

CAIGE Project Newsletter



CIMMYT- Australia - ICARDA Germplasm Evaluation

June - July 2014

Dear CAIGE colleagues,

Welcome to the June-July edition of the CAIGE newsletter.

It has been a late start to winter, here in Australia, but Mother Nature is surely making up for it now. We have been experiencing higher than average cold temperatures for the past few weeks, so I am sure none of us are looking forward to the electricity bill!!! In fact the city of Brisbane, which usually has mild winters, this month has recorded the coldest morning in 103 years at 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Glen Innes in Northern New South Wales, recorded temperatures of -11.3 degrees Celcius. Now, that is REALLY cold for this Mediterranean-grown lady!!



It's a bit coldbrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

In the coming months, the CAIGE team will be planning the Australian tour of the experimental field sites. Each year we invite CIMMYT and ICARDA breeders to join us on this tour, and most of our Australian colleagues have enjoyed the opportunity to interact with these breeders who are directly involved with the development of the CAIGE lines being grown in the yield trials.

Read also about new data available on the CAIGE website, from the Crown Rot Initiative Project, and the upcoming field days organized by the University of Sydney at Narrabri and the University of Queensland at Gatton.

I also wanted to remind you that this newsletter has a mailing list of more than 300 people, so if you have any related news from your organization which you would like to share, let us know about it and we will include it in this newsletter.

In the meantimehappy reading!

Ciao for now!

Sandra Micallef

*Coordinator and Data Administrator
CAIGE Project*

Upcoming events:-

- *Australian Grains Industry Conference—Melbourne, Australia 28-29 July 2014*
- *Crawford Fund Conference - Canberra, Australia 26-28 August 2014*
- *PBI Narrabri (University of Sydney) Field Day— Narrabri, 10 September 2014*
- *9th Conference of AFITA— Perth, 29 September—2 October 2014*
- *QAFFI Gatton Field Day— Gatton, 1 October 2014*
- *CAIGE Yield Trials Tour— 25 -31 October 2014*
- *15th Australasian Plant Breeding Conference—Melbourne, 26-29 October 2014*
- *9th International Wheat Conference - Sydney, Australia September 2015*

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CAIGE Yield Trials Tour 2014

The annual tour of the CAIGE yield trials around Australia, this year will be held during the last week of October between 25th - 31st.

The tour will kick off on Saturday the 25th October at the Plant Breeding Institute in Narrabri, followed by a stop in Junee to see the CAIGE trial being grown by Longreach Plant Breeders. From Wagga Wagga, the group will fly to Melbourne and attend the 15th Australasian Plant Breeding conference in St Kilda on Monday and Tuesday. From Melbourne, it is on the road again to Horsham, and then onto Roseworthy for AGT's trial. The group will then fly to Perth to see Intergrain's trial at Mukinbudin and EdStar Genetics's trial at Toodyay.



ICARDA breeder Dr Tadesse Wuletaw and CIMMYT breeder Dr Ravi Singh, will be joining CAIGE leader Dr Richard Trethowan on this tour.

The itinerary details of this tour are still being drawn up and a confirmation of the final program will be sent out to the CAIGE mailing list. All the information will also be posted on the CAIGE website.

CAIGE collaborators are invited to join the tour group at any of the field sites to interact with the CIMMYT and ICARDA breeders.

If you would like to join this tour, please let the Project Coordinator know as soon as possible so we can make sure that any vehicle hired can accommodate the whole travelling group.

Crown Rot Initiative project data on CAIGE website

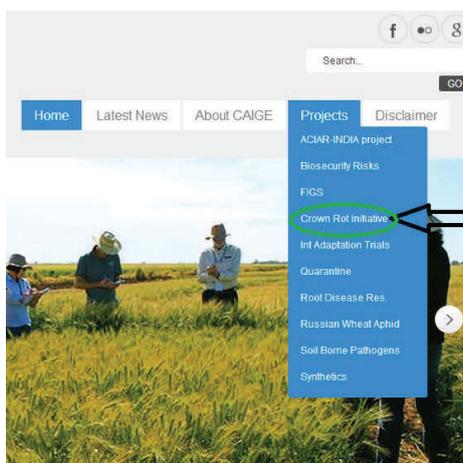
The Crown Rot Initiative Project aims to develop wheat germplasm in ergonomically acceptable backgrounds with significantly improved crown rot resistance.

Collaborative yield loss testing of breeding lines produced through this GRDC-funded crown rot program has been undertaken since 2012, designed to assess the yield potential of material under crown rot conditions and to assess the level of tolerance these lines have to crown rot.

Trials are sown at the Plant Breeding Institute in Narrabri where trial plots are inoculated with crown rot. These plots are then compared to neighboring disease free plots to assess the degree of yield loss in infected plants.

The trials include material contributed by CSIRO, QDAFF, NSW DPI, SARDI, UQ, USQ and the University of Sydney, and has allowed the direct comparison of material from the participating organisations.

