [Speech audio recording]. Crop Stories: Collards. <https://www.utopianseed.org/crop-stories-podcast>.

## **Speaking Engagements and Presentations**

### **Organizer / Facilitator / Developer of Co-curricular Activities– Teaching / Curriculum Development**

1. Tartt, J. and Bandy, A. (2022). Seedy Talks 10: Social justice and community work in McDowell County [Online presentation], West Virginia University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC2CTtVZgjM>.
2. Sinclair, R. and Traverse, T. (2022). Seedy Talks 9: The importance of Indigenous worldview in climate adaptation and policy [Online presentation], West Virginia University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JWVmLgBJg4>.
3. Hoover, E. (2022). Seedy Talks 8: From garden warriors to good seeds: Native American food and seed sovereignty movements [Online presentation], West Virginia University.
4. Leach, K., Suzara A., and Öztan M. (2021). Seedy Talks 7: Our fields, our seeds, our meals [Online presentation], West Virginia University.
5. Hall, J. (2021). Seedy Talks 6: Hunting while Black [Online presentation], West Virginia University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGzgzKIsC0Q>.
6. Schlager, N. (2020). Seedy Talks 5: 110 days, 100 degrees Fahrenheit [Online presentation], West Virginia University.
7. Leach, K. (2020). Seedy Talks 4: Race, culture, and language of seeds [Online presentation], West Virginia University.
8. Costello, M. (2020). Seedy Talks 3: Appalachians don't owe these companies anything, these companies owe Appalachia the world, West Virginia University.
9. Greene, K. (2019). Seedy Talks 2: When you plant a seed, you are growing a story, West Virginia University.
10. Wallace, I. (2019). Seedy Talks 1: I have a dream of good seed and access to good food for everyone, West Virginia University.
11. Costello, M., Lohnes, J., and Palfrey S. (2019). Morgantown Seed Preservation Library inaugural discussion panel West Virginia University.
12. Course Supervisor – Doctoral Student in Special Topics Course, Antioch University Ed.D. Program, Environmental & Sustainability Education, 2023 - 2024

## **Course Supervisor**

1. Rodriguez, F. (2024). Equity-centered food justice in rural communities [Special Topics Course], College of Education, Antioch University.
2. Rodriguez, F. (2024). Cultural Preservation Through Food, Seed, and Farming [Special Topics Course], College of Education, Antioch University.
3. Rodriguez, F. (2023). Equity and Justice Issues in the Small-scale Seed Industry [Special Topics Course], College of Education, Antioch University.

## Invited Speaker

1. Öztan, M. (2025). *On the path to forming our public scholar identities*, [Personal communication], Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate seminar, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
2. Öztan, M. (2024). *Culturally-Informed Community Seed (CICS) Pledge in the Context of the American Southeast*, [Online presentation], Jacksonville State University, Chemistry and Geosciences colloquium, Jacksonville, AL.
3. Öztan, M. (2023). *My field is my home* [Personal communication], Geography Department Colloquium, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
4. Dexter, L. and Öztan, M. (2021). *Seed saving and story-telling* [Online presentation], West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program Virtual Showcase.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_VCOfDRjSg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_VCOfDRjSg).
5. Öztan, M. (2021). *Seed saving and cultural significance of seeds* [Personal communication], Horticulture Club guest lecture series, Davis College, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.
6. Öztan, M. (2021). *Preservation of and seed selection for culturally appropriate squash varieties* [Online presentation], *Seed Stewards*, Davis, CA.
7. Öztan, M. (2021). *Seed saving and commercial seed production in West Virginia* [Personal communication], WV Small Farm Conference, West Virginia University Extension, Charleston, WV.
8. Öztan, M. (2020). *Seed saving* [Personal communication], North Elementary School, Morgantown, WV.
9. Öztan, M. (2020). *Seed saving* [Personal communication], Marion County Master Gardener Association, Fairmont, WV.
10. Öztan, M. (2019). *Seeds' role in climate action* [Personal communication], Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Green Sanctuary speaker series, Morgantown, WV.
11. Öztan, M. (2019). *The importance of cultivation of open-pollinated seed varieties* [Personal communication], Nourishing Networks Training Conference, West Virginia University, Weston, WV.
12. Öztan, M. (2019). *Relocating a Seed Company: Our Journey from Florida to West Virginia* [Personal communication], National Heirloom Expo, Santa Rosa, CA.
13. Öztan, M. (2019). *Commercial production of open-pollinated seeds in West Virginia* [Personal communication], West Virginia Small Farm Conference, West Virginia University Extension Charleston, WV.
14. Öztan, M. (2018). *Morgantown Seed Preservation Library: Protecting biodiversity, cultivating human stories* [Personal communication], Geography Colloquium, Department of Geology & Geography, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.

