



BGRI Borlaug Global Rust Initiative



Shitaye Homma, Worku Denbel, and Endale Hailu (l-r)

November 2016

Three Ethiopians pursuing Phds in wheat pathology and breeding

As part of its Talent Pipeline Objective in the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project, is supporting three Ethiopian students to complete PhD degrees in areas relevant to wheat research. All three currently work with the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research. Worku Derbel and Endale Hailu, will begin studies in the Fall of 2017 at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Plant Pathology, while Shitaye Homma will attend Cornell University to complete a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics with Dr. Mark Sorrells.

Their research will address wheat production constraints in Ethiopia and will utilize traditional and modern techniques to improve disease resistance and increase the rate of genetic gain in wheat for Ethiopia. All of their field and research work will take place in Ethiopia.

"The DGGW team believes on investing in long-term training of junior scientists as a way to strengthen national wheat breeding and pathology programs in Ethiopia. These PhD students will help carry on the DGGW and BGRI mission for decades to come beyond the duration of our project," said Maricelis Acevedo, Associate Director for Science for the DGGW project.

From the BGRI blog: Ronnie Coffman speaks on agrobiodiversity in India

Ronnie Coffman, vice-chair of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, was a keynote speaker at the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC) held in New Delhi, India, November 6-9, 2016. Over 850 delegates from more than 40 countries were in attendance. Participants included farmers, scientists, policymakers and industry leaders.



[Read More....](#)

CAREER NEWS

Genomic Selection post-doc at CIMMYT

Philomen Juliana, who recently completed her Phd at Cornell University with Dr. Mark Sorrells, is taking a post-doc position at CIMMYT to work on genomic selection technologies. Juliana is also a 2015 Women in Triticum award winner. She follows Jessica Rutkoski who has left CIMMYT for a position at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines.



Upcoming Events

Soft Skills at the Punjab Agricultural University in India

A soft skills workshop in scientific communication; from publishing to making the next career move, **21 March to 24 March 2017**

School of Agricultural Biotechnology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India

<https://www.jic.ac.uk/international-partnerships/soft-skills-workshop/>

DGGW Wheat Blast Training Workshop, hosted by CIMMYT and Sathguru.

5 February - 17 February 2017

Dhaka, Bangladesh

For more information, contact [Maricelis Acevedo](#).

13th International Wheat Genetics Symposium

23-28 April 2017

Deadline for abstract submission is 5 December 2016

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

Rust Workshop held in conjunction with the 29th Fungal Genetics Conference

Asilomar, California, **14 March 2017**

For more information, contact [Sebastien Duplessis](#)

Research Updates

Canopy Temperature and Vegetation Indices from High-Throughput Phenotyping Improve Accuracy of Pedigree and Genomic Selection for Grain Yield in Wheat

G3

[Link](#)

Evaluation of Spray and Point Inoculation Methods for the Phenotyping of *Puccinia striiformis* on Wheat

Plant Disease

[Link](#)

Molecular markers for tracking the origin and worldwide distribution of invasive strains of *Puccinia striiformis*

Ecology and Evolution

[Link](#)

Looking for news from the BGRI community

If you have any news that would be of interest to the wider BGRI community, please contact us and we will try to include it in subsequent BGRI newsletters. Events, opportunities, good pictures, etc. would all be appreciated

Contact the BGRI

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