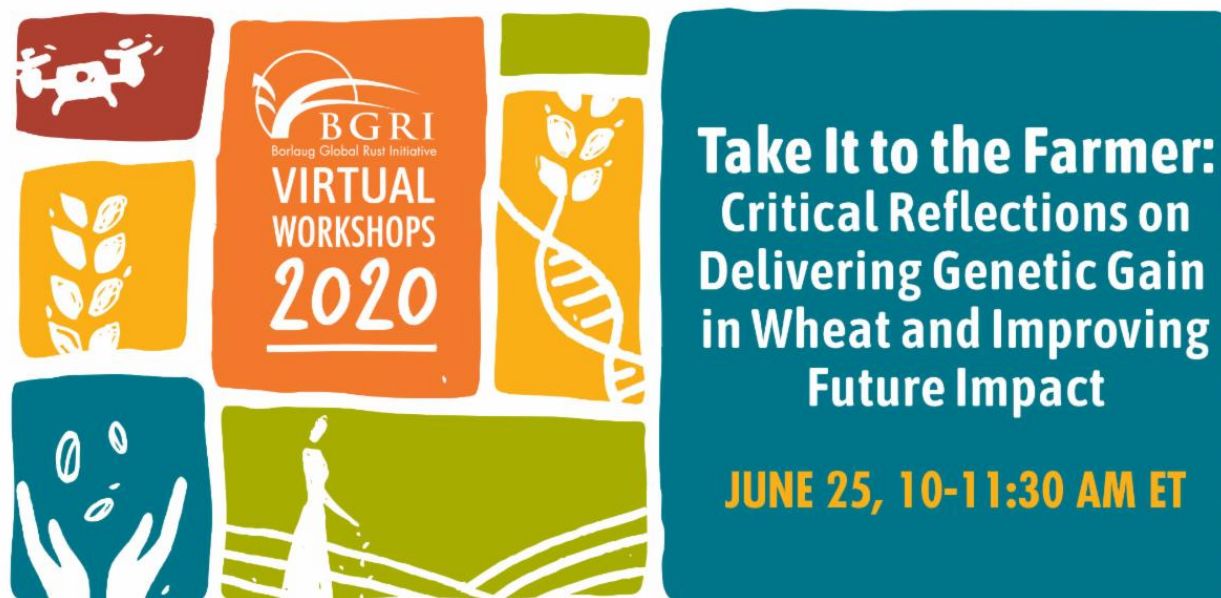




**May 2020**

## **June 25: Save the Date for the BGRI's "Take It to the Farmer" Webinar**



**The BGRI will host "Take It to the Farmer: Critical Reflections on Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat and Improving Future Impact," on June 25, from 10-11:30 am EDT.**

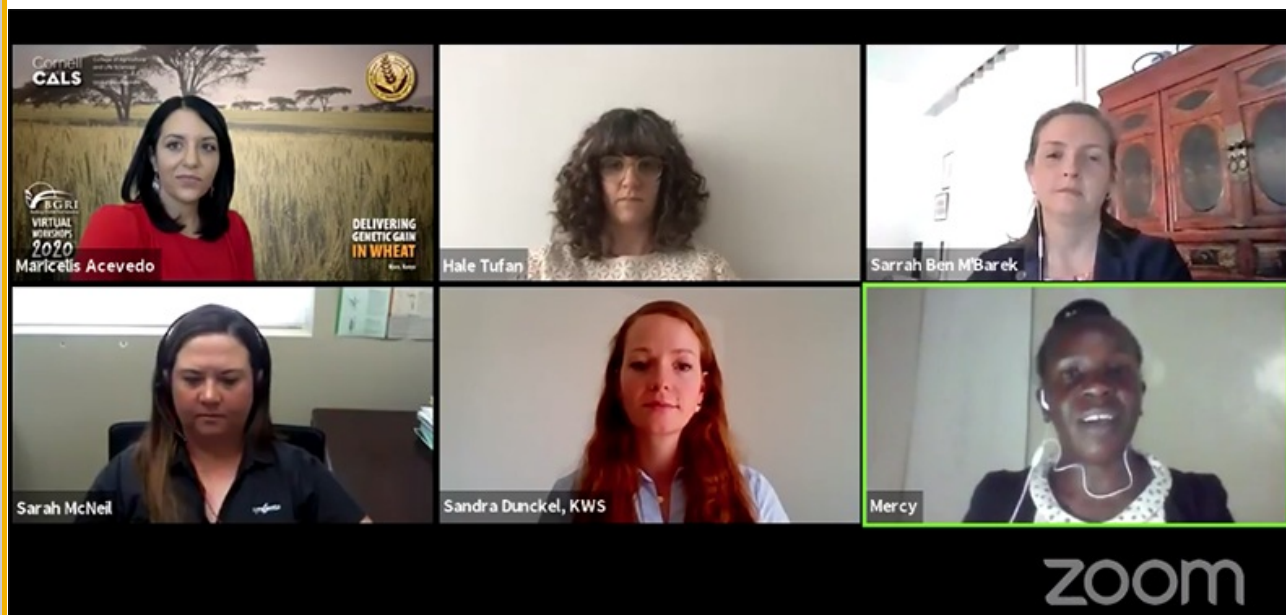
In the second in its series of 2020 Virtual Workshops, the BGRI will examine 12 years of wheat improvement in farmers' fields under the DRRW / DGGW projects and explore opportunities to make wheat research even more impactful in the future.

