

**Covering Environments--The CEAC Monthly Seminars**

**THE BIRTH OF AN AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION:  
CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE**

**December 11, 2015 @ 4:00pm**

**Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, 1951 Roger Rd**

**Merle Jensen, PhD Professor Emeritus, Plant Sciences Dept, CALS UofA**

If you believe in reincarnation, you will insist that Merle Jensen started his career about 3000 years ago when water gardens were first established in Babylon, Egypt, China and Aztec-Mexico.



No matter your belief, modern Hydroponics, for food production, owes much of its advances, global presence and popularity to Dr Jensen. Twenty five years ago, Merle Jensen was the first to succinctly define it in White Paper to the **World Bank: (It) "is a technology for growing plants in a nutrient solution (water and fertilizers) with or without the use of an artificial medium...to provide mechanical support..."**. Fast forward to 2015, and we can find the impact of Jensen's work globally. His efforts have brought the concept of controlled environment agriculture to urban food production, hydroponics in the deserts of Egypt, Abu Dhabi and Jordan, and to expansion of food production in China, Mexico, the USA and 120 other countries. A stellar example of Jensen's influence is China where, under his guidance, greenhouses' footprint has grown to 8 million acres providing 31 million jobs. Jensen has also brought the hydroponics and food production conversation to TV, the popular press and to public venues like Epcot's Disneyland. In the academic realm he has published numerous technical papers and authored several books.

**With an earned history of CEA of more than half a century, we are truly fortunate to have Merle Jensen tell us about his journey in CEA and his vision of the future.**



*An informal networking and get acquainted session will start about 4pm. Refreshments will be served.*

**Our seminars are also available via webcast. To register, click the link below:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/52135911515542529> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.