



May 2018

Reflections on the BGRI Technical Workshop and looking to the future of wheat



Ronnie Coffman (L) director for International Programs at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and life sciences, delivers welcoming remarks on stage at the BGRI Technical workshop. Photo provided

"The when and the where of the next high-impact wheat rust race incursions are not known," said Emma Quilligan, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs graduate student, in her summation of the 2018 BGRI Workshop. "In order to mitigate their impact, we need effective, coordinated surveillance at all levels across cereals and alternative hosts in various regions, compilation of data from many sources."

From 14-17 April, wheat researchers from all over the world came together for the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop in Morocco, with sessions ranging from the use of CRISPR in wheat to the effect of root architecture on growth. While the focus of the workshop remained on the rust and surveillance work that the BGRI was founded to address, the program also included sessions on host resistance, physiology, and abiotic stresses, increasing the rate of genetic gain, seed multiplication, and the role of gender-responsive research.

This broader scope reflects the broader mandate of the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat program, which leads the BGRI. If efforts to deliver genetic gain and improve wheat are to

continue, researchers must collaborate across teams, countries, and areas of research.

An edited version of Quilligan's workshop summary can be found on the BGRI blog:

[BGRI Technical Workshop, Part 1: Innovation and international collaboration is key to fighting wheat disease](#)

[BGRI Workshop Recap, Part 2: Harnessing new technologies and tools for genetic gain in wheat](#)

Posters from the BGRI Technical Workshop



BGRI workshop participants during the interactive poster session. Photo provided by Sathguru Management Consultants.

Poster abstracts and plenary presentations from the BGRI technical workshop have been posted on the BGRI website.

This year, over 130 posters were displayed at the BGRI workshop, and 31 had graduate students as the first author. Students were also very visible in the plenary sessions, with 10 out of 24 talks delivered by graduate students.

[Click here to view full list of poster abstracts.](#)

Certificates of participation were emailed to all participants, if you did not receive one, please contact John Bakum at jb755@cornell.edu

BGRI Technical Workshop Photo Gallery

Photos from the BGRI technical workshop have been posted on the BGRI Flickr album. [Click here to view the full album online.](#)





RustWatch: Developing a European early-warning system for wheat rust diseases



Yellow rust epidemic on a wheat crop in Sweden in 2011. Photograph taken by Ann-Kristin Nilsson, BASF, Sweden

RustWatch, a new project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2022, will establish a stakeholder driven early-warning system to improve preparedness and resilience to emerging rust diseases on wheat. Europe's largest agricultural crop.

The RustWatch kick-off meeting will take place June 7-8 in Copenhagen. The project is coordinated by Aarhus University, with Mogens Hovmøller of the Global Rust Reference Center as principle coordinator.

[Read more about RustWatch and the upcoming meeting on the RustWatch site.](#)

Upcoming Events

Wheats & Women International Conference

14-15 June 2018 (*Rome, Italy*)

<https://www.wheatwomen-carlotta2018.com/>

International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018: Plant Health in A Global Economy

July 29-August 3 2018 (*Boston, Massachusetts*)

<http://www.icpp2018.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Rust Workshop at ICPP Boston: Biology of rust-host interactions and the future of durable disease resistance

28 July 2018

Featuring talks about rusts on cereals, beans, coffee, myrtle, poplar, pine AvrSr50, AvrSr35, and more. For more information, contact: Guus.Bakkeren@AGR.GC.CA

From Seed to Pasta III: A Sustainable Durum Wheat Chain for Food Security and Healthy Lives

19-21 September 2018 (*Bologna, Italy*)

<https://www.fromseedtopasta.com/>

Grains for Well-Being

5-8 November 2018 (*Taipei, Taiwan*)

<http://www.grainsforwellbeing.org/en/>

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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Borlaug Global Rust Initiative

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