See video testimonials from farmers in the UK, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nepal, India, and Mexico and hear from a panel of BGRI wheat experts as they discuss evolving partnerships and ways to improve access to new technologies and improved wheat varieties.

"Over the last 12 years, wheat researchers have learned that it is not enough to just 'take it to the farmer'," said Maricelis Acevedo, associate director of science for the DGGW and panel moderator. "For agricultural innovations to make it the last mile into farmers' fields, we have learned to talk to the farmers, listen to the farmers, and work directly with the farmers. We are leveraging public-private partnerships, and tracking and exchanging germplasm across international boundaries in the ongoing fight to protect the world's wheat."

Join the BGRI in this interactive webinar as we explore initiatives to help wheat researchers and farmers deliver on the promise of greater food security and nutrition.

## May 21: Recap of the 2020 BGRI WIT Early Career & Mentor Celebration



### Zoom in the time of COVID-19 helps keep our WITs about us.

On May 21, the BGRI celebrated the 2020 Women in Triticum Early Career and Mentor awardees in the BGRI's first virtual online workshop. Hundreds joined us from around the world through our video webinar and Facebook feed.

Jeanie Borlaug Laube and Maricelis Acevedo hosted the hour-long interactive zoom webinar on "The Changing Face of Leadership and Research in Wheat," and introduced all the 2020 WITs via video.

World Food Prize president Barbara Stinson delivered a keynote address on "The Importance of Gender in Assuring Global Food Security," noting she was "truly energized by the next generation of leadership - those of you, all of you, who are so eager to take up the mission of eliminating hunger."

Sarah Davidson Evanega talked about "The History of the BGRI WIT Award." And Hale Ann Tufan, a 2010 WIT and 2019 Norman E. Borlaug Field Research and Application awardee, moderated an interactive panel discussion with four former WIT winners on "The Future of Wheat Research: Aspirations and Visions." A screen shot of that event is above.

**[Read about the ceremony: "BGRI celebrates women leadership in fight to end hunger."](#)**

**[Read about the panel: "Women scientists point way towards bright future."](#)**

**[Watch the entire event here.](#)**

## Stripe Rust Hits Wheat Crop in Nepal



Stripe rust infected field.  
Photo by DB Thapa



Observing stripe rust in wheat fields in Nepal. Photo by M Bhatta



Aecial cups seen on barberry leaf near wheat fields in Nepal.  
Photo by PB Magar

Nepalese and CIMMYT wheat scientists suspect new races of stripe and leaf rust infected the wheat crop in the Nepal Hills and Terai regions in the recent 2020 wheat season.

Observations were based on surveys undertaken during March and April, before the COVID-19 pandemic forced cessation of many field activities. Samples have yet to be submitted to pathology labs because of the pandemic.

[Read more about stripe rust in Nepal here.](#)

## New Initiative for Blast and Rust Forecasting



An early warning system will deliver wheat rust and blast disease warnings directly to around 50,000 smallholder farmers' phones in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Experts in crop disease, meteorology and computer science are crunching data from multiple countries to formulate models that anticipate the spread of the wheat rust and blast diseases in order to warn farmers of likely outbreaks, according to Dave Hodson, a

principal scientist with CIMMYT, who is coordinating the pilot project.



Learn more about the UK Aid-funded Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate program and CIMMYT's involvement.

[Find out more here.](#)

## Wheat Producers Shift to Keep up with Consumer Demand for Flour



Oechsner's mill can't keep up with the demand for 2-lb bags of flour in the time of COVID-19.

Consumers in the U.S. have shifted to quarantine baking in the time of COVID-19, making it sometimes difficult to find flour in stores.

"There isn't a flour shortage, there's been a major shift in the supply chains," says Thor Oechsner, a smallholder wheat farmer who co-owns a mill in upstate New York.

[Read "With quarantine baking on the rise, flour mills barely have enough bags to package flour with," here.](#)

## News

### [Extreme weather, more people drive Pakistan toward a wheat crisis.](#)

By Imran Mukhtar, for the National Post. Torrential rainstorms and freak hailstorms hit Pakistan. 24 May 2020.

### [They're back: Trillions of locusts descend on East Africa in second wave](#)

By Max Bearak and Luis Tato for The Washington Post. Locust swarms coupled with coronavirus pandemic threaten food security in East Africa. 5 May 2020.

## Seen on YouTube

### [Genomic Selection in the CIMMYT Global Wheat Program](#)

Seminar in Plant Breeding & Genetics Section series, Cornell University, 5 May 2020. Presented by Philomin Juliana,

## Recent Publications

### [Stem rust resistance in wheat is suppressed by a subunit of the mediator complex](#)

Colin W. Hiebert, Matthew J. Moscou and others. Nature Communications, 28 February 2020.

## Events

### [World Food Prize 2020 Laureate Announcement, followed by a Digital Dialogue with the Laureate](#)

June 11, 2020, 10 am EDT. Featuring U.S. Secretary of State Michael R.

Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and President of the World Food Prize Foundation Barbara Stinson. Register to join.

[Take It to the Farmer: Critical Reflection on Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat and Improving Future Impact.](#)

June 25, 2020, 10-11:30 am EDT. The second in the BGRI's series of interactive webinars. Register to join.

## 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 [Linda McCandless](#) or [the BGRI](#).

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**Borlaug Global Rust Initiative**  
| [bgri@cornell.edu](mailto:bgri@cornell.edu) |

*The Borlaug Global Rust Initiative is supported through the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat (DGGW) project in Global Development at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. DGGW is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UK aid from the UK government.*



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