



**September 2018**

**Call for Nominations:  
2019 Women in Triticum Early Career and Mentor Awards**



The 2018 Women in Triticum Early Career Award winners (L to R): Radhika Bartaula, Sreya Ghosh, Raheela Rehman, Hannah Robinson, and Meriem Aoun

Every year, the BGRI recognizes the achievements of individuals and teams working in wheat research. Nominations are now open for the following awards:

**2019 Women in Triticum Early Career Award**

*Deadline 30 October 2018*

Recognizes an early-career woman working in wheat (scientists ranging from advanced undergraduates to recent PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellows). Recipients will be supported to participate in various professional development opportunities, including mentorships and workshops. To apply, please fill out the online application:

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit>

**2019 Women in Triticum Mentor Award**

*Deadline 30 October 2018*

Recognizes an outstanding mentor (male or female) of women working in triticum and its nearest relatives. To nominate an awardee, please fill out the online application:

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit-mentor>

**Multimedia Spotlight: 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop**

The 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop in Morocco brought together over 300 participants from 51 countries to hear about the latest research in wheat, present their



posters, network and meet with old friends.

Select presentations from the workshop plenary have been recorded and made available online for viewing.

### [WATCH NOW: 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop Playlist](#)

Featured sessions include:

- Hans Braun: [50 Years of Benefits from International Collaboration on Wheat Improvement](#)
- Philomin Juliana: [Genomic selection for grain yield and rust resistance in CIMMYT wheat breeding](#)
- Lee Hickey: [Speed breeding is a powerful tool to accelerate wheat research and breeding](#)
- Ravi Singh: [Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat](#)
- Lesley Boyd: [Nonhost resistance an option for breeding? Variation in immune system of wild wheat](#)
- Panel: ["Does Gender Matter in Wheat Breeding?" \(moderated by Bernice Waweru\)](#)

## Wheat in the News



The mobile lab allows researchers to extract and prepare rust DNA for sequencing in the field. Photo provided by John Innes Centre.

### **BAU hosts three day national meet of wheat scientists**

About 300 scientists from across India and

### **MARPLE Diagnostics: A Pioneering Step in Ethiopian Wheat Rust Management**

A new mobile lab set-up by the Saunders lab

abroad discussed the ways and means of increasing the area, production, productivity and nutritional content of wheat and barley at the three-day Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Wheat and Barley organized at Birsa Agricultural University (BAU) in Ranchi, India, from August 24 to 26.

The event was jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal, and BAU and included representatives from almost all the states, India's agricultural universities, and five international research institutes.

[Read more at the BGRI blog.](#)

of the John Innes Centre is being trialed at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) in Holeta, Ethiopia.

"This development will enable increased surveillance of crop disease pressure and more targeted methods of control," said Diane Saunders of the JIC. The opening trials with EIAR will be identifying individual wheat yellow rust strains, a fungal pathogen that causes a major disease of wheat worldwide and also affects wheat crops in Ethiopia, the largest producer of wheat in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more at the Alliance for Accelerated Crop Improvement in Africa \(ACACIA\) website.](#)

## Indian Researchers Receive 2018 Gene Stewardship Award



Team India receives the Gene Stewardship Award at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in New Delhi, India, and associated institutions were granted the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) Gene Stewardship Award at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop in Marrakech, Morocco, on April 14, 2018. The award was in recognition of outstanding contributions in wheat research and development.

As Jeanie Borlaug said, "This is really a group award for all Indian wheat scientists, as so many have contributed to the achievements in India since my father's time."

[Read more about the nomination and Team India's efforts at the the BGRI blog.](#)

## Women in Triticum in Action: Shideh Mojerlou at CSIRO

Shideh Mojerlou, WIT awardee and assistant professor at Shahrood University of Technology in Iran who was featured in our [Women in Triticum Spotlight](#), recently visited the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(CSIRO) in Australia to collaborate in mapping of the leaf rust resistance gene *Lr31*. During her visit, she worked with CSIRO's team to analyze leaf rust-susceptible mutants and identify changes in DNA that might explain loss of leaf rust resistance.

"*Lr31* is an interesting gene because it requires a complementary gene on chromosome 3B (*Lr27*) to confer race-specific seedling resistance," Mojerlou explained. Making use of the wheat reference genome, the team was able to fully annotate the region, and identify five genes that may be responsible for loss of function for further research.



Shideh Mojerlou, 2015 Women in Triticum Early Career Award Winner.

## Events and Opportunities

### Plant Genomes in a Changing Environment

24 - 26 October 2018 (Wellcome Genome Campus, UK)

<http://bit.ly/PlantGenomes2018>

### Grains for Well-Being

5-8 November 2018 (*Taipei, Taiwan*)

<http://www.grainsforwellbeing.org/en/>

### Rotation PhDs in Plant and Microbial Science - John Innes Centre, UK

*Deadline Nov 29*

4 year fully-funded studentships, for entry in Oct 2019. Includes plant science, microbiology, biological chemistry, applied mathematics, computational & systems biology, genetics, genomics, crop science, cell and molecular biology.

<https://www.jic.ac.uk/training-careers/postgraduate-research/rotation-phd/>

## Recent Publications

BED-domain-containing immune receptors confer diverse resistance spectra to yellow rust

[\[ LINK \]](#)

The transcriptional landscape of polyploid wheat

[\[ LINK \]](#)

## 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](#).

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**Borlaug Global Rust Initiative**  
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