



**September 2020**

## 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop Schedule Now On-line!



The **complete workshop schedule** for the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop, October 7-9, can be found on the new BGRI website, complete with abstracts and photos. It is your online guide to the virtual event.

Led by emcee Maricelis Acevedo, associate director of science for the DGGW, you will hear from global experts during sessions on Gene Stewardship, Seed Multiplication & Variety Adoption, Disease Resistance, Breeding Technologies, Physiology and Abiotic Stresses, Epidemiology and Surveillance, Alternate Hosts and Pathogen Biology. Each session will include a discussion, with moderators and presenters addressing questions from on-line viewers.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by Theo De Jager, president of the World Farmers' Organization, Sridhar Bhavani, head of Rust Research at CIMMYT, Hale Tufan, Sr. Extension Associate in Global Development at Cornell University, and Dave Hodson, Senior Scientist at CIMMYT.

In other special events, the 2020 Gene Stewardship will be announced on October 7 (Day 1) and four members of the BGRI community will receive Norman Borlaug Awards for Lifetime Achievement on October 9 (Day 3).

**Check out the complete BGRI Workshop schedule [here](#).**

Only one week to go until the online event. More than 800 people from the global wheat community have registered already!

**Register now if you haven't already.**

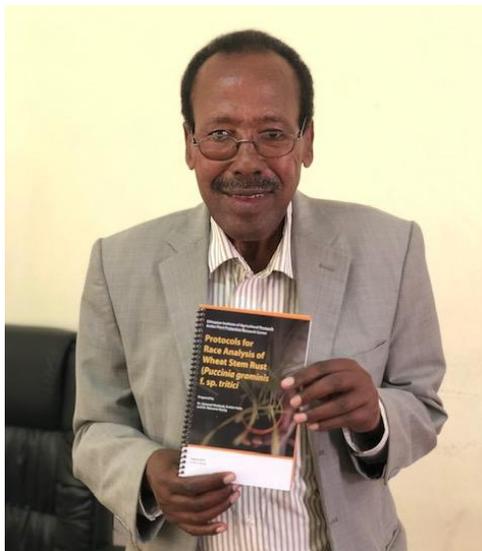
## Four to be Honored with "Normans" at the 2020 BGRI Workshop



Hans Braun, CIMMYT



Bedada Girma Buta, EIAR



Getaneh Woldeab, EIAR



Ruth Wanyera, KALRO

Join the BGRI community at the closing session of the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop on October 9 as we honor four individuals who have been integral to the BGRI from the beginning. Ronnie Coffman will honor these individuals with the prestigious Norman Borlaug statue, given for lifetime achievement, as they retire from their respective institutions.

## BGRI Opens Nominations for Three Awards Honoring Wheat Scientists: Deadlines Oct 31

The BGRI is accepting applications for the prestigious Jeanie Borlaug

## Join the Women in Triticum!



Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career and Mentor awards, and the BGRI Gene Stewardship Award. Since 2010, 55 Early-Career WITs, 10 WIT Mentors and 6 Gene Stewardship Teams have been recognized by the BGRI. Don't miss this opportunity to recognize wheat scientists in the BGRI community.

