



BGRI Borlaug Global Rust Initiative

March 2017

2017 Women in Triticum (WIT) Award Winners Announced



2017 WIT Early Career Award Winners, L to R: Margaret Krause, Ritika Chowdhary, Sarrah Ben M'Barek-Ben Romdhane, Tine Thach, and Weizhen Liu.

CIUDAD OBREGÓN, MEXICO: On March 22, Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat (DGGW) associate director for science Maricelis Acevedo presented the 2017 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award to five promising women in the field of wheat science who are early in their professional careers. The 2017 WIT Early Career Award winners are:

- Sarrah Ben M'Barek-Ben Romdhane (Tunisia)
- Margaret Krause (USA)
- Weizhen Liu (China)
- Tine Thach (Denmark)
- Ritika Chowdhary (India)

[Learn more about the WIT Early Career Award winners on the BGRI blog.](#)



Acevedo also announced the winner of the WIT mentor award, which recognizes mentors who have had a significant role advising and mentoring women working in triticum.

The 2017 WIT Mentor Award is Silvia Germán of Uruguay, principal researcher at the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) of Uruguay since 1979. She has trained and supervised young scientists, Ph.D. and M.Sc. students in the field of plant pathology, genetics and breeding, some of which are currently working in research institutions in Uruguay or other countries.

[Learn more about Silvia Germán on the BGRI blog.](#)

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Sixth SAARC Wheat Rust Monitoring and Disease Management Course Conducted in Nepal



Baidya Nath Mahto, from the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) (right side, in vest with hands outstretched), standing with Dhruba Thapa and women farmers from Nepal, addresses SAARC workshop participants in the field.

Photo Credit: Vijay Paranjape

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: On Feb 22 to March 1, scientists from South Asia gathered to participate in comprehensive training on wheat rust monitoring and disease management. The 2017 SAARC (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation) Wheat Rust Surveillance & Monitoring Workshop fostered regional collaboration and equipped a new generation of South Asian scientists with the tools and knowledge to manage the threat of wheat rusts. The course was held at Hotel Annapurna and the Nepal Agricultural Research Council's (NARC) Khumaltar Research Station in Lalitpur.

As an indication of the international concern regarding this threat to South Asia, the course in Kathmandu drew participants and trainers from Pakistan, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Australia, South Africa, Mexico and the United States.

[**Read more about SAARC training at the BGRI blog.**](#)

During the SAARC workshop, [**Janata Radio interviewed Sarala Sharma**](#), the plant pathologist focusing on the current issues of wheat rust in the

context of food security of Nepal. The interview has been translated into English and can be viewed at the BGRI blog.

[Read the full interview on the BGRI blog.](#)

Another learning opportunity, ["The Art and Science of Rust Pathology and Applied Plant Breeding."](#) is an online course based on lectures and materials from the 2015 SAARC training made available to the global wheat community. Course instructors include world-renowned wheat pathologists and breeders.



Sarala Sharma of the Agricultural and Forestry University in Nepal, formerly of the Nepal Agricultural Research Council.

Recognizing the legacy of Norman Borlaug



Dr. Norman Borlaug in the field. Photo Credit: CIMMYT

In honor of Norman Borlaug's birthday, March 25th, we take a moment to recognize his achievements and honor his legacy. Dr. Borlaug has been hailed as the father of the Green Revolution, an international effort that used improved production methods and crop varieties to increase agricultural output and food security in developing countries. He also worked on tackling the challenge of stem rust, developing measures to control wheat rust and breed more rust-resistant varieties quickly. In recognition of these efforts, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

Dr. Borlaug was instrumental in the founding of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative in 2005, which replaced the Global Rust Initiative before it. With our partners and supporters of wheat experts across the world, we hope to continue the spirit of his work.

Willem Boshoff to continue cereal rust research at University of the Free State, South Africa

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA: In view of the retirement of Professor Zak Pretorius from UFS later this year, Dr. Willem H.P. Boshoff assumed duties in the Department of Plant Sciences in January 2017. Willem will continue and expand research on rust diseases of field crops, teach undergraduate modules in Plant Pathology, and advise post-graduate students on research projects.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to be directly involved in rust pathology research and to become part and

collaborate with the well-established international group of researchers taking on the many challenges that the wheat rust pathogens offer," Dr. Boshoff said.

[Read more about Willem Boshoff on the BGRI blog.](#)



Willem Boshoff

Test your knowledge with the Rust Scoring Quiz!



How well do you know your rust? Take this interactive quiz presented by the BGRI to practice your rust scoring skills.

All images courtesy of Zak Pretorius, University of Free State, and the "correct" answers for each image are from Pretorius and Robert Park, University of Sydney.

Share your results on social media with the tag **#rustscoring!**

Career and Educational Opportunities

Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition YES! Research Grant *Deadline 28 June 2017*

The BCFN is accepting research proposals for a 20.000€ research grant applied to a one-year investigation. Young PhD and postdoc researchers from any background and nationality are invited to submit a research project to improve the sustainability of the food system. Grants can be applied for as individuals or as teams.

<https://www.barillacfn.com/en/bcfnyes2017/>

2018 Women in Triticum Early Career Awards *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate women working in wheat in the early stages of their career (scientists ranging from advanced undergraduates to recent PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellows) for the WIT Early Career Award. Recipients will be invited to the annual BGRI technical workshop and provide professional development opportunities.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit>

2018 Women in Triticum Mentor Awards *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate outstanding mentors (male and female) of women working in triticum and its nearest relatives for the WIT Mentor award. The winner will receive an honorarium and the opportunity to organize a session in the subsequent year's BGRI technical workshop.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit-mentor>

Upcoming Events

13th International Wheat Genetics Symposium (IWGS)

23-28 April 2017

Tulln, Austria

<http://iwgs2017.boku.ac.at/>

IWGS satellite meeting: Updates and discussions on recent stem rust epidemics in Europe and Eastern Africa

24 April 2017

Tulln, Austria

A group of rust experts will discuss the recent European and African stem rust epidemics, pathogen races causing these epidemics, and the availability of resistant germplasm in European and North American wheat.

Tentative meeting agenda and other satellite meeting information can be found at:

<http://iwgs2017.boku.ac.at/satellite-meetings/>

ICARDA 40th Anniversary Celebration

2-3 April 2017

Rabat, Morocco

<http://www.cgiar.org/special-events/2017/05/03/icarda-40th-anniversary-celebration/>

Research Updates

Evaluation of 19,460 wheat accessions conserved in the Indian National Genebank to identify new sources of resistance to rust and spot blotch diseases

[\[LINK\]](#)

Genetic Mapping of Stem Rust Resistance to *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici* Race TRTTF in the Canadian Wheat Cultivar Harvest

[\[LINK\]](#)

Mining Vavilov's Treasure Chest of Wheat Diversity for Adult Plant Resistance to *Puccinia triticina*

[\[LINK\]](#)

Speed breeding for multiple disease resistance in barley

[\[LINK\]](#)

Identification and validation of single nucleotide polymorphic markers linked to Ug99 stem rust resistance in spring wheat

[\[LINK\]](#)

Contribute to the BGRI Newsletter and Social Media

If you have any news of interest to the BGRI community, please reach out to us and we will try to include it in subsequent BGRI newsletters. We also publish and share stories on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. You may use [@globalrust](#) to tag any contributions.

Events, opportunities, photos, and new publications are especially welcome.

Contact BGRI newsletter editor [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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