## Panelist

1. Barnhart, C., F. Davis, and M. Öztan (2026). *Farmers & Ranchers: Unique Challenges and Partnerships*, Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute.
2. Farner, J., M. Öztan, and C. Smith (2026). *Farmers and Researchers Report from the Field, Rooted In Resilience food systems resilience summit*, RIDER Center, FAMU & FSU College of Engineering.
3. Embry, J., S. Doyle, M. Geronimo, A. Mitchell, and M. Öztan (2022). *Planning for Seedy Futures* [Online communication], Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) conference, University of Kentucky.
4. Breen, H., S. Buffalo, C. LeHoullier, M. Öztan, and S. Straate. (2022). *The Power of Seed Names: Can we do better?* [Online communication], Organic Seed Growers conference, Organic Seed Alliance.
5. Leach, K. M. Öztan, A. Suzara. (2021). *Our fields, our seeds, our meals: Domestication of wheat* [Online presentation], Seedy Talks speaker series, West Virginia University.
6. Costello, M., A. Dawson, J. Hall, M. McClendon, and M. Öztan (2021). *Homegrown Foodways in West Virginia* [Online communication], Library of Congress.
7. Maples, S., M. Nelson, M. Öztan, J. Quattrone, C. Tennesen. (2021). *A panel of seed stories* [Online presentation], Slow Seed Summit, Slow Food USA, New York, NY.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIcK-xhA06M>.

8. Costello, M., J. Hall, M. Öztan. (2020). *A panel about self-provisioning* [Online communication], Food Justice Lab, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.
9. Kleinman, N., A. Mitchell, M. Öztan, K. Perkins, and V. Sansour (2020). *Seed stories* [Personal communication], Organic Seed Growers Conference, Organic Seed Alliance, Corvallis, OR.

## Presentations

1. Öztan, M. (2010). Modeling complex groundwater systems at a regional-scale: Use of multi-scale data for the development of Michigan's statewide groundwater models. Oral presentation in *American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Specialty Conference: GIS and Water Resources VI*, Orlando, FL.
2. Öztan, M. (2009). Use of GIS-based groundwater modeling for regional-scale flow analysis in Michigan. Invited speaker in *CDM Consulting Firm Groundwater Professional Seminar Series*, Orlando, FL.
3. Öztan, M. (2009). Managing Michigan's groundwater resources in 21<sup>st</sup> century: New data sources, enabling technologies, and real-time decision support. Poster presentation in *American Water Works Association Annual Conference and Exposition*, San Diego, CA.
4. Öztan, M. (2009). A GIS-Enabled Hierarchical Patch Dynamics Paradigm for Delineation of Well Head Protection Areas Across Multiple Spatial Scales. Poster presentation in *Michigan Section American Water Works Association Young Professionals Poster Competition*, Lansing, MI.
5. Öztan, M. (2006). Modeling complex groundwater systems at a regional scale: From a "data-poor" paradigm to a "data-rich" paradigm. Oral presentation in *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

## Grants

1. A National Consortium for Just-in-Time, AI-Enhanced, Place-Based Environmental Education Training, Environmental Protection Agency, 2026, \$6,320,000 (total budget), pending.
2. Integrating Living Shorelines into Coastal Resilience Planning for Apalachee Bay, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Senior Personnel, 2026, \$600,000 (total budget), pending.
3. United States Department of Agriculture, "Extending the Season for High-Value Crops through Proactive Thermal Management", Co-Investigator, 2025, \$650,000 (total budget), pending.
4. National Science Foundation, "An Integrated AI System Tackling the Full Cycle of Hurricane-Fueled Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface of the Florida Panhandle", Senior Personnel, 2025, \$2,322,053 (total budget), funded.
5. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, "Integrating Living Shorelines into Coastal Resilience Planning for Apalachee Bay (FL)", Senior Personnel, 2025, \$600,000 (total budget), not funded.
6. National Science Foundation, "SCC-IRG: Mitigating Emergency Evacuation Conflicts Arising from Sustainable Technologies to Enhance Disaster Resilience", Senior Personnel, 2025, \$1,500,000 (total budget), not funded.
7. National Science Foundation, "SAFE: Smart AI-driven Fraud Elimination in Disaster-Affected Communities", Senior Personnel, 2025, \$1,500,000 (total budget), not funded.
8. National Science Foundation, "Advancing AI-Empowered Natural Hazard Management over Localized Community Networks", Senior Personnel, 2025, \$1,500,000 (total budget), pending.
9. Florida State University, "A pilot Project to Assess the Providence Community's Needs for Research Through Educational Programming for Food Security", Co-Investigator, 2025, \$15,000 (total budget), funded.
10. United States Department of Agriculture, "Microplastics in Farmlands after Hurricanes", Key Personnel, 2024, \$300,000 (total budget), not funded.
11. United States Department of Agriculture, "Enhanced Energy Efficiency and Crop Growth in Urban Farming", Co-Investigator, 2024, \$650,000 (total budget), not funded.

