THE BORLAUG GLOBAL RUST INITIATIVE CHARTER[1]

The Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) is hereby established with the objectives of systematically reducing the world's vulnerability to stem, yellow, and leaf rusts of wheat and advocating/facilitating the evolution of a sustainable international system to contain the threat of wheat rusts and continue the enhancements in productivity required to withstand future global threats to wheat.

The BGRI represents a formalization of the Global Rust Initiative (GRI) established by CIMMYT, ICARDA, FAO, USDA-ARS and Cornell University as an outcome of the May 2005 assessment[2] (see Recommendation #10) of race Ug99 in Kenya and Ethiopia and the potential for impact in neighboring regions and beyond.

Membership

Membership will include organizations/institutions (NARS, NGOs, Companies, etc.) with interest in the mission of the BGRI. Membership will be attained by indication of interest and identification of a liaison/contact person for the organization. The membership will convene annually, to be facilitated by the governance and management entities.

Governance and Management

Executive Committee

The BGRI will be governed by an Executive Committee (ExCo) to be comprised of Norman Borlaug (Chair) and representatives from CIMMYT, ICARDA, FAO and Cornell University (Vice Chair) who will serve as permanent members. The permanent members will select additional members to serve three-year terms, renewable.

Technical Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be formed and maintained by the ExCo to advise the membership of the BGRI on technical matters. Membership in the TAC will include expertise in the research themes of the BGRI, initially to include (1) breeding (2) pathogen surveillance, (3) screening for new sources of conventional resistance, (4) identification and development of non-host resistance (5) seed multiplication, (6) impact projections and decision support systems (7) capacity building and (8) chemical intervention. Subsequently, the TAC may modify the research themes. The TAC will meet at the discretion of the ExCo, but not less than once per year.

Secretariat

A secretariat will be established at Cornell University to facilitate both the overarching mission of the BGRI, the workings of the ExCo and TAC, and communications and advocacy generally. The Project Coordinator of the Cornell Based Durable Rust Resistance Project will manage the secretariat and act as facilitator to the BGRI. In that capacity, s/he will be responsible to the Chair and Vice Chair of the ExCo.

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[1] To be adopted by the permanent members of the ExCo and ratified by the membership through the act of joining the BGRI

[2] Sounding the Alarm on Global Stem Rust, 2005. CIMMYT, ICARDA, KARI, EARO, and Cornell University.