



Harnessing translational research for climate resilience of wheat

2nd International Plant Genetics & Genomics Symposium
Arish University, Egypt, 20-22nd Oct 2020

HeDWIC



河南農業大學
Henan Agricultural University



Harnessing translational research across a global wheat improvement network for climate resilience: Research gaps, interactive goals and outcomes

RESEARCH GAPS:

Insufficient detail of breeding targets

Limited genetic diversity for climate resilience

Need for more comprehensive phenomic tools

Limited understanding of genetic bases of climate resilience

Need for smart strategies to stack traits

Insufficient genetic gains to meet future scenarios

Need for validation and scale-out of new breeding technologies

Bottleneck between basic plant science and application in breeding

Insufficient capacity in many national research and breeding systems

Main outcomes & beneficiaries: **breeders**, plus **researchers**, plus **farmers & consumers**

Better focused research & breeding targets

Novel sources of traits & alleles

'Breeder friendly' phenotyping tools

New opportunities for marker application & gene editing

Breeders can select for more complex traits

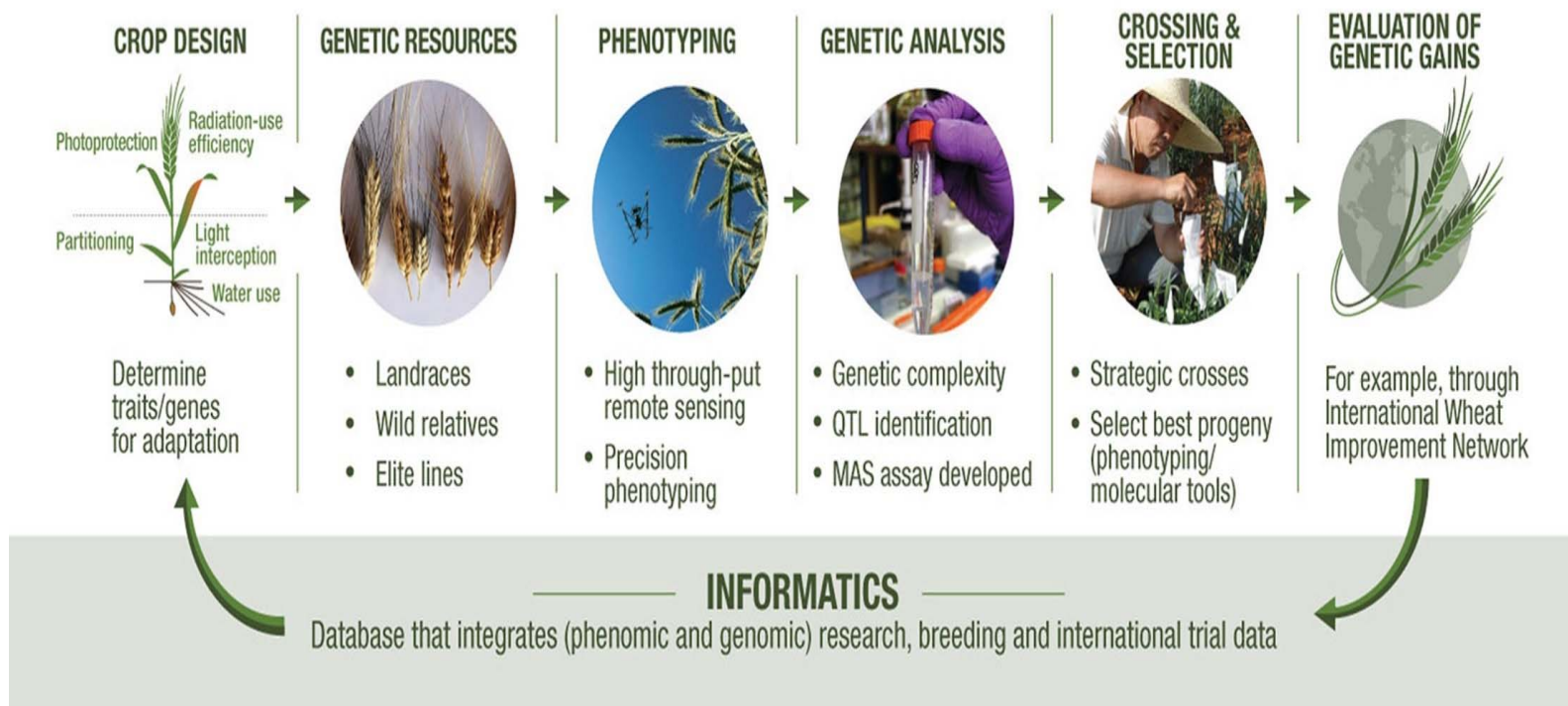
Climate resilience underpins economy, livelihoods, etc.

