



**March 2019**

## 2019 Women in Triticum Winners Announced



2019 WIT Awardees. Counter-clockwise from top right: Ruth Dill-Macky (Mentor Award), Fikrte Yirga Belayineh, Jyoti Saini Sharma, Sabina Asghar, Carolina Rivera, Sanu Arora, and Valentina Klymiuk.

The 2019 Women in Triticum awardees were announced on March 20, during the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT) Visitor's Week. The WIT Early Career Award, launched in 2010, aims to provide early career women working in wheat with the opportunity for additional training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities.

"Since 2009, the BGRI has honored 50 young women wheat scientists with the Early Career Award," said Maricelis Acevedo, director for science of the DGGW. "Building capacity within the scientific community by encouraging and supporting the training of young women scientists has always been one of our key goals. Collectively, these scientists are emerging as leaders across the wheat community."

[Read more about our winners on the BGRI website.](#)

**Highlights: Women in Wheat**



Carolina Rivera (left) shakes the hand of Maricelis Acevedo, Associate Director for Science for Cornell University's Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat Project, after the announcement of the WIT award winners. Photo by CIMMYT.

March is International Women's Month -- a time to highlight how women have contributed to society and shaped the course of history. Although early in their careers, we believe our Women in Triticum Early Career Awardees are already well on their way to making a lasting impact on the future of wheat research. Here is just some of the work our WIT Early Career Awardees have been engaged in the past year:

- [Q & A with WIT Early Career Awardee Carolina Rivera](#)
- [International wheat award for speed cloning researcher](#)
- [Israeli innovation in study of wheat genome wins award](#)
- [Speed breeding in growth chambers and glasshouses co-first authored by Sreya Ghosh and Amy Watson](#)
- [Philomin Juliana - Genomic Selection Case Studies in Wheat](#)

[Read more about all the Women in Triticum Early Career Award Winners](#) and [Women in Triticum Mentors](#) on the BGRI website.

## Norman Borlaug's 105th Birthday



Norman Borlaug (right) and Ronnie Coffman at CIMMYT's Visitors' Week in

2008, at the inauguration of the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat (DRRW) project. Dr. Borlaug sounded the alarm about global wheat and its susceptibility to Ug99 in the early 2000s, prompting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and, later, UK aid to fund the DRRW and DGGW.

March 25, 2019 would have been Norman Borlaug's 105th birthday. Often called the father of the green revolution, he pioneered "shuttle breeding" in CIMMYT and paved the way for the development of improved wheat varieties that would end food shortages around the world. Borlaug continued his fight against hunger well into the later years of his life, and helped found the foundation of the BGRI to tackle a new stem rust race threatening Africa was discovered: Ug99. Like many others, we are proud to be able to carry on his legacy.

[See more tributes to Dr. Borlaug on Twitter: #RememberingBorlaug](#)

## Events and Opportunities

### 1st International Wheat Congress

21-26 July 2019 (*Saskatchewan, Canada*)

<http://2019iwc.ca>

### Wheat Diversity and Human Health Conference

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

<https://www.wheat-health.org/en/>

*Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 June 2019*

### 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 [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**Borlaug Global Rust Initiative**  
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