



BGRI Borlaug Global Rust Initiative

August 2017

**Register now for the 2018 BGRI Technical Conference!**



**Registration is now open for the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, 14-17 April 2018.**

The workshop, consisting of three days of cutting-edge presentations and plenary sessions, will focus on wheat scientists' efforts to secure the world's wheat crop and manage disease vulnerability. It is an opportunity for the wheat community to exchange research results, network for collaboration, and learn more about challenges facing wheat scientists and farmers.

In addition, participants may join focused training sessions and spend half a day touring the ICARDA Tassaout Research Station, where critical work by the ICARDA wheat team is being conducted regarding breeding and selecting for drought-tolerant wheat.

**[Click here to register for the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop](#)**

**Call for Abstracts (Deadline 15 September 2017)**

2018 Workshop Theme: **Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat**

Abstract Submission & Guidelines: **[Click to view at the BGRI website.](#)**

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## How pasta wheat could help Ethiopian farmers escape poverty



Mr. Bedilu, a farmer in Minjar (Ethiopia), shows the research team how the yield for Utuba, the newly released variety, is double what he was getting with Ude, the old variety.

Since 2009, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) have partnered for the identification and development of new durum wheat varieties capable of withstanding the harsh environmental conditions of Ethiopia. The field research Center of Debre Zeit is at the forefront of identification of suitable varieties of Durum wheat. Each year, this Center screens thousands of potential varieties for their response to the relentless stem rust pathogen.

Utuba, a new rust-resistant wheat developed through this partnership, has allowed farmers to almost double their yields compared to the previous variety common in the region. The extra \$1000 USD per hectare profit allows farmers to send their children to school and keep their livestock healthy throughout the year. Researchers are continuing to develop new lines to benefit smallholder farmers.

[Read more about ICARDA's efforts to improve wheat on the BGRI blog.](#)

## Gender responsive training course wraps up at Makerere University



Members of the DGGW Kenya and Ethiopia teams hold a discussion during one of the workshop activities.

This August, teams from the Delivering Genetic Gains in Wheat (DGGW) project participated in a two-week training course on Gender-responsive Cereal Grains Breeding, held at Makerere University. The DGGW team from Kenya was represented by Godwin Kamau Macharia, Anne Gichangi Wanjogu, and Bernice Ngina Waweru, while the DGGW team from Ethiopia was represented by Abune Gudeta Regassa and Habtemariam Zegeye Endalamaw.

The training was jointly organized by the Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and Cornell University's [Gender Responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation](#) (GREAT) initiative. Course participants learn concepts and tools from social scientists, breeders and gender experts to allow them to incorporate gender equality in their agricultural research and work towards more equitable benefits for both men and women.

"Our goal is for agricultural researchers working across sub-Saharan Africa to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by considering gender, and prioritizing gender equality goals in their work. We are working to equitably extend the benefits of agricultural research to both women and men," said Margaret Mangheni, co-project leader for GREAT and associate professor at Makerere University.

[Read more about the GREAT Cereal Grains Breeding Course on the Makerere University site.](#)

## Women in Triticum Spotlight: Shideh Mojerlou

"During my Master's degree I learned more about wheat diseases and became acquainted with importance of this crop and its production problems in Iran and in the world," said Shideh Mojerlou, 2015 WIT Early Career Award winner. "Being a WIT awardee made me aware of the importance of the role of women in agriculture, the importance of wheat in the food security of the people in the world, and the need for changes in the agricultural system to coordinate with climate change."

Mojerlou is currently an assistant professor at Shahrood University of Technology in Iran, teaching classes in plant protection at the undergraduate level and advising Masters' students.

"In my job, I am in contact with many students that are at the first stage of their professional life. I try to show them the importance of agriculture in human life and encourage them to help people as much as they can."



Shideh Mojerlou from Iran, 2015 WIT Early Career Awardee

[Read more about Shideh Mojerlou on the BGRI blog.](#)

## Awards and Opportunities at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop

Several awards are presented at the BGRI Technical Workshop to recognize the achievements of individuals and teams working in wheat research. **Nominations are open** for the following awards:

### **2018 Women in Triticum Early Career Award** *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate an early-career woman working in wheat (scientists ranging from advanced undergraduates to recent PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellows) for the WIT Early Career Award. Recipients will be supported to participate in the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop and other professional development opportunities.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit>

### **2018 Women in Triticum Mentor Award** *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate an outstanding mentor (male or female) of women working in triticum for the WIT Mentor award. The recipient will be recognized at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit-mentor>

### **2018 BGRI Gene Stewardship Award** *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate a researcher or team of researchers serving a national breeding program or other nationally based institution working on wheat.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-gene-stewardship>

## **Upcoming Events**

### **BGRI Technical Workshop**

14-17 April 2018 (*Marrakesh, Morocco*)

<http://www.globalrust.org/tech-workshop/bgri-2018>

## **Research Updates**

### **Demonstration of an Integrated Pest Management Program for Wheat in Tajikistan**

[\[ LINK \]](#)

### **Microsatellite markers for the *Triticum timopheevi*-derived leaf rust resistance gene *Lr18* on wheat 5BL chromosome**

[\[ LINK \]](#)

### **Discovery and characterization of two new stem rust resistance genes in *Aegilops sharonensis***

[\[ LINK \]](#)

## **Contribute to the BGRI Newsletter and Social Media**

If you have any news of interest to the BGRI community, please send us a message and we will try to include it in subsequent BGRI newsletters! We also publish and share stories on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Use [@globalrust](#) to tag any contributions.

Events, career and educational opportunities, photos, and new publications are especially welcome.

Contact BGRI newsletter editor [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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