Increased efficiency and options for public & private breeders

Increased societal value of academic research

Scale-out of new capacity to wheat & other crops

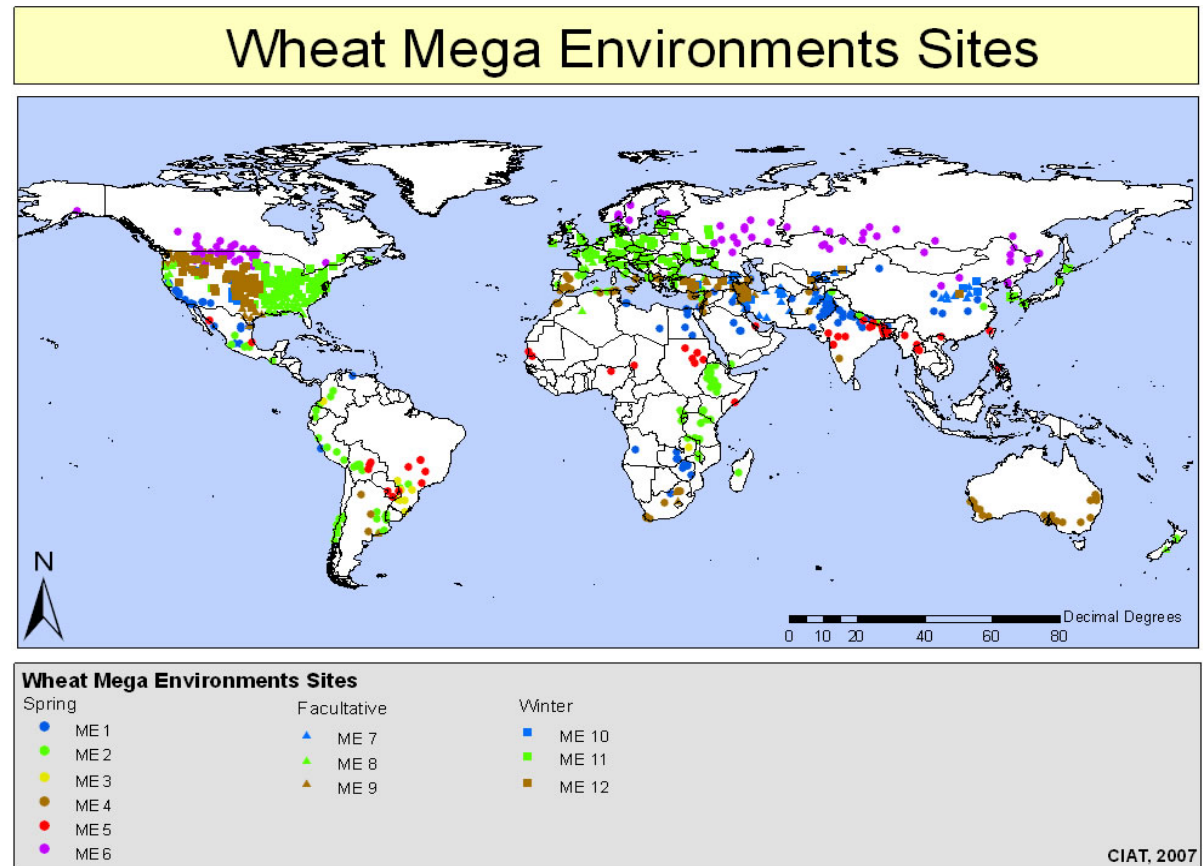
PHYSIOLOGICAL PRE-BREEDING PIPELINE



Reynolds MP and Langridge P. (2016). Physiological Breeding. Current Opinions in Plant Biology 31: 162–171

Goal 1: Improve crop design using modeling and IWIN big data sets

- ~1000 new lines sent annually to a network of public & private breeders globally
- Common set of germplasm grown under a diverse conditions
- Generated millions of data points over 4 decades



