

CAIGE Project Newsletter

CIMMYT- Australia - ICARDA Germplasm Evaluation



January 2014

Happy New Year!

Dear CAIGE colleagues,
Welcome to the first issue of the CAIGE newsletter for 2014.

Most of us in Australia have been on a summer break after all the frenzy of harvesting in Nov/Dec. I hope you have now returned back to work with your batteries charged and ready for a year of successful research and breeding (well we have to start with positive thinking, right?).

2014 has a busy schedule for the CAIGE project, with the upcoming annual meeting in Canberra and two breeder trips to our donor research institutes in Mexico and Morocco.

Both the CIMMYT and ICARDA trips are now in the final stages of planning and I do thank all our colleagues for helping with the logistics of each trip.

The agenda for the CAIGE annual meeting is still being drawn up and the management group will be meeting in

the next few days to discuss the topics for the agenda.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Ciao for now!

Sandra Micallef

*Coordinator and Data Administrator
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Upcoming events:-

- CAIGE Annual Meeting '14 - 17th March 2014
- Australian Breeders' trip to CIMMYT - 23rd -31st March'14
- Dr Borlaug 100th b'day summit @ CIMMYT— 25th -28th March'14
- Australian Breeders' trip to ICARDA - 13-21April'14

CAIGE Yield Trials data

The data from the CAIGE Yield trials of this year has been received and uploaded to the website. Thank you to the breeding companies for returning the data so promptly.

The has been sent for analysis and we are currently waiting for the results. There will be a presentation of these results at the Annual CAIGE meeting in March.



CAIGE Yield trials

Disease screening data

The data from disease screening of the CAIGE material has also been returned and loaded to the CAIGE website. You can find the following data:-

- [Stripe, Stem and Leaf Rust](#) (PBI Cobbitty, Harbans Bariana) for 2013 shipment
- [Septoria Tritici Blotch](#) (NSW DPI, Andrew Milgate) for 2011 shipment
- [Yellow Leaf Spot, Stripe and Leaf Rust](#) (VIC DPI Horsham, Grant Hollaway) for 2011 shipment



Soil Borne Pathogen Nurseries (CIMMYT-Turkey)

Dr Amer Dababat from CIMMYT (Turkey), each year identifies a number of lines which show good results when tested at CIMMYT for resistance to Soil Borne Pathogens. Most of these lines have already been imported into Australia as part of the international nurseries sent from CIMMYT, for yield trials.

These lines are distributed to the wider community (breeders and prebreeders) for further testing.

The following data has been received, but more information should be available in the coming weeks.

- [Stagonospora Nodorum Blotch](#) (DAFWA, Perth, Manisha Shankar) for selections in 2012 and 2013
- [Yellow Spot](#) (DAFWA, Perth, Manisha Shankar) for selections in 2012 and 2013



REMINDER

If you have material from CIMMYT and ICARDA (from the CAIGE project) which you have evaluated, **please send us the data.**

This data collection process is an integral part of the CAIGE project, and if everyone cooperates, we can ensure the project's success and continuation.

So go hunting in your harddrive and send us the data files today!!!

PS.

Also while we do keep track of who receives CAIGE seed for evaluation, we do understand that some seed can be passed on to third parties for further testing. And while these individuals are not obliged to send us the data, their information could contribute to more successful research data repository. So we depend on your cooperation too!

CAIGE Annual Meeting 2014

The Annual CAIGE meeting will be held on the **17th March 2014** in the afternoon, in the Lecture Theatre of the **CSIRO Plant Industry** facilities in Canberra (Black Mountain).

It is advised to make travel and accommodation arrangements early, as options could be few and expensive if left to the last minute.

All the other wheat breeder meetings will also be held in Canberra in the following days after the CAIGE meeting (and not in Adelaide as in previous years).

The invitations for presenting at the meeting will be sent in the next few days and the agenda will be published in the next few weeks.

If you would like to give a presentation about your project/work, at this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either me (Sandra) or Dr Richard Trethowan. You can find the contact details on the last page of the newsletter.

The Annual CAIGE meeting is an **open** meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend. After all the presentations, there will be a discussion with input from the audience, about the direction of the CAIGE project. This is a good opportunity for members of the CAIGE community to voice their opinions and share their thoughts. We do welcome everyone to join the discussion.

The CAIGE meeting is also a **FREE** event, but you do need to **REGISTER**, or let us know of your intention to attend, for catering purposes.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Date: Monday 17th March 2014

Time: 1pm

Place: CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra

Fee: FREE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Breeders' visits to CIMMYT and ICARDA



Just a reminder that the Australian Breeders' visit to CIMMYT in Mexico, will take place between 23rd –31st March (travelling days included). All bookings have now been finalised and all participants are looking forward to the experience.

During this period, CIMMYT will be

hosting a summit in honour of the late Dr Norman Borlaug and the 100th anniversary from his birth. It seems that many other Australian researchers and scientists will be in Obregon for this event and we look forward to see them there. So if you are going to be in Obregon during this period, please come up and say hello!

We will also hold the next Steering Committee Meeting while we are in CIMMYT, with representatives from CIMMYT, ICARDA, GRDC and the CAIGE management team. More details of the meeting are still being drawn up.

The barley breeders' visit to ICARDA



in Morocco, will take place between 11th—20th April (travelling days included).

Dr Mark Dieters, the CAIGE-Barley project leader, will be leading the group of 2 breeders and 2 prebreeders, visiting the different breeding stations in Rabat and Casablanca. We thank our ICARDA colleagues for the time and effort spent in planning this visit.

Reminders ...

Do you have any news to share on the CAIGE newsletter?

Send it to us at :-
sandra.micallef@sydney.edu.au

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter? Let us know and we will add them.

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Laughter, the best medicine

NASA engineers build a cannon that launches dead chickens at the windshields of airplanes, military jets and such to test the strength of the windshields against collisions with airborne fowl.



British engineers are eager to test it on the windshields of their new high-speed trains. Arrangements are made, and a cannon is sent to the British engineers.

When the cannon goes off, the engineers stand shocked as the chicken crashes into the shatterproof shield, smashes it to smithereens, blasts through the control console, snaps the pilot's backrest in two, and embeds itself in the back wall of the cabin.

The horrified Brits send the Americans a report of the disastrous results, along with an urgent request for suggests on improving the windshield design.

The American engineers respond with a one-line memo:
"Thaw the chicken."