



International Wheat Stripe Rust Symposium: “Let’s combine our efforts”

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI), will organize an “**International Wheat Stripe Rust Symposium**” to be held 18-20 April 2011, at ICARDA headquarters in Aleppo, Syria.

The purpose of the Symposium is to address the current global status of wheat stripe rust epidemics and to formalize regional and international stripe rust research and resource mobilization platforms in the face of recent concerns on food security and climate change impacts.

The Symposium is open to wheat rust scientists, including wheat breeders, pathologists, and molecular geneticists, as well as to other participants with an interest in stripe rust of wheat.

An organizing committee is developing the Symposium program. For any questions regarding the program, please contact Dr. Michael Baum, m.baum@cgiar.org, Program Director of Biodiversity and Integrated Gene Management (BIGM), ICARDA.

Local Organizing Committee

Michael Baum, Kumarse Nazari, Osman Abdalla, Miloudi Nachit, Francis Ogonnaya, Tadesse Wuletaw

Symposium thematic sessions:

1. Epidemiology, surveillance and pathogen variability
2. Wheat genetics and breeding for stripe rust resistance
3. Molecular breeding and new technologies
4. Awareness, preparedness and contingency planning
5. Utilization of genetic resources in breeding for stripe rust resistance
6. Rust networking: regional and international co-operations
7. Seed system for delivering rust resistance varieties

Oral and Poster presentations

The Organizing Committee has selected the keynote lectures. The Scientific Committee will select papers from submitted titles for oral presentations. However, it is expected that most of the presentations will be poster presentations.

Keynote lectures and selected oral presentations are kindly requested to submit a three page abstract.

Deadline for Abstracts

The deadline for submitting the abstracts is **25 February 2011**. Abstracts should be sent to Ms Hazar Sabbagh (H.Sabbagh@cgiar.org). The authors will be notified about the size of posters by 10 March 2011.

The requirements for poster abstracts are the following:

- 1 A4 size page without table
- Margin 2.54 cm/ in inch (left/right and top and bottom)
- Title (bold), 12 Pt, Times New Roman
- 12 pt single space
- Authors (presenting author bold), font 10 Pt, Times New Roman
- Address, 10 pt, Times New Roman
- E-mail address of presenting author, Pt 10, underlined
- 12 pt single space
- Text of abstract, 10 Pt, Times New Roman

There will be minimal editing of abstracts. The Symposium organizers reserve the right not to publish the abstract if it does not meet scientific and or language requirements for scientific publication.

Confirmed invited speakers

1. **Colin R. Wellings**, Rust Pathologist, Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney, Australia
2. **David Hodson**, International Focal Point, Wheat Rust Disease Global Program, AGP Division, FAO, Rome, Italy
3. **Arun Kumar Sharma**, Principal Scientist and P. I. Crop Protection (AICW&BIP), Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, India
4. **Hans J. Braun**, Director Global Wheat Program, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico
5. **Kumarse Nazari**, Cereal Rust Pathologist, BIGM, ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria
6. **Mesut Keser**, Wheat Breeder, International Winter Wheat Improvement Program Turkey-CIMMYT-ICARDA
7. **Mogens Hovmøller**, Rust Pathologist, Dept. of Integrated Pest Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Aarhus University, Denmark
8. **Alexei Morgounov**, Wheat Breeder, International Winter Wheat Improvement Program Turkey-CIMMYT-ICARDA
9. **Osman Abdalla**, Wheat Breeder, BIGM, ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria,
10. **Ravi P. Singh**, Wheat Breeder, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico, D.F
11. **Robert A. McIntosh**, Professor Emeritus, Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney, Australia
12. **Ronnie Coffman**, Director Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat, Project Vice Chair, Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, Cornell University, USA
13. **Sanjaya Rajaram**, Wheat Breeder, Consultant, BIGM, ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria
14. **Tadesse Wuletaw**, Wheat Breeder, BIGM, ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria
15. **Wanquan Chen**, Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, Beijing, China
16. **Wafa Khoury**, Programme and Plant Pathology Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, Rome, Italy
17. **Zewdie Bishaw**, BIGM, ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria

Symposium Proceedings

The keynote lectures and oral presentations will be published online during the Symposium and Symposium Proceedings will be published after completion of the Symposium.

Registration fee and financial support

Registration fee: US\$ 200 payable at registration desk, ICARDA, 18 April 2011

The registration fee includes: access to all symposium events, arrival/ departure transfer, local transportation, registration pack, field tour, coffee breaks, lunch during the Symposium and Symposium dinner, and wireless internet access during the Symposium.

Funds are available to support participation of scientists from developing countries at the symposium. However, the funds are limited and will be used to support scientists who meet the following requirements:

- Submission of an abstract of good quality
- Citizenship and residence in a developing country
- Participants nominated by an institution in a developing country will have precedence over other participants from the same country
- Request for partial support
- Preference will be given to younger scientists aged below 40

Visa requirements

Foreign participants may require a visa in order to enter the Syrian Arab Republic. Visa requirements and application process depends on your citizenship and nationality. Participants are expected to obtain their own visas from the Syrian Embassy in their country of residence. ICARDA will provide every participant with an invitation letter and information required for visa applications to embassies of the Syrian Arab Republic. In the case where there is no Syrian Embassy in your country of residence, ICARDA will provide assistance in obtaining a visa.

Arrival and Departure

All participants arriving at either Damascus or Aleppo international airports will be met and transferred to the hotel. Transport for departure from those airports will be also available for invited speakers and registered participants.

Accommodation and Transportation

All participants will be accommodated in hotels in Aleppo. The Symposium will be held at ICARDA's headquarters and principal research station at Tel Hadya, 30km from Aleppo. Transportation will be provided to and from the Center.

Further information on visiting Syria and ICARDA can be found in ICARDA's **Guidelines for Visitors** at <http://www.icarda.org/Visitors/Visitors.html>

ICARDA and Aleppo

ICARDA is located in the heart of an area which is the birthplace of agriculture, and of some of the world's greatest civilizations. The empires of Ebla, Assyria, Sumeria, Babylonia, and the Hittites held sway over this region of economic and strategic importance. Although there were many factors that contributed to the emergence of civilization in the area, there is little doubt that agriculture played a central role and encouraged the growth of long-distance trade.

Archaeological findings have shown that, some 10,000 years ago, barley, wheat, lentil, pea, flax, and vetch were all domesticated in the Fertile Crescent, an arc in the Near East that extends from Palestine through Syria and southern Turkey into Iraq and western Iran. Wheat and barley, together with domesticated sheep and goat, formed the basis of farming systems which evolved in the Fertile Crescent around 7000 BC and then spread quickly as a Neolithic agriculture package to other parts of West Asia, the Nile Valley, and the Balkans. Three millennia later, this wheat-and-barley Neolithic farming system provided food for people living in an extensive area of the Old World from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian subcontinent and from Scandinavia to the Nile Valley.

Individual Tourism Activities

Symposium participants wishing to stay after the Symposium to visit Aleppo or other cities should contact Ms Hazar Sabbagh (h.sabbagh@cgiar.org) for further information.