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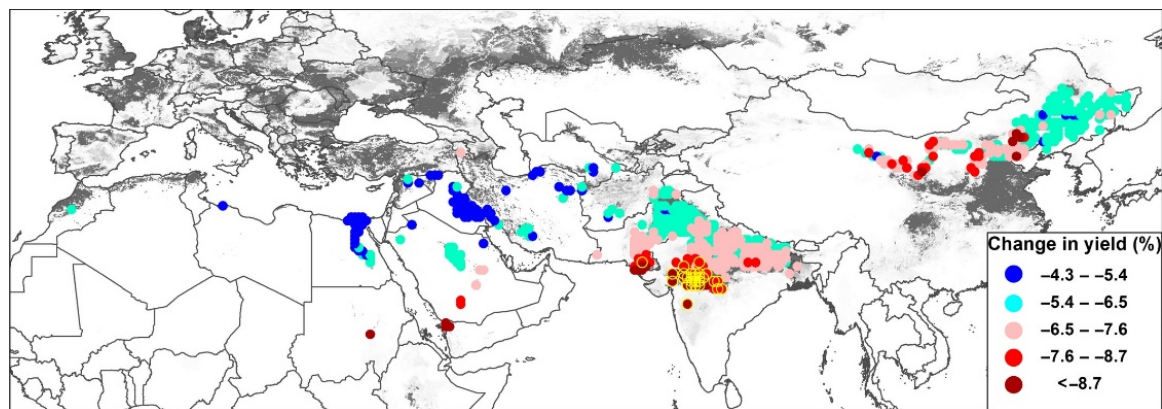
Builds on Previous Research Using IWIN

Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2016), doi: 10.1111/gcb.13530

Hot spots of wheat yield decline with rising temperatures

SENTHOLD ASSENG¹, DAVIDE CAMMARANO^{1,a}, BRUNO BASSO², URAN CHUNG^{3,b}, PHILLIP D. ALDERMAN^{3,c}, KAI SONDER³, MATTHEW REYNOLDS³ and DAVID B. LOBELL^{4,5}



Estimated average yield change for 2030–2041 (compared to baseline 2000–2011) across main global irrigated spring wheat areas with >13.0 °C mean seasonal temperature.



Gourdji, S. M., et al. 2013. An assessment of wheat yield sensitivity and breeding gains in hot environments. *Proceedings of The Royal Society B*, 280: 20122190

Crespo-Herrera, L. A., et al. 2017. Genetic Yield Gains In CIMMYT's International Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials By Modeling. *Crop Science*, 57:789–801

Crespo-Herrera, L. A., et al. 2018. Genetic gains for grain yield in CIMMYT's Semi-Arid wheat yield trials grown in suboptimal environments. *Crop Science*, 58:1890–1898

Juliana, P., et al. 2020. Retrospective quantitative genetic analysis and genomic prediction of global wheat yields. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 11

DESIGN: conceptual model of heat-adaptive traits

$$\text{YIELD} = \text{LI} \times \text{RUE} \times \text{HI}$$

Photo-Protection (RUE)

- Leaf morphology (display wax)
- Down regulation
- Pigment composition
 - Chl a:b
 - Carotenoids
- Antioxidants

Efficient metabolism (RUE)

- Stomatal conductance
- Rubisco (>>)
- C₄ photosynthesis
- C₃ photosynthesis

Partitioning (HI)

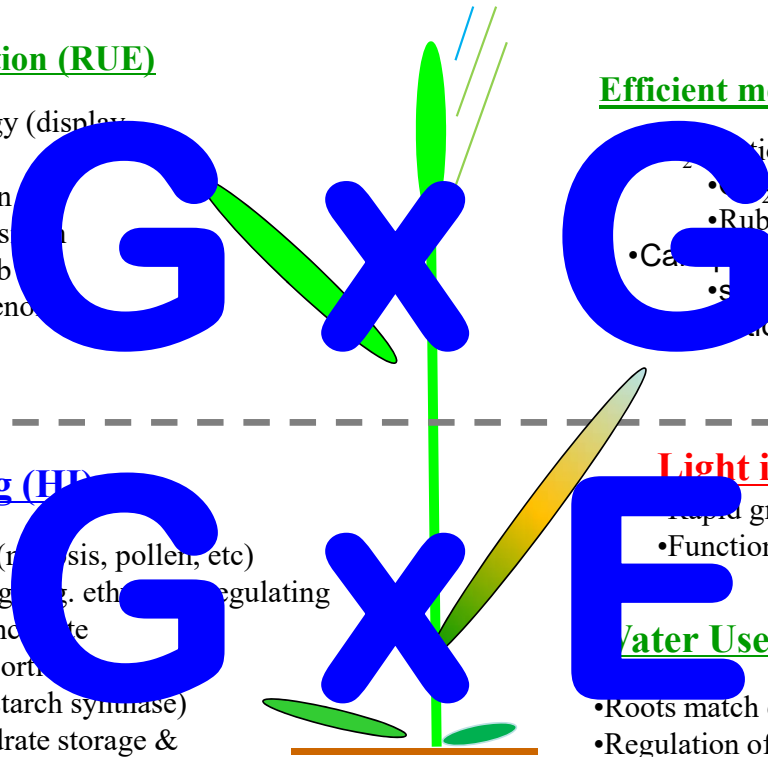
- Spike fertility (anthesis, pollen, etc)
- Stress signaling (ethylene, regulating senescence, etc)
- Floret abortion
- Grain filling (starch synthase)
- Stem carbohydrate storage & remobilization

