Appreciation for A Tremendous Decade!

As 2019 draws to a close and we enter a new decade in the fight for food security, Jeanie Borlaug and I and the rest of the BGRI leadership team want to thank you, our partners, and the cooperating institutions all over the world who engage with us in the global challenge of enhancing food security and improving nutrition. Thank you for being part of the BGRI family.

As donors, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UK Aid have been tremendous allies in this fight. We will continue to collaborate on improving resistance to wheat diseases like rust and blast, on enhancing yields for farmers increasingly stressed by the vagaries of climate change, on developing new ways to track and identify pathogens, on strengthening our talent pipelines, and on using new technologies to breed crops in ways that conserve scarce resources like soil, water and air.

In these end-of-year reflections, let us all take time to celebrate our successes, engage warmly with families, friends and co-workers, and be generous in helping those who are less fortunate. As Norman Borlaug would tell us, in the language of humanity, we may talk as many but we need to act as one.

Since 2005, when Norman Borlaug called for an international response to combat the dangers of wheat rust, the BGRI has been at the vanguard. We have commanded the charge since 2008 and made impressive strides. We are proud to have built such a strong community of wheat scientists and hunger fighters in answering that call. Moving forward, we are committed to "keeping the herd together," as Norman would say.

Many changes are in the wind. A global coalition of funders and aid organizations has promised to invest more than $650 million in the CGIAR System Organization, as One CGIAR. This announcement was made in September at the United Nations' Climate Action Summit. The CGIAR's 15 research centers will work as a single unit on the Two Degree Initiative for Food and Agriculture to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty by 2030. Discussions are underway about new strategies and new funding.

There is much work still to be done and lots to discuss. We hope to see many of you at Visitors' Week at CIMMYT in March, and even more of you at the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop in Norwich, UK, June 1-4. We are looking forward to another year of opportunities and further decades of success.

Thank you for your continued good work!

Jeanie Borlaug, Chair of the BGRI
Ronnie Coffman, Vice-chair
Register for the 2020 BGRI Technical Workshop, June 1-4, 2020, in Norwich, UK at the John Innes Centre. Connect with the BGRI community. Engage with peers about wheat research, hear from cutting-edge presenters, tour the research fields of the John Innes Centre, and take part in training sessions led by global experts. And join us as we honor the recipients of the 2020 Gene Stewardship Award and the 2019 and 2020 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Early Career and Mentor awards.

Check out our video!

Register now for BGRI 2020

Ruth Wanyera: Stalking Wheat Rust in Kenya

Ruth Wanyera has spent more than 30 years working in plant protection in Kenya. But her main motivation is people - not plants.

"We don't want people to go hungry. And we have to do something to make sure there's food on the table," she said. "Let there be food for people to eat, or for people to survive."

Read the BGRI profile of the senior research officer and head of the plant pathology section of the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), in Njoro.

BLOG: Ruth's profile
VIDEO: Ruth was Right on Stem Rust in Kenya in 1985

Alexey Morgunov to Retire

Alexey Morgunov, head of the International Winter Wheat Improvement Program (IWWIP) in...
Josh Waites’ rust-inspired artwork is on display at the Sainsbury Art Centre.

Alexey, who has been an excellent partner in the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat and Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat projects, will move to Kazakhstan. He expects to continue mentoring students and working as an Adjunct Faculty at Washington State.

COP25: Maricelis Acevedo Speaks about Food Security at 2019 UN Climate Change Conference

Maricelis Acevedo, associate director for science for the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project, talks about global research partnerships for development to end hunger and achieve food security and improve nutrition at COP25 in Madrid, Spain, on December 7.

VIDEO: Maricelis Acevedo at COP25 press conference

"Rusty" Artwork Wins Award

Artwork by Josh Waites inspired by the MARPLE wheat rust diagnostic tool from Diane Saunders’ Lab came in second in the “Engaging Images Art Competition.” Josh, a PhD
In the News

**US Under Secretary of Agriculture ready for further cooperation with CIMMYT**
Nov 28, 2019

**Supercharged MARPLE labs to be fastest rust surveillance system in Africa**
Dec 19, 2019

**Emergence of the Ug99 lineage of the wheat stem rust pathogen through somatic hybridisation** Look for the BGRI’s interview with Melanie Figueroa in the January 2020 BGRI Newsletter

Opportunities

**Tenure track barley pathology faculty position available at North Dakota State**
The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Plant Pathology seeks applications for a 12-month, tenure track position at the assistant/associate professor level with research (95%) and teaching (5%) responsibilities. The successful candidate will develop an externally-funded research program that focuses on Fusarium head blight and/or foliar diseases of barley. Review of applications will begin January 6, 2020. Applicants must apply online at [https://jobs.ndsu.edu](https://jobs.ndsu.edu) (posting number 1901314 or keyword search "barley"). Direct any questions to Dr. Jack Rasmussen, Department Chair, at jack.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Events

**2020 CIMMYT Visitors' Week**
March 16-20, 2020: Obrégon, Mexico
March 16, 2020: Field Day

**2020 Borlaug Global Rust Initiative Technical Workshop**
May 31 and June 1, 2020: Training opportunities prior to the workshop
June 1-4, 2020 (Norwich, UK): Technical Workshop
Registration is now open

**International Conference on Septoria and Cereal Leaf Blights**
April 19-21, 2020: Hammamet, Tunisia

Ongoing

**The Art and Science of Rust Pathology and Applied Plant Breeding**
World-renowned wheat pathologists and breeders discuss host-pathogen interactions, surveillance, breeding and more in this comprehensive online course designed for early- and mid-career wheat researchers.

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

The Borlaug Global Rust Initiative is supported through the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat (DGGW) project at International Programs 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.