



BGRI Borlaug Global Rust Initiative



June 2016

The BGRI lost one of its own when Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad passed away on June 3. Dr. Ahmad was a former chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and served on the BGRI Executive Committee from 2012-2015. He also received the Norman Borlaug Award for Plant Protection in 2006. His knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed. There is a [Facebook](#) page for remembrance.

BGRI Blog: Crop diversification: the 'old' weapon in the hands of Ethiopian farmers

Guest blog from F. Bassi, T. Chiari, R.P.S. Verma, and S. Kumar of ICARDA and ACIS

Ethiopian farmers have been faced with continuous outbreaks of virulent stem rust and yellow rust epidemics over the past decades, causing considerable damage and thousands of tons of wheat grain losses. A curious reader might wonder what caused this depressing outcome: was it the unpredictable rise of new devastating rust races? Or was it caused by a sudden change in farming practices?

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Scientists sound warning about wheat blast

Teams in the UK and Bangladesh are making raw genetic data for the wheat blast pathogen available on a new website - www.wheatblast.net - and inviting others to do the same. Professor Sophien Kamoun, of The Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich, who is leading the project, said that a wide cultural change is needed for scientists to optimally address new threats to food security.



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BGRI People in the News



Sarah Battenfield

Women in Triticum Award Winner (2014) is now Hybrid Wheat Breeder at Syngenta



Harpinder Singh Randhawa

Received the Gold Harvest Award from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Congratulations!

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Journal Article



Major Gene for Field Stem Rust Resistance Co-Locates with Resistance Gene Sr12 in 'Thatcher' Wheat

Hiebert CW, Kolmer JA, McCartney CA, Briggs J, Fetch T, Bariana H, et al. (2016) Major Gene for Field Stem Rust Resistance Co-Locates with Resistance Gene Sr12 in 'Thatcher' Wheat. PLoS ONE 11(6): e0157029. doi:[10.1371/journal.pone.0157029](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0157029)

Speaking of R genes, do you know all your Sr genes? Follow the BGRI on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) as we feature R gene information available on the BGRI website.

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