Light interception (LI)

- Rapid ground cover
- Functional stay-green

Water Use (RUE)

- Roots match evaporative demand
- Regulation of transpiration (VPD; ABA)



Cossani CM, Reynolds, MP. 2012. Physiological traits for improving heat tolerance in wheat. Plant Physiology 160: 1710-18



Goal 2: Explore untapped genetic resources

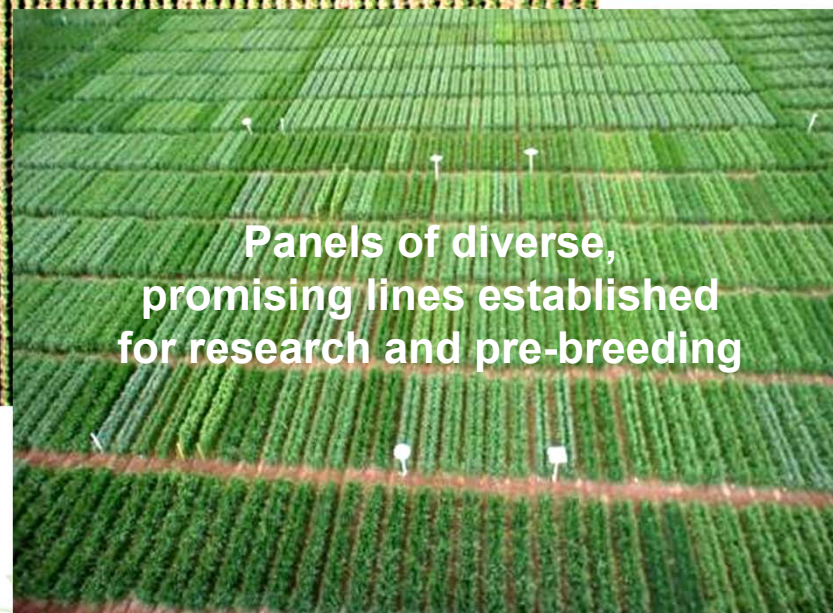
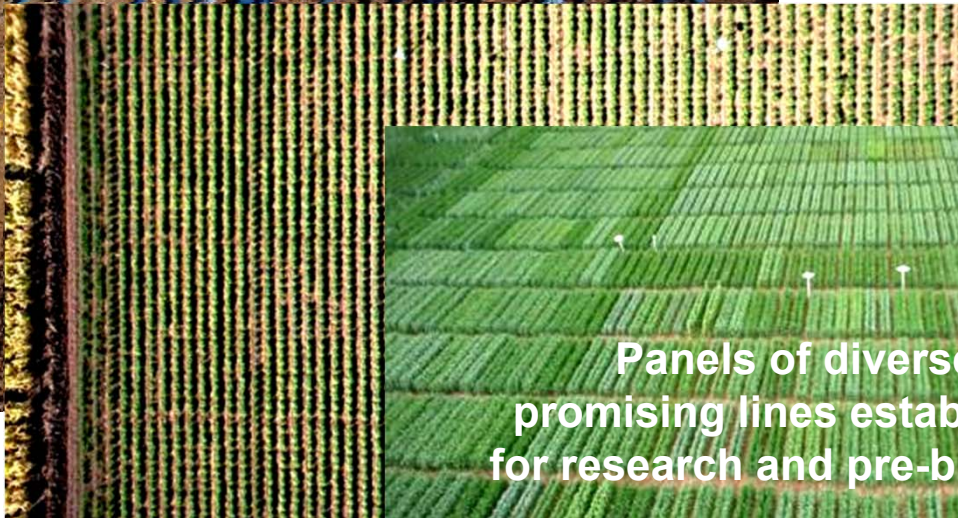
World Wheat Collection at CIMMYT comprise >150,000 genotypes from more than 100 countries; the largest unified collection in the world for a single crop.