Data from these trials can be found on the CAIGE website. From the top menu, select CROWN ROT INITIATIVE from the PROJECTS tab.



Or click on this link <http://caigeproject.org.au/index.php/crownrotinitiative/35-crown-rot-initiative-data-2013>

Read more about the Crown Rot Pre Breeding Programs on the [GRDC website HERE](#)

Crawford Fund Scholarships

The Crawford Fund is offering scholarships for young agricultural scientists/students to attend their conference this year in Canberra from 26-28 August (2014). These scholarships are part of the Fund's effort to encourage young people in their studies or careers in international agricultural research.

For more information about these scholarships please visit the Crawford Fund's website.

<http://www.crawfordfund.org/>

GRDC Ground Cover Articles

Check out these articles from GRDC's Ground Cover magazine about projects involving some of our collaborators :-



Dr Jason Able - [Identifying new sources of crown rot resistance in barley and durum](#)

Dr Anke Martin - [Durum Crown Rot Resistance](#)

Dr Steven Simpfendorfer - [Stubble management practices such as cultivation can lead to increased infection and expression of crown rot](#)

Dr Kristy Owen & Dr Grant Hollaway - [Well-managed rotations will minimise the damage caused by root lesion nematodes in cereal production systems](#)

Dr John Thompson & Jason Sheedy - [Decades of pre-breeding research could lead to the release of wheat breeding lines with resistance to root lesion nematode species by early 2015](#)

Dr Cassandra Percy & Dr Hugh Wallwork - [QDAFF pre-breeding research has so far delivered 71 breeding lines with improved crown rot resistance to wheat breeding programs across Australia](#)

PBI Narrabri Field Day

The Annual Narrabri Field Day is on again on Wednesday, 10 September 2014, between 9am and 5pm

- Featuring presentations from agronomists, researchers and breeding companies on two major themes: 1) Crown rot and 2) Water Use Efficiency / Heat Tolerance.
- Hear about the agronomic issues, what is coming through from breeders to address these issues and the research that is underpinning genetic improvement.



- Other research on display will include Faba Bean and Field Pea breeding, grain quality research and soil biology work.

Morning tea, lunch and closing drinks are included. For more information and to register contact Richard Heath at richard.heath@sydney.edu.au

Winter Cereal Research Field Day—Gatton



The Annual Field Day at Gatton will be held on October 1st, at the field sites of the University of Queensland and the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

A bus will leave The University of Queensland St Lucia to Gatton departing from Glasshouse Road at 7.30 am sharp. If you prefer to use your own transport please meet at Gatton

McDonalds Warrago Hwy at 8.30 am. Contact Dr Lee Hickey at L.hickey@uq.edu.au to reserve a seat on the bus as they are limited.

For more information, see the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation website.

<http://www.qaafi.uq.edu.au/>

2015 CAIGE Breeders' trip to ICARDA

“ICARDA’s North Africa Regional Program works with national agricultural research institutions in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia. It tackles the challenges of low and highly variable rainfall, extreme temperatures, short cropping seasons, poor soils,.....”

<http://www.icarda.org>

In 2015, the Annual CAIGE Breeders' visit will be to the research facilities of ICARDA in Morocco and Lebanon, and the plans for this trip are already underway.

If you would like to join the CAIGE group on this trip, send us an email (Sandra.micallef@sydney.edu.au)



Dr Sanjaya Rajaram wins World Food Prize



Dr Rajaram (left) with CAIGE Project leader Dr Richard Trethowan

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Rajaram who has been named winner of the 2014 World Food Prize in recognition of his outstanding work in the improvement of wheat.

World Food Prize Foundation President Kenneth M. Quinn announced the World Food Prize winner at an event at the US State Department on the 18th June.

The World Food Prize was established in 1986 by Dr. Norman Borlaug to focus the world's attention on hunger and on those whose work has significantly helped efforts to end it.

It recognizes individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.

The award will be formally presented to Dr Rajaram in a ceremony in October at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa

15th Australasian Plant Breeding Conference



**15th Australasian
Plant Breeding Conference**

October 26-29, 2014, St Kilda, VICTORIA

will be held at the Novotel Hotel, St. Kilda in Melbourne, Australia from 26th - 29th October 2014.

<http://www.australasianplantbreeding.com.au/>

International Wheat Conference 2015

The Organising Committee invites you to submit an expression of interest for IWC 2015.



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Did you know

.....Australians from Queensland are known as “Banana Benders”

.....the name “Kylie” comes from the Aborigine word for boomerang

..... the 'dingo fence' in Australia is the longest fence in the world and is about twice as long as the Great Wall of China

..... 2.5 pints of beer in 11 seconds is Bob Hawke's entry in the Guinness Book of Records. Bob later became the Prime Minister of Australia.

..... The male platypus has venom strong enough to kill a small dog

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