



July 2019

Global unity needed to prevent next hunger crisis



Ronnie Coffman called for a renewed commitment to open germplasm exchange during a talk at the International Wheat Congress.

"Global food security depends on the free movement and open sharing of plant genetic resources," BGRl vice-chair Ronnie Coffman said at the International Wheat Congress (IWC) on July 23 in Saskatoon, Canada. He called for increased international cooperation and for plant scientists to advocate to protect the unimpeded exchange of material and knowledge.

[Read the full article on the BGRl website](#)

How a Syrian genebank secured over 100,000 seeds during wartime

As conflict spread throughout Syria and threatened the ICARDA research station at Tal Hadya in the summer of



2012, dedicated scientists rushed to save as many specimens from their genebank as possible.

[Read more from Food Tank about the extraordinary efforts of ICARDA staff.](#)

MORE: Mahmoud Solh, former director general at ICARDA, [spoke with us at the BGRI Technical Workshop in 2015](#) about the future of wheat research and the need to work together to prevent the spread of rust diseases across borders.

South Asian scientists trained on 'art and science' of wheat rust research



Trainees collaborated with international wheat experts at the SAARC Wheat Rust Surveillance and Monitoring workshop, including a field visit at a IIWBR research farm in Kamal. Photo: Sathguru

Young scientists from four countries gathered at the seventh biannual South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Wheat Rust Surveillance and Monitoring workshop for trainings sponsored by the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project. The cutting-edge trainings introduced young scientists working in wheat breeding and rust pathology into a global network of researchers aimed at containing and eliminating wheat rust diseases.

Read more [about this exciting workshop](#) organized by Sathguru Management Consultants in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research.

Research spotlight

A team of researchers sequenced the barberry genome and performed the first mapping study for rust resistance in an alternate host. The study from Professor Iago Hale and 2018 WIT winner Radhika Bartaula sheds new light on one of agriculture's most destructive pathogens.

[Read the study online in BMC Plant Biology](#)

Global partnership fights mutating wheat rust



KALRO staff selecting and taping promising wheat plants with resistance to stem rust disease at the wheat stem rust phenotyping facility in Njoro. Photo: Joshua Masinde (CIMMYT)

Complex wheat breeding efforts are leading to high-yielding stress-resilient lines at the International Stem Rust Phenotyping Platform in Njoro, Kenya. The facility uses the CIMMYT Mexico-Kenya shuttle breeding system to select wheat lines for stem rust resistance, and evaluates wheat germplasm from different countries. The Njoro facility plays a major capacity-building role for partner scientists, as well as master's and doctoral degree students.

Read more about how this research station [is offering a unique wheat science platform with global impact](#).

World-class wheat instruction wherever you are

Did you know that our BGRI Training web suite features two courses and more than 40 videos? The training site is designed to aid early career wheat and rust researchers in their studies and to establish best practices for things like sample preparation, race analysis, and more.

Check out [this fantastic resource online](#), and if you have training materials you would like to share or if there are topics that we have not covered yet, [please let us know](#).

WIT reunite at IWC



Training young women scientists has always been one of our goals. Our Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career and Mentor awards recognize emerging leaders across the wheat community and the mentors who are empowering next-generation scientists. We were thrilled to see a number of WIT winners at the International Wheat Congress! Pictured left to right are: Ruth Wanyera (KALRO); Maricelis Acevedo (Cornell; Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat); Silvia Rosa (Cerom); Valentina Klymiuk (University of Haifa); Carolina Rivera-Amado (CIMMYT); Sanu Arora (John Innes Centre); Ron DePauw (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada); Yukiko Narouka (Syngenta); Amor Yahyaoui (CIMMYT); Samia Berraies (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada); and Jemanesh Haile (University of Saskatchewan)

Do you know an exceptional woman scientist working in wheat? How about a mentor who has been a positive guiding influence? [Nominate a scientist today!](#) (deadline is Oct. 30, 2019)

Events and Opportunities

Plant Genomes in a Changing Environment

16-18 October 2019 (*Wellcome Genome Campus, United Kingdom*)

[Abstract submission deadline: Aug. 13](#)

Wheat Diversity and Human Health Conference

22-24 Oct 2019 (*Istanbul, Turkey*)

[Abstract submission deadline: Aug. 2](#)

2020 Borlaug Global Rust Initiative Technical Workshop

1-4 June 2020 (*Norwich, UK*)

Registration & Program TBA

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 [Matt Hayes](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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