Nominations are due by

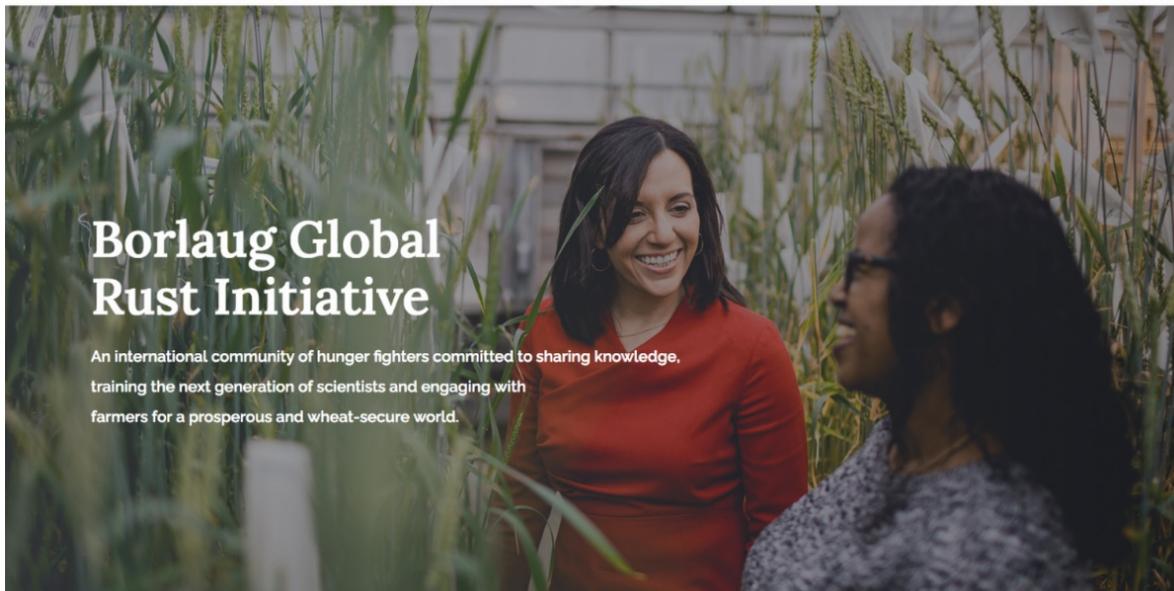
October 31.

[Award information and nomination forms here.](#)

## BGRI Launches New Website



[HOME](#) [ABOUT BGRI](#) [OUR WORK](#) [KNOWLEDGE CENTER](#) [AWARDS](#) [NEWS](#) [EVENTS](#) [CONTACT](#)



The BGRI has a new website! Check out our new look, with more resources, photos and impactful information. Join our international community of hunger fighters committed to sharing knowledge, training the next generation of scientists and engaging with farmers for a prosperous and wheat-secure world.

[Bookmark the new BGRI website here.](#)

## BGRI Seeks Your Photos for DRRW / DGGW Community Photo Project



The BGRI is seeking images you took during the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat and Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat projects, especially of people in the BGRI community at work, with stakeholders, farmers, at scientific gatherings, during trainings and on surveillance trips. Submit your best photos to this community google folder. If you do it this week, you may see some of your photographs during the 2020 BGRI Workshop.

[Upload your best photos here.](#)

## **Alison Bentley to lead CIMMYT's Global Wheat Program**



Alison Bentley (r) and Martin Jones inspect wheat in a glasshouse. CREDIT: T. Smith/Gloknos

In November 2020, Alison Bentley will join CIMMYT as the new program director of the Global Wheat Program. She succeeds Hans Braun who has steered the program for the last 16 years. Bentley has worked on wheat - wheat genetics, wheat genetic resources and wheat pre-breeding her entire career. She joined the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), in the UK in 2007, where she currently serves as Director of Genetics and Breeding.

Bentley will address the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop during the closing session on October 9 to talk about CIMMYT's new Accelerating Genetic Gain (AGG) in Wheat and Maize project and the way forward in wheat research.

[Read more here.](#)

## CIMMYT Launches AGG Newsletter



### Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat

Keep up with CIMMYT's new Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat project. Find the latest in their AGG quarterly newsletter. 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.](#)

## Wheat Research Spotlight: Sydney PBI, Cobbitty, Australia



In these COVID-19 times, one of the best (and only) ways to visit our partners' wheat fields is virtually.

In the photo on the far left, Davinder Singh Chauhan (right), senior research fellow at the University of Sydney, Plant Breeding Institute (PBI) and Professor Robert Park (left) were monitoring the PBI fields for yellow rust at Cobbitty in August.

"We were assessing the impact of a new pathotype 198 E16 A+ J+ T+17+ of the wheat stripe rust pathogen on current Australian wheat varieties in the field," said Chauhan, who posted the photos to Facebook on August 28. "Preliminary investigations indicate that new pathotype 198 poses an increased disease threat to several wheat varieties."

