



Proceedings

**Borlaug Global Rust Initiative
2012 Technical Workshop
September 1–4
Beijing, China**

Poster Abstracts

Theme 1: Next Generation of Wheat Breeders

Edited by Robert McIntosh

bgri@cornell.edu
www.globalrust.org

ISBN: 13: 978-0-615-70429-6

© 2012 individual authors and the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative.
Do not reprint without express permission from principal author.

Proceedings BRGI 2011 Technical Workshop Table of contents

Poster Abstracts

Next Generation of Wheat Breeders

Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program E. C. A. Runge.....	102
Job characteristics favoring gender equity in plant breeding careers Jessica Rutkoski and Mark E. Sorrells.....	103

Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program

E. C. A. Runge

Soil & Crop Sciences Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2474, USA. **Email: e-runge@tamu.edu**

Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program honors two of the world's best known plant breeders who are widely credited for bringing the green revolution to rice and wheat production: Henry Beachell and Norman Borlaug. The scholarship program named in their honor is funded at \$2 million per year for five years and provides complete support for PhD students in rice and wheat breeding. Applications are evaluated by an internationally acclaimed panel, and 52 scholars have been selected for support over four rounds of applications: 31 in wheat breeding and 21 in rice breeding. Students are from Argentina (2), Bangladesh, Brazil (2), China (4), Colombia (3), Ecuador, England, Ethiopia (4), Kenya, Korea, India (14), Iran (2), Italy, Mexico (3), Nepal (2), Philippines, Syria (2), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, and USA (4). Applications for the fifth round of funding will be accepted from November 1, 2012 through February 1, 2013. Funds are encumbered for the duration of the PhD program and transferred yearly. Scholars must complete part of their PhD program in Australia, Canada, United States or Western Europe and part in a developing or transitional country. Program activities with CGIAR center scientists are encouraged. Students work with their advising professor or scientist from the degree granting institution from anywhere in the world, and the advising professor submits the application for the student. Students with two or more years remaining on their PhD program are eligible for support. The program is seeking more applications from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. To learn more about the program, requirements, and how to apply, please go to www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars.

Job characteristics favoring gender equity in plant breeding careers

Jessica Rutkoski¹ and Mark E. Sorrells¹

¹Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, 240 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA. Email: rutkoski.jessica@gmail.com

In general, women are under-represented in plant breeding careers. Many factors are likely to play a role in this gender imbalance. Results of studies of gender equity in science and engineering careers suggest that perceived work-life conflict can be a deterrent to women, especially those with current or anticipated family obligations. In order to test if either work-life conflict *per-se* or other job characteristics are associated with gender in plant breeding careers, we surveyed BGRI members about their job characteristics and their gender. Associations between gender and work-life conflict, molecular marker use, vacation flexibility, work-week duration, time spent traveling for phenotyping, and direct involvement in breeding were tested. We found that compared to men, fewer women survey respondents were directly involved in breeding and their positions required little phenotyping-related travel. These results suggest that the extensive travel that is required by many plant-breeding positions may deter women from entering the field. Creation of plant breeding positions that require less travel may help to attract more women. Emerging breeding technologies that will require more data management and analysis activities may facilitate the creation of such positions.