



## The NASA Deep Space Food Challenge

Martha L. Orozco-Cárdenas (Co-Principal Investigator), Director of the Plant Transformation Research Center (PTRC-BPS), and Professor Feng Jiao of Washington University in St. Louis, won \$250,000 as runners-up in NASA's prestigious Deep Space Food Challenge. The team developed a novel food production system utilizing artificial photosynthesis described in Nature Food.

The NASA Deep Space Food Challenge is an international competition focused on creating innovative, compact, and resource-efficient food production technologies to support both Earth-based and space missions. Teams faced tight deadlines and were challenged to push the boundaries of science and engineering to deliver systems capable of producing nutritious food for long-duration space exploration.

Team NoLux's success was driven by a fusion of biology and engineering, highlighting the power of creativity and cross-disciplinary collaboration in addressing complex global challenges. In collaboration with the design and engineering firm Seedorina USA, the team developed groundbreaking technology. Other key contributors to NoLux's success from UCR included graduate students Amy Do, Annie Shelton, Marcus Harland-Dunaway, Elizabeth Hansdkndskn, Associate Professor Robert Jinkerson and Assistant Specialist Andres Narváez.

