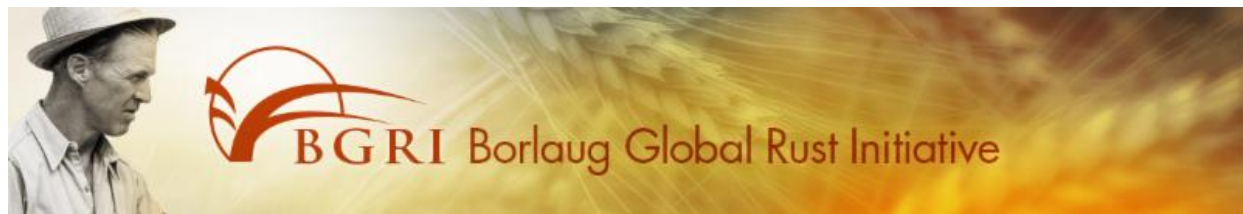


Not subscribed? [Sign up for the BGRI Newsletter](#) to receive regular updates from the BGRI community.



**August 2020**



## KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Day 1: Wednesday, October 7  
8 AM EDT / 12 PM UTC



*The impact of COVID-19 on agriculture*

**Theo De Jager**

President, World Farmers' Organisation

Day 1: Wednesday, October 7  
10 AM EDT / 2 PM UTC

*A decade of the stem rust phenotyping network:  
Opportunities, challenges and way forward*

**Sridhar Bhavani**

Head, Rust Research, CIMMYT, Mexico



Day 2: Thursday, October 8  
8 AM EDT / 12 PM UTC



*Gender responsive crop breeding:  
Bridging the gap between genes and gender*

**Hale Tufan**

Sr. Extension Associate, Global Development  
Cornell University, USA

Day 3: Friday, October 9  
8 AM EDT / 12 PM UTC

*Wheat Rust: Overview of the current  
situation and historical background*

**Dave Hodson**

Senior Scientist, CIMMYT, Mexico



Register for the online conference now at

**[globalrust.eventbrite.com](https://globalrust.eventbrite.com)**

Visit **[globalrust.org](https://globalrust.org)** to learn more.

Cornell  
**CALS**

College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences  
Global Development

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



We have a very exciting line-up of keynote presentations for the upcoming 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop, October 7-9. We are seeing strong registration numbers with still four weeks to go until the online event.

Theo De Jager, president of the World Farmers' Organization, will talk about "The Impact of COVID-19 on agriculture."

Sridhar Bhavani, Head of Rust Research at CIMMYT, brings his years of experience with the KALRO wheat nurseries in Njoro to talk about "A decade of stem rust phenotyping networking: Opportunities, challenges and way forward."

Hale Tufan, a 2010 WIT Early Career Awardee, Sr. Extension Associate in Global Development at Cornell, and associate director for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement, will talk about "Gender responsive crop breeding: Bridging the gap between genes and gender."

And perennial surveillance favorite, Dave Hodson, senior scientist at CIMMYT, will talk about "Wheat Rust: Overview of the current situation and historical background."

In other exciting activities, the 2020 Gene Stewardship Award will be announced on Day 1. The winning team is preparing a video that will highlight their work. This will be the sixth team to receive the coveted BGRI Gene Stewardship award. Others teams that have been recognized are from Nepal (2012), Australia (2013), Ethiopia (2014), Kenya (2015), and India (2018).

More on the program will be announced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned by registering online.

**[Register for the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop here](#)**

## **Wheat Research Spotlight: Estonia**



In these COVID-19 times, one of the best (and only) ways to visit our partners' wheat fields is virtually. Marina Tikhonova, senior researcher at the Estonian Crop Research Institute (ECRI), shared these photos from her winter wheat breeding plots at ECRI.

"Wheat breeders use it for phenotyping of breeding lines. I am taking the samples of winter wheat breeding lines for genetic analysis using DNA markers to detect wheat bread-

making genes and HMW and LMW-GS alleles," she tells us.

Send photos from your wheat fields, tell us what is going on and we'll share it with the BGRI community in our new Wheat Research Spotlight photo feature. Connect with us at [bgri@cornell.edu](mailto:bgri@cornell.edu)



## CIMMYT launches AGG newsletter

CIMMYT is launching a new quarterly newsletter for the Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat project. The BGRI encourages all to sign up to keep track of the latest news from AGG.

[Link to the inaugural quarterly AGG News here.](#)

[Sign up for the new AGG newsletter here.](#)

## In the News

### [A Nested Association Mapping Population for Wheat Stem Rust Resistance.](#)

Jim Anderson, who has been working in the areas of wheat breeding and genetics since 1989, developing 13 varieties and co-developing 8 others in four different market classes of wheat, made the cover of *csanews* in August. The photo is by David L. Hansen and accompanies the story, "A Nested Association Mapping Population for Wheat Stem Rust Resistance." By DJ McCauley for *csanews*. 3 August 2020.

### [Plan to improve wheat output under works.](#)

Journalist Amin Ahmed, who attended the 2019 IWC meeting in Saskatchewan continues to cover wheat. In this story, he discusses CIMMYT's strategy to increase wheat productivity in Islamabad. By Amin Ahmed, for DAWN, 6 August 2020.

### [Historic wheat research station poised to host cutting-edge research.](#)

The Toluca station will become CIMMYT's new testing site for rapid generation advancement and speed breeding in wheat.

By Alison Doody for CIMMYT. 30 July 2020. *[Editor's Note: This was the wrong hyperlink in the July issue --- thanks, Mike L.]*

## Recent Publications

### [Averting hunger in sub-Saharan Africa requires data and synthesis.](#)

Jaron Porciello, Hale Ann Tufan, Jemimah Njuki, Paul Winters, Edward Mabaya & Ronnie Coffman. A Comment piece for *Nature*. 5 August 2020.

## Opportunity

### **Cornell Assistantship for Horticulture in Africa.**

Cornell announces a doctoral assistantship in the Graduate Field of Horticulture to a student from sub-Saharan Africa. Course work will be completed at Cornell while dissertation research will be conducted primarily in Africa under the supervision of a local thesis advisor. Applications are due by September 15, 2020.

## Save the Date

### October 7-9, 2020: 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop --- all virtual!

Register for three half-day sessions about breeding technologies, disease surveillance, molecular host-pathogen interaction, disease resistance, and gene stewardship. Interactive discussions led by noted wheat experts will wrap up each session. Register now and receive all updates.

[Register here](#)

### October 12-16, 2020: The World Food Prize and Borlaug Dialog

"Building Resilience Today for Improved Global Food Systems Tomorrow," is this year's theme for the Borlaug Dialogue, to be held virtually, online. [Register here.](#)

### October 28, 2020: 2020 Virtual Global Leadership Awards

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs will honor Paul Farmer, Helene Gayle and Keith Williams with Global Leadership Awards at 5 pm CDT on Oct. 28.

[Register here.](#)

## 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.*

