



March 2018

Francisco Barro, developer of gluten-free wheat, to deliver keynote address at BGRI Technical Workshop



Francisco Barro Losada. Photo: Provided

"I think that for a celiac to enjoy good bread, made of wheat, with the taste of wheat, the aroma of wheat, it would be something really amazing, and we are getting closer."

A few years ago, the idea of gluten-free wheat was more theoretical than real. But last year, Francisco Barro, a plant scientist at the Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in Spain, made headlines with a gene editing technique called CRISPR-Cas9 that significantly reduced the amount of reaction-causing proteins in wheat.

As the keynote speaker for the 2018 Borlaug Global Rust Initiative Technical Workshop, in Morocco, April 14-17, Barro will talk about CRISPR-Cas9 technology, gluten-free wheat and the future of plant breeding.

[Read more from Francisco Barro on the BGRI blog.](#)

The Journey Toward Gender Responsive Wheat Breeding in Kenya

"Gender is particularly relevant to my work because the reason for all our breeding efforts is to improve the lives of farmers and the larger community by developing technologies that farmers will easily adopt and implement," says Bernice Waweru, molecular breeder at the Kenya Agricultural

and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). Along with her teammates Anne Gichangi and Godwin Macharia, Waweru attended the recent 2017-2018 Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) cereal grains training course to represent the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project.

GREAT courses train agricultural researchers in the theory and tools to change how they look at their work, identify relevant gender questions, and address potential points of impact for men and women.

[Read more about the link between wheat breeding and gender responsiveness on the BGRI blog.](#)



Anne Gichangi, Bernice Waweru, and Godwin Macharia work on a qualitative data analysis exercise at the 2nd week of the GREAT Cereal Breeding Course in Kampala, Uganda. Photo by GREAT.

Young women scientists who will galvanize global wheat research



Winners of the Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award pose in front of the statue of the late Nobel Peace laureate, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. Included in the photo are Amor Yahyaoui, CIMMYT wheat training coordinator (far left), Jeanie Borlaug Laube (center, blue blouse), and Maricelis Acevedo, Associate Director for Science, the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat Project (to the left of Jeanie Borlaug Laube). Photo by CIMMYT/Mike Listman

Winners of the Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award joined an on-going wheat research training course organized by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Obregón, Mexico, 21-23 March.

"As my father used to say, you are the future," said Jeanie Borlaug Laube, daughter of the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, and mentor of many young agricultural scientists.

Established in 2010 as part of the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat (DRRW) project led by Cornell University, the WIT program has provided professional development opportunities for 44 young women researchers in wheat from more than 20 countries.

[Read more about how WIT trainees are making strides in wheat on the CIMMYT blog.](#)

BGRI Technical Workshop Program Online

The interactive program of sessions and talks for the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop is now available on the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative website. View speaker and abstract information for each of the conference sessions.



Also happening at the workshop are announcements regarding the 2017 and 2018 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Early Career and Mentor Awards, and the 2018 Gene Stewardship Award.

Follow **#BGRI2018** on social media for updates.

[View the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop sessions online.](#)

Upcoming Events

BGRI Technical Workshop

14-17 April 2018 (*Marrakesh, Morocco*)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: <http://bit.ly/BGRI18reg>

VIEW WORKSHOP PROGRAM: <http://bit.ly/BGRI18program>

Wheats & Women International Conference

14-15 June 2018 (*Rome, Italy*)

<https://www.wheatwomen-carlotta2018.com/>

International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018: Plant Health in A Global Economy

July 29-August 3 2018 (*Boston, Massachusetts*)

<http://www.icpp2018.org/Pages/default.aspx>

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 [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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