



June 2017

Multimedia Spotlight: Wheat Blast in Bangladesh



In February 2017, international experts trained scientists and researchers in methods to recognize and monitor wheat blast.

The incursion of wheat blast in South Asia presents a significant challenge to the scientific community because there are many things we do not know about the disease.

▷ [WATCH: "What can we do to actively manage wheat blast?"](#)

In this video, Dr. Timothy Krupnik from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) discusses the need for a coordinated surveillance and monitoring campaign combined with radical collaboration to breed varieties of wheat with durable resistance to the pathogen.

▷ [WATCH: BGR I Wheat Blast Playlist](#)

Chris Knight, of the BGR I multi-media team, has created a series of videos describing the threat of wheat blast in Asia and current efforts to combat it, using material from [the two-week wheat blast training course](#) held in February 2017 and hosted by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) Wheat Research Center. Experts from BARI, Cornell University, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Kansas State University (KSU), and the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) trained participants in surveying and monitoring wheat blast.

IN THIS ISSUE

Seeds systems initiative in Nepal concludes successful first season

BGRI Gene Stewardship Award Nominations Open

Evans Lagudah elected to the Australian Academy of Science

Women in Triticum Spotlight: Margaret Krause

Career and Educational Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Research Updates

Seeds Systems Initiative in Nepal successfully concludes first wheat season



A farmer weighs a bag of wheat at the AFU seed processing facility. (Photo: Suman Dhakal)

The inaugural wheat season for the Seed Systems for Nepal Initiative has successfully concluded, with a total of 14 metric tons of 'disease-free' wheat seed produced by 150 farmers using the new seed processing unit **inaugurated earlier this year** by delegates from Nepal, Cornell University and the partnering bodies of the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project (DGGW), at the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in Chitwan, Nepal.



Farmers and AFU training facilitators on-site in Nepal. (Photo: Suman Dhakal)

"They could have produced perhaps an additional 6 to 8 tons, but since this is the first time that farmers have been trained to produce disease-free wheat seed, this is a good accomplishment by AFU," said Kannan Vijayaraghavan, Sathguru chairman and a key partner in the project.

"In a three year span we should see farmers get higher yield and better prices for their crops," Vijayaraghavan added. "Farmers are going to be trained to also use proper

seed planting methods to preserve genetic flow."

[Read more about the Seed Systems Initiative on the BGRI blog.](#)

BGRI Gene Stewardship Award Nominations Open

The BGRI Gene Stewardship Award, established in 2012, is presented annually at the BGRI Technical Workshop to recognize a researcher or team of researchers serving a national breeding program or other nationally based institution working on

wheat.

The award will be presented to the winner at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop in Marrakesh, Morocco, April 14-17.

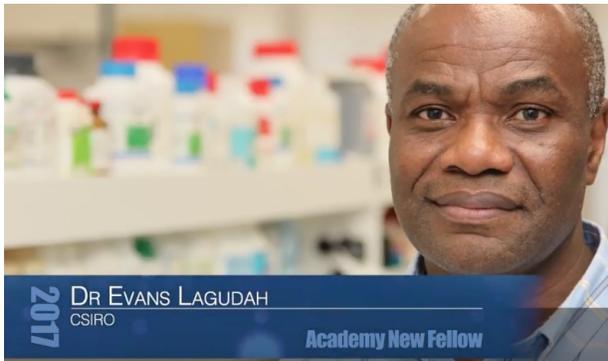
Deadline for nominations for the 2018 BGRI Gene Stewardship Award is October 30, 2017.

[Read more about the Gene Stewardship Award and the nomination process here.](#)



The 2015 Gene Stewardship award was presented to a team of researchers from the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). Named awardees: Ruth Wanyera, Peter Njau, and Godwin Macharia.

Evans Lagudah elected to the Australian Academy of Science



Evans Lagudah, a molecular geneticist that has worked extensively on rust resistance, was recently named an Australian Academy of Science's 2017 fellow (FAA) joining the ranks of Australia's most recognized scientists.

"My election as a fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences reflects the multi-disciplinary engagement I have had from

fantastic collaborators affiliated with the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative in working towards more durable rust resistance," Lagudah said. "It is my hope that continued progress can be made in both gene discovery and delivery to impact wheat improvement."

- [▶ WATCH: Dr. Evans Lagudah, CSIRO](#)

Women in Triticum Spotlight: Margaret Krause

"I had little exposure to agriculture or how food is produced," explained Krause. "When I began my undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota in 2009, I was unsure how these interests would eventually translate into a career."

Fast-forward to 2017, and Krause is serving as the U.S. Borlaug Fellow in Global Security at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in the bread wheat breeding program and is one of five recipients of the 2017 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award.

[Read Margaret Krause's full interview on the CIMMYT blog.](#)



Margaret Krause, 2017 WIT Early Career

Career and Educational Opportunities

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

Nominate women working in wheat in the early stages of their career (scientists ranging from advanced undergraduates to recent PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellows) for the WIT Early Career Award. Recipients will be invited to the annual BGRI technical workshop and will be provided with professional development opportunities.

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

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

Nominate outstanding mentors (male and female) of women working in triticum and its nearest relatives for the WIT Mentor award. The winner will receive an honorarium and the opportunity to organize a session in the subsequent year's BGRI technical workshop.

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

Upcoming Events

American Phytopathological Society Meeting: Changing Landscapes of Plant Pathology

05-09 August 2017 (*San Antonio, Texas, USA*)

<http://www.apsnet.org/meet>

BGRI Technical Workshop

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

Details and call for abstracts forthcoming.

Research Updates

From the [Global Rust Reference Center](#):

Genetic diversity within and among aecia of the wheat rust fungus
Puccinia striiformis on the alternate host *Berberis vulgaris*

[\[LINK\]](#)

Yellow Rust Epidemics Worldwide Were Caused by Pathogen Races from
Divergent Genetic Lineages

[\[LINK\]](#)

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](#).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Borlaug Global Rust Initiative
| bgri@cornell.edu |



**SIGN UP FOR
OUR EMAILS**



**SHARE THIS
EMAIL**