70,000 wheat genetic resource samples

Screened under drought and heat, Sonora, Mexico, 2011-2013

Funded by MasAgro-SeeD



Panels of diverse,
promising lines established
for research and pre-breeding

There are ~0.8 m samples of wheat
genetic resources in global
collections

Reynolds et al (2015): Exploring genetic resources to increase adaptation of wheat to climate change. In *Advances in Wheat Genetics: From Genome to Field*. Eds Ogihara Y, Takumi S, Handa H. Springer Japan; 2015



Bread wheat diversity panel (n=370)



Includes best performing lines from:

- International nurseries
- Landraces/FIGS panels
- Lines derived from inter-specific hybridization

Spike diversity in BW panel



Primary synthetic panel (n=160)

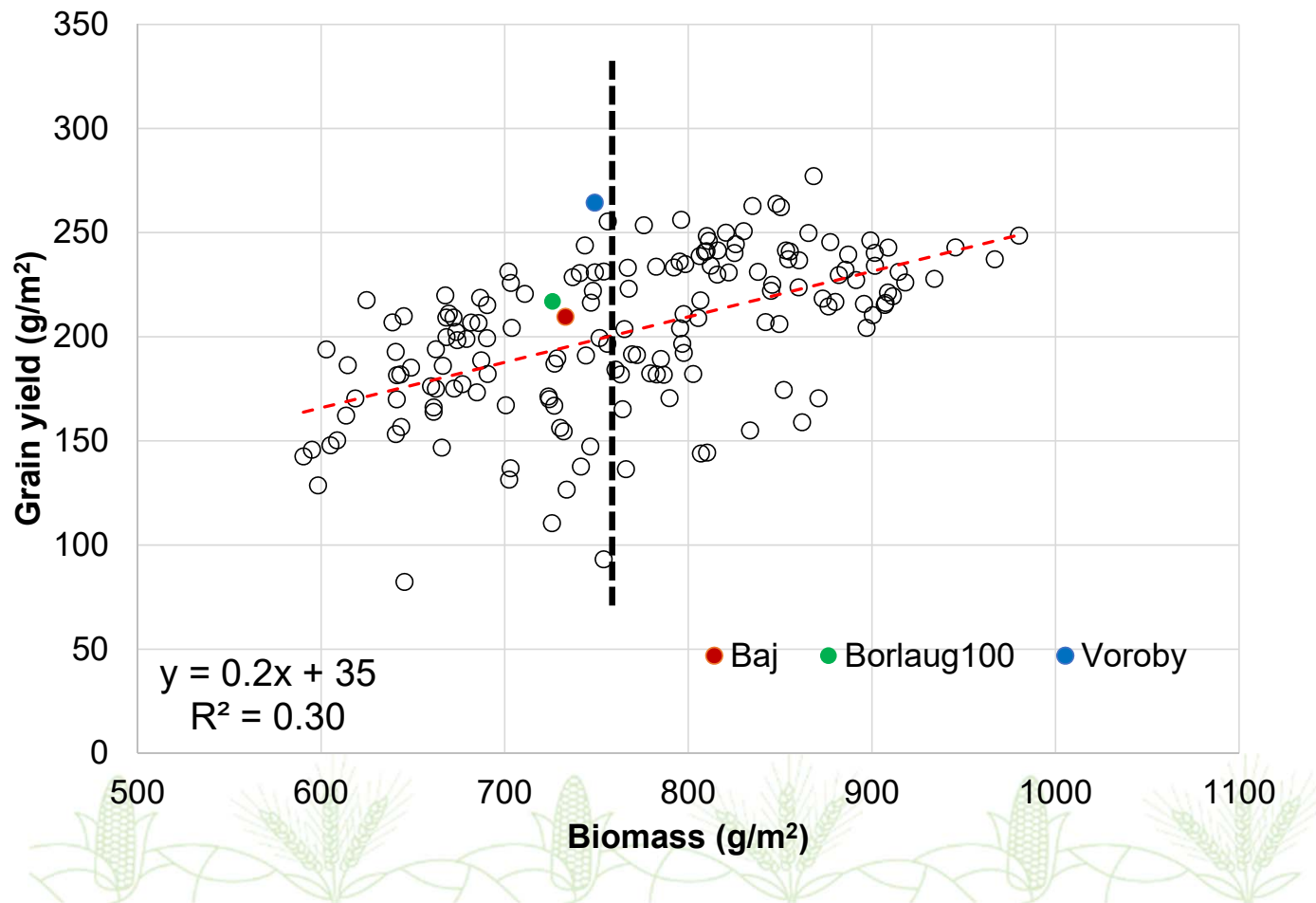


Selected from 2,000 lines (i.e. with brand new hexaploid genomes) for adaptation to heat, drought and favorable conditions