12. United States Department of Agriculture, “Working Lands of Central Appalachia”, Key personnel, 2022, \$8,500,000.00, funded. [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Maryland/news-releases/2023/stnr\\_md\\_202306232023\\_rel\\_0043](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Maryland/news-releases/2023/stnr_md_202306232023_rel_0043).
13. United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency, “Anchoring Equity in Agriculture Production, Business Development, and Market Access in West Virginia”, Co-Investigator, 2022, \$3,499,999.93, not funded.
14. United States Department of Agriculture-Sustainable Research and Education program partnership grant, “Training Small Farmers for Commercial Seed Production while Exploring Profitability of Annual Vegetable Seed Crops in West Virginia”, Principal Investigator, 2021, \$16,996.00, funded.
15. West Virginia Folklife, “Seed Saving and Story-telling,” Apprenticeship Program, Principal Investigator, 2021, \$3,000. Funded.
16. United States Department of Agriculture-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, “Training Small Farmers and Evaluating Regional Heirloom Tomatoes for Commercial Seed Production in West Virginia”, Principal Investigator, 2020, \$22,570, not funded.
17. United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, “Developing an Heirloom Seed Market in West Virginia: Training Farmers for Seed Conservation and Commercial Seed Production”, Principal Investigator, 2019, \$423,134.0, not funded.
18. West Virginia Humanities Council Grant, “Seedy Talks: Morgantown Seed Preservation Library Speaker Series,” Principal Investigator, 2019, \$2,600, funded.
19. West Virginia University-Community Engagement Grant, “Preserving Seeds of West Virginia, Cultivating Human Stories,” Principal Investigator, 2019, \$10,000, not funded.
20. Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program-Farmer Grant, “Developing and Appalachian Model for Heirloom Vegetable Seed Production,” Project Advisor, 2018, \$15,000, not funded.
21. Michigan State University-Center for Water Sciences & Environmental Science & Policy Program Innovation Grant, “Modeling Groundwater Flows under Enhanced Turkey-Syria Relations,” Consultant, 2011, \$20,000, funded.
22. National Science Foundation, “Transboundary Management for Groundwater Sustainability in a Climate-threatened Region: Ceylanpinar Aquifer and Southeast Anatolia,” Consultant, 2011, \$150,000, not funded.
23. United States Institute of Peace, “Enhanced Turkey-Syria Relations through Sustainable Aquifer Management in Southeastern Anatolia,” Consultant, 2011, \$119,960, not funded.
24. Department of Defense, “The Transboundary Aquifers and Geopolitics of Environmental Stress,” Consultant, 2011, \$2,651,323, not funded.
25. Middle East Technical University research grant, “Optimum Water Resources Management of the Transboundary Ceylanpinar Aquifer,” 2005, \$5,000, funded.

### **Affiliations and Committee Membership**

- Apalachee Regional Resilience Collaborative, FL, Member, May 2025 – present.
- Economic Development Greater East, McDowell County, WV, Board member, October 2022 – present.
- Conscious Harvest Cooperative, Morgantown, WV, Board Member, November 2018 – December 2019.
- Grassroots Seed Network, Board Member, March 2019 – December 2021.
- Slow Food USA Ark of Taste Committee for the South, Member, January 2018 – January 2022.

### **Awards**

- Öztan, M. (2024). Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship, Reedsville, West Virginia.
- Öztan, M. (2024). James Beard Foundation leadership award in *Industry Culture and Practices* category [Nominated].

- Öztan, M. (2009). 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in AWWA's National Young Professionals poster competition, ACE '09, San Diego, California.
- Öztan, M. (2009). Best student poster in the Michigan Section of AWWA's Young Professionals poster competition, East Lansing, Michigan.

## **Skills**

- 13 years of business management and marketing experience
- Strong ability to use local and SAAS-based Customer Relationship Management systems such as Brevo, Emma and WordPress systems such as MailPoet, Newsletter and FluentCRM.
- Strong past and current ability and experience using groundwater modeling (Argus ONE, Interactive Ground Water, Visual MODFLOW), GIS (ArcGIS, MapInfo Professional), programming (MATLAB) and MS Office (Excel\Powerpoint\Word) software applications, MS Windows operating system, Joomla, Wordpress, WooCommerce, Drupal, Canva, and PHP forum software applications
- Beginner level skills in filmmaking and Filmora and DaVinci Resolve video editing software applications
- Publishing experience in academic/peer-reviewed and publicly accessible writing venues
- Excellent oral/written communication and technical writing skills
- High aptitude for utilization and conceptualization of technical computer applications