

## California Weed Science Society Award of Excellence – 2011

### **Hugo T. Ramirez** **Field Development Representative, DuPont Crop Protection**



Hugo spent his early youth in Texas, but grew up in Kingsburg, CA where he graduated from high school. He attended CSU Fresno from 1988-93 and graduated with a B.S. degree in Ag Business and Economics and a M.S. degree in Plant Science.

Hugo has been employed with DuPont Crop Protection since 1993. His first jobs in agriculture and weed science were working on his father's and uncle's farms in east Texas and northeastern Mexico as a kid. In Hugo's words, "I ended up making more work for them. I cultivated corn and cotton on their farms and I actually left more weeds than corn and cotton." As a Field Development Representative for DuPont he conducts efficacy field trials with unregistered and registered compounds over multiple disciplines and on a broad range of crops. His training is actually in plant pathology with an emphasis in fungal pathogens of tree and nut crops, so weed science is not really his specialty. However, Hugo reports "he is getting

better at using Joe DiTomaso's double-fisted weed handbook".

It was either 1995 or 1996 when Hugo attended his first CWSS Conference and he has attended every conference since then. He has been a co-chair and moderator for all of the sessions except aquatics citing two valid reasons for preferring to stay away from water: he is not a very good swimmer and where he grew up in east Texas, snakes always lived in water and tall grass. He has been a session speaker, poster presenter, and exhibitor at several Conferences. The topics included: Introducing new chemistry/products, weed susceptibility to herbicides and environmental conditions and the Use of adjuvants with different mode of action herbicides.

Hugo was pleasantly surprised to receive the Award of Excellence from CWSS and graciously recognized that it was a great honor to receive this award from his peers and feels it a privilege to be a part of the CWSS.