

Mark graduated from Purdue University in May of 2019 with a triple major in Biological Engineering, Biochemistry, and Plant Breeding. He was named the Outstanding Senior in Biological Engineering.

His overall goal is to be a professional engineer and expert in plant-based circular systems. His focus is discovering, breeding and using plants and other environmentally-friendly means to engineer biological systems that improve water efficiency and quality as well as yield other benefits.

In addition to hands-on growing experience in Iowa, Mark worked with small-holder farmers in India as a Borlaug-Ruan Intern for two months at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. He also interned at CIMMYT in Mexico for five months during a Bridge Year and interned at DuPont Pioneer for four summers during college.

At Purdue, he has been involved with research projects studying plant epigenetics and advanced phenotyping. Mark gained real life experience living in a closed-loop system for two weeks as part of the Purdue crew to the simulated Mars Desert Research Station. As the Greenhab officer, his main project was growing and studying microgreens as a way to improve astronaut nutrition and provide fresh greens for the crew. Building on this experience, his senior design project in Biological Engineering was to develop a closed-loop system for growing microgreens that was recognized for a significant reduction in water use.

### **Contact Information**

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