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)

## In the News

### **East Africa partners welcome "new era" in wheat breeding collaboration.**

Experts from Ethiopia and Kenya join CIMMYT and other partners to renew a long-standing collaboration under the auspices of the new Accelerating Genetic Gain (AGG) in Wheat and Maize project. AGG builds on the successes of previous projects, notably Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat, led by the BGRI at Cornell University By Marcia MacNeil, for CIMMYT, 15 September 2020.

### **Retrospective quantitative genetic analysis and genomic prediction of global wheat yields.**

Read this blog on the paper associated with the process for breeding for grain yield in bread wheat at CIMMYT. The process involves three-stage testing at Ciudad Obregón, where conditions are extremely favorable. CIMMYT wheat breeders replicate growing environments to test the yield potential and climate-resilience of wheat varieties for every major global wheat growing area, a process that has its roots in the innovative work of wheat breeder and Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug, more than 50 years ago. Wheat scientists at CIMMYT, led by wheat breeder Philomin Juliana, wanted to see if it remained effective. By Marcia MacNeil for CIMMYT. 17 September 2020.

### **New study identifies wheat varieties that resist the destructive stripe rust disease.**

Read this blog on the paper associated with the stripe rust resistance genes in 616 spring wheat varieties using genome-wide association approach. Researchers used the GMS platform recently developed by the USDA-ARS Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit, which reduced the cost greatly compared to the Wheat SNP Chips. By the American Phytopathological Society for PHYS ORG. 17 September 2020.

### **An interview with Dr. Rattan Lal - 2020 World Food Prize Laureate.**

The Borlaug Training Foundation interviewed soil scientist Dr. Rattan Lal. "We do not own the environment; the environment owns us. When we realize that, we will treat all water, air, vegetation, livestock, and wildlife with dignity and respect," said Lal. Listen to the interview and read the Q&A. 25 September 2020.

## **Recent Publications**

### **Identification of Stripe Rust Resistance Loci in U.S. Spring Wheat Cultivars and Breeding Lines Using Genome-Wide Association Mapping and Yr Gene Markers.**

Lu Liu, Meinan Want, Zhiwu Zhang, Deven R. See and Xianming Chen.  
APS Journal of Plant Disease, 8 June 2020.

### **Aerial high-throughput phenotyping enabling indirect selection for grain yield at the early-generation seed-limited stages in breeding programs.**

Margaret R. Krause, Suchismita Mondal, José Crossa, Ravi P. Singh and others. Crop Science, 17 July 2020.

### **Retrospective Quantitative Genetic Analysis and Genomic Prediction of Global Wheat Yields**

Philomin Juliana, Ravi Singh, Hans-Joachim Braun, Thomas Payne and others. Frontiers in Plant Science, 27 August 2020.

## **Opportunity**

### **USDA-ARS Supervisory Research Plant Pathologist/Research Geneticist, Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit, Aberdeen, Idaho**

The USDA-ARS is looking for a person to lead a program and perform research to develop, evaluate and apply genomic molecular tools to small grain genetics and germplasm enhancement. Applications are due by October 12, 2020.

[Learn more about this exciting opportunity here.](#)

## **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 19-23, 2020: Big Data in Agriculture Convention**

The first One CGIAR hosted event will leverage inclusive inputs from each of the global Centers to offer a glimpse of how they are employing digitally-enabled, dynamic methods to combat global food security challenges flowing from current crises. This year's theme - Digital Dynamism for Adaptive Food Systems - will examine food system resilience and highlight how digital tools and technologies can help us sense, respond and (re)build better systems in times of global food security crises.

[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.](#)

**October 31, 2020. BGRI WIT Awards and Gene Stewardship Awards.** Deadline for the Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Early Career and Mentor Awards, and the BGRI Gene Stewardship Awards.

[More information and links to the nomination forms are 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 NEW 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 the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (formerly UK aid from the British people, or DFID).*



**SIGN UP FOR  
OUR EMAILS**

