

CAIGE Project Newsletter

CIMMYT- Australia - ICARDA Germplasm Evaluation

April 2014



Dear CAIGE colleagues,

Welcome to the April edition of the CAIGE newsletter. As I had advised you in the February edition, we did not issue the March newsletter due to the busy schedule of activities.

It was great to see many of you at the CAIGE Annual meeting last month in Canberra. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the meeting either through their presentations or their participation in the discussions held. I apologize that I could not talk to everyone personally, but I had to get back home to a sick child that same evening.

At the end of that same week, the CAIGE management team together with a group of 5 wheat breeders and scientists, left for Obregon (Mexico) for the Annual Breeders' visit. A good time was had by all, but more importantly, all participants found the whole experience greatly informative and

enriching. You can read more about the trip in this newsletter.

During the month of April, the CAIGE-Barley group, visited the ICARDA experimental stations in Morocco. The trip went well and we will include more news from this trip in the next newsletter.

With the month of April over, the Australian breeders will be busy this month preparing and sowing their trials. The CAIGE trials

for this year have been distributed to the participating breeding companies and we all have our fingers crossed for a good season!

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

Ciao for now!

Sandra Micallef

Coordinator and Data Administrator

CAIGE Project



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Upcoming events:-

- *International Agricultural Consulting Conference - Brisbane, Australia*
Thursday May 8 2014
- *2nd Plant Genomics Congress - London, UK*
Monday May 12 2014
- *2014 Australasian Milling Conference - Gold Coast, Australia*
Sunday May 25 2014
- *6th International Food Legumes Research Conference - Saskatoon, Canada*
Monday July 7 2014

CAIGE Annual Meeting 2014 – Canberra

The CAIGE Annual meeting was held on Monday 17th March at the CSIRO Plant Industries building in Canberra. It is very encouraging to see the number of attendees and level of participation at the meeting, increasing each year.

For the first time at the CAIGE meeting, we had two people presenting their work on barley and chickpea, reflecting the expansion of the CAIGE

project to more crops, other than bread wheat.

Unfortunately, the ICARDA and CIMMYT representatives, could not attend the meeting this year due to other travelling commitments, but their presentations were delivered by collaborators on their behalf.

All the presentations from the meeting have been placed on the [CAIGE website](#).

Group	AUS Checks	CIMMYT/ICARDA Checks	ZIZ	ZWB	ZWW	Totals
1						
2	5					5
3	4	3	49	18	2	71
4			25	10	2	37
5				1		1
6			1	2	2	5
7			5	1		6
8			2	1		3
9			1	1		2
10	1					1
Totals	10	1	83	34	20	138

Dr Mark Dieters presenting the analysis results from the CAIGE Yield Trials of 2013



Some of our collaborators at the CAIGE Annual Meeting 2014

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 Yield Trials 2014

During the discussion at the CAIGE Annual meeting, the breeders (on behalf of their company) agreed on a list of locations for this season's yield trials of the CAIGE material.

The sites will be as follows:-

- Narrabri (University of Sydney)
- Roseworthy (AGT)
- Junee (LPB)
- Toodyay (EdstarGenetics)
- Mukinbudin (Intergrain)
- Horsham (Intergrain)

The seed boxes for the trials have now all been sent out from AWCC and the breeders have notified us that they received the material on time.

The entry list this year contains 253 entries: 92 entries from CIMMYT's breeding program (ZWB13), 147 ICARDA international Nursery lines (ZIZ13) and 14 Australian lines and international checks. However not all the lines

will be grown in all trials due to seed unavailability. The largest trial will be at the Plant Breeding Institute in Narrabri, where the site is irrigated.

We hope the heavens will be good and deliver some rain ahead of sowing, all around the country.

Thank you to the AWCC staff who helped deliver the material on time.

The trial designs for each site can be found on the CAIGE website - follow the "CAIGE Yield Trials" link on the front page. ([or click here](#))



CAIGE Yield Trials

CAIGE Project on social media

With the widespread use of social media in everyday life, it is was time for the CAIGE Project to have a presence felt too.

Check out the new CAIGE Project Facebook page and click on 'Like'.

<https://www.facebook.com/caigeproject>

Remember you need to have an account first, but registration is free.

While you are on Facebook, check out also the



CIMMYT

(<https://www.facebook.com/CIMMYT>)

and ICARDA

(<https://www.facebook.com/icarda>)

pages, which are continuously updated with research news.

Australian Breeders' visits to CIMMYT

On the 23rd March a group of Australian breeders together with the CAIGE management team, left for Obregon to visit CIMMYT's Norman Borlaug Experimental Station.

The timing of this visit, coincided with the summit in honour of the late Dr Norman Borlaug and the 100th anniversary from his birth. About 700 international delegates were in town during this week and all accommodation in Obregon was booked out.

During the visit we spent long hours in the field looking at the nursery plots and making selections based on performance under both irrigated and dry conditions. We also had the opportunity to spend time in the field with CIMMYT personnel Enrique Autrique, Ravi Singh, David Bonnett and Matthew Reynolds, who kindly

took time out from the busy program of that week, to answer our questions. We also had the opportunity to visit Dr Rajaram's breeding program, from which we will be receiving material later on in the year.

On Tuesday 25th March, we took part in the CIMMYT Field day, and even with over 700 people taking part, all activities were coordinated flawlessly. Well done to the organisers.

The Borlaug Summit was held at the La Salle University and the CAIGE group attended some of the presentations on the second day of the meeting (Thurs) and joined the festivities at the official dinner in the evening.

On the last day of our visit, we managed to find some



time to visit the Alvaro Obregon Dam, which is the main source of water for the city.

Feedback from the participants about this trip has been very positive and I would like to thank them for joining us on the tour and for their continuous support. Here are some of the comments from the participants :-

"Just wanted to say thank you for having me on the CIMMYT CAIGE tour. It was very interesting to learn more about CIMMYT and to see the huge irrigated trial sites. It was also great to hear from people who have worked with Norman Borlaug. I learned a lot from observing the breeders do their selections and got to know a lovely group of people better. Thanks for the great experience." - Anke Martin

"I'd like to thank you both the wonderful effort put in to plan and execute this trip. I had a wonderful time – it was a great experience. Not only did you look through some potentially very important germplasm for the Australian breeding community, we also met and spoke with several influential scientists along the way. And, during this, we managed to have many laughs" - Allan Rattey

See more photos from the [trip HERE](#). A list of the selections made by the breeders can be found on the [CAIGE WEBSITE here](#).



CIMMYT– Australia– ICARDA Germplasm Evaluation Project

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Mind boggling

A Mathematician, a Biologist and a Physicist are sitting in a street cafe watching people going in and coming out of the house on the other side of the street.

First they see two people going into the house. Time passes. After a while they notice three persons coming out of the house. The Physicist: "The measurement wasn't accurate.". The Biologists conclusion: "They have reproduced". The Mathematician: "If now exactly 1 person enters the house then it will be empty again."