



 **BGRI** Borlaug Global Rust Initiative

February 2018

Recognizing Women in Wheat Science

Women in Triticum

The DGGW project has catalyzed a vibrant community of women scientists working in wheat.



 **BILL & MELINDA**
GATES foundation



The 51 Jeanie Borlaug-Laube Women in Triticum Early Career Award winners are making significant contributions to global wheat research.

February 11 was the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in STEM. Many notable women have contributed to wheat research around the world. The BGRI is proud to support their work and take this opportunity to highlight some of their achievements to date.

International Women's Day is coming up on March 8! If you are on social media and would like us to feature you or your work with women scientists or smallholder women farmers, please include the hashtag **#WomensDay2018** in your post and tag **@globalrust** on Twitter or Facebook. All are welcome to participate.

[See a full list of our WIT Early Career Award winners on the BGRI website.](#)



Maricelis Acevedo

Leading an international collaboration to ensure food security. ([Read More](#))



Suchismita Mondal

Revolutionizing wheat phenotyping with drones. ([Read More](#))



Silvia Germán

Recognizing strong mentorship of early career scientists. ([Read More](#))

Food Fight: Saving the world's global food supply

Food Fight is a six-part video series looking at Ug99, the aggressive disease out of Uganda that was the initial impetus for the establishment of the BGRI. Ug99 and related races continue to worry wheat scientists and threaten global food supplies, as you can see from the reports below.



Photo by Undark Magazine

[View the full series on Undark Magazine.](#)

Deadly strain of wheat stem rust disease surfaces in Europe



Barberry is a shrub found throughout the temperate and subtropical regions.
Photo: John Innes Centre

Scientists have shown that the first appearance of wheat stem rust disease in the U.K. in nearly 60 years, which occurred in 2013, was caused by the same virulent fungal strain responsible for recent wheat stem rust outbreaks in Ethiopia, Denmark, Germany, and Sweden. The same group confirmed for the first time in many decades that the stem rust fungus was growing on barberry bush, the pathogen's alternate host, in the UK.

"This signals the rising threat of stem rust disease for wheat and barley production in Europe," said Dave Hodson, senior scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and co-author on the study.

[Read more on the report at the CIMMYT blog.](#)
[Read the full press release on the report at the John Innes Centre site.](#)

GRRC annual report on wheat yellow rust 2017 released



Yellow rust coats a tractor wheel in Los Cisnes, La Carlota, provincia de Cordoba, Argentina, during the early cropping season in September. Wheat cultivar: Klein Serpiente. Photo: Juan Pablo loele.

Contributed by Jens Grønbech Hansen

Unusual and severe epidemics of yellow rust were observed on several continents in 2017, according to a new report released by the Global Rust Reference Center in Aarhus University, Denmark. In a number of cases, epidemic sites at different continents were inter-related by prevalence of genetically identical yellow rust genotypes and races.

[Read key highlights and findings of the GRRC report at the BGRI blog.](#)

Latin American Cereals Conference and International Gluten Workshop to be held in Mexico City



This March, the 4th ICC Latin American Cereals Conference and the 13th International Gluten Workshop will be held from 11-17 March 2018 in Mexico City. The event is jointly organized by the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). In anticipation of this event, CIMMYT has [released a compilation of](#)

[studies on wheat and health.](#)

LACC is an international conference that promotes scientific and technological knowledge related to the production of grains, cereals and food and is aimed at professionals connected to the value chains of grains and cereals, from agricultural production to the food industry and consumers.

The IGW will focus on the latest in all wheat quality topics (not only gluten) and is designed for all grain quality scientists, nutritionists, breeders, agronomists, and professionals in the seed, milling and food industries. Researchers from around the world will report on progress made in various topics. This even will establish networks and define future projects to face the current challenges in the field.

[Learn more about this double event at the official LACC and IGW website.](#)

[Read the full CIMMYT report on wheat and nutrition studies.](#)

Wheat Scientist Profile: Shitaye Mergessa

In 2018, the BGRI will be publishing a series of Q&A's with scientists in the DGGW project. In honor of the UN Women in Science Day on February 11, this month we profile Shitaye Homma Megeressa, a Ph.D. Candidate from Ethiopia who is working in Mark Sorrells' laboratory at Cornell University. Her work is being supported by the DGGW under the Talent Pipeline objective.



"The battle against rust disease is a continuous process as far as wheat production is concerned," said Megeressa. "I hope that our project will generate important information and uncover new sources of stem and leaf rust resistance and deploy them in our breeding program and eventually integrate them globally."

Shitaye Homma Megeressa. Photo by Linda McCandless

[Read the full interview with Shitaye at the BGRI blog.](#)

Research Updates

Registration of 'Linkert' Spring Wheat with Good Straw Strength and Adult Plant Resistance to the Ug99 Family of Stem Rust Races

[\[LINK \]](#)

A Genome-Wide Association Study of Field and Seedling Response to Individual Stem Rust Pathogen Races Reveals Combinations of Race-Specific Genes in North American Spring Wheat

[\[LINK \]](#)

The wheat and nutrition series: a compilation of studies on wheat and health

[\[LINK \]](#)

Upcoming Events

4^a Conferencia Latinoamericana de Cereales (LACC4) - 4th ICC Latin American Cereals Conference

13th International Gluten Workshop (IGW)

11-17 March 2018 (*Mexico City, Mexico*)

<http://cereals2018.cimmyt.org/>

CIMMYT Visitor's Week (*Ciudad Obregon, Mexico*)

19-23 March 2018

BGRI Technical Workshop

14-17 April 2018 (*Marrakesh, Morocco*)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: <http://bit.ly/BGRI18reg>

VIEW WORKSHOP PROGRAM: <http://bit.ly/BGRI18program>

Wheats & Women International Conference

14-15 June 2018 (*Rome, Italy*)

<https://www.wheatwomen-carlotta2018.com/>

International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018: Plant Health in A Global Economy

July 29-August 3 2018 (*Boston, Massachusetts*)

<http://www.icpp2018.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Contribute to the BGRI Newsletter and Social Media

If you have any news of interest to the BGRI community, please send us a message and we will try to include it in subsequent BGRI newsletters! We also publish and share stories on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Use [@globalrust](#) to tag any contributions.

Events, career and educational opportunities, photos, and new publications are especially welcome.

Contact BGRI newsletter editor [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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