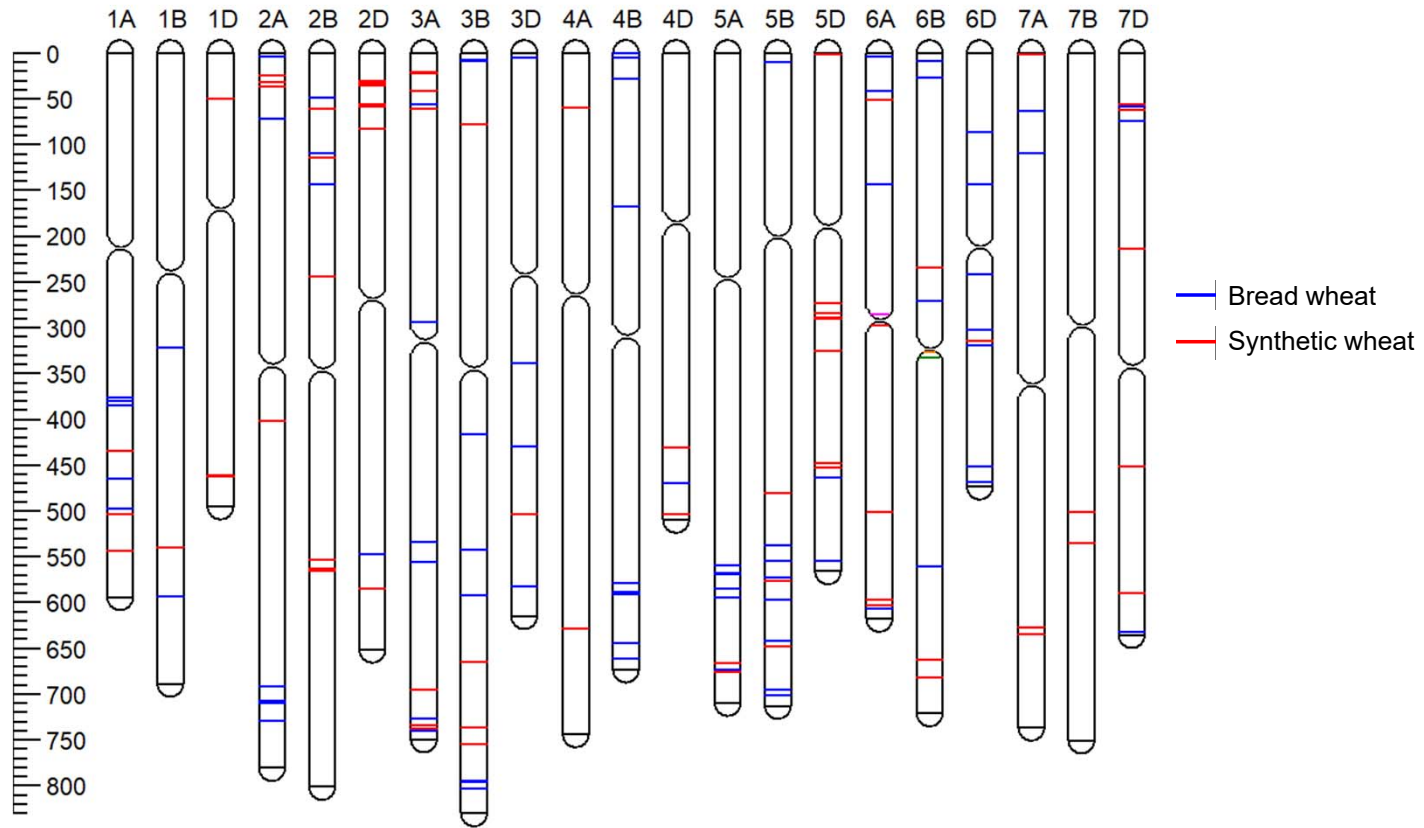


Genetic variation in synthetic hexaploid wheat (heat stress)

NW Mexico, 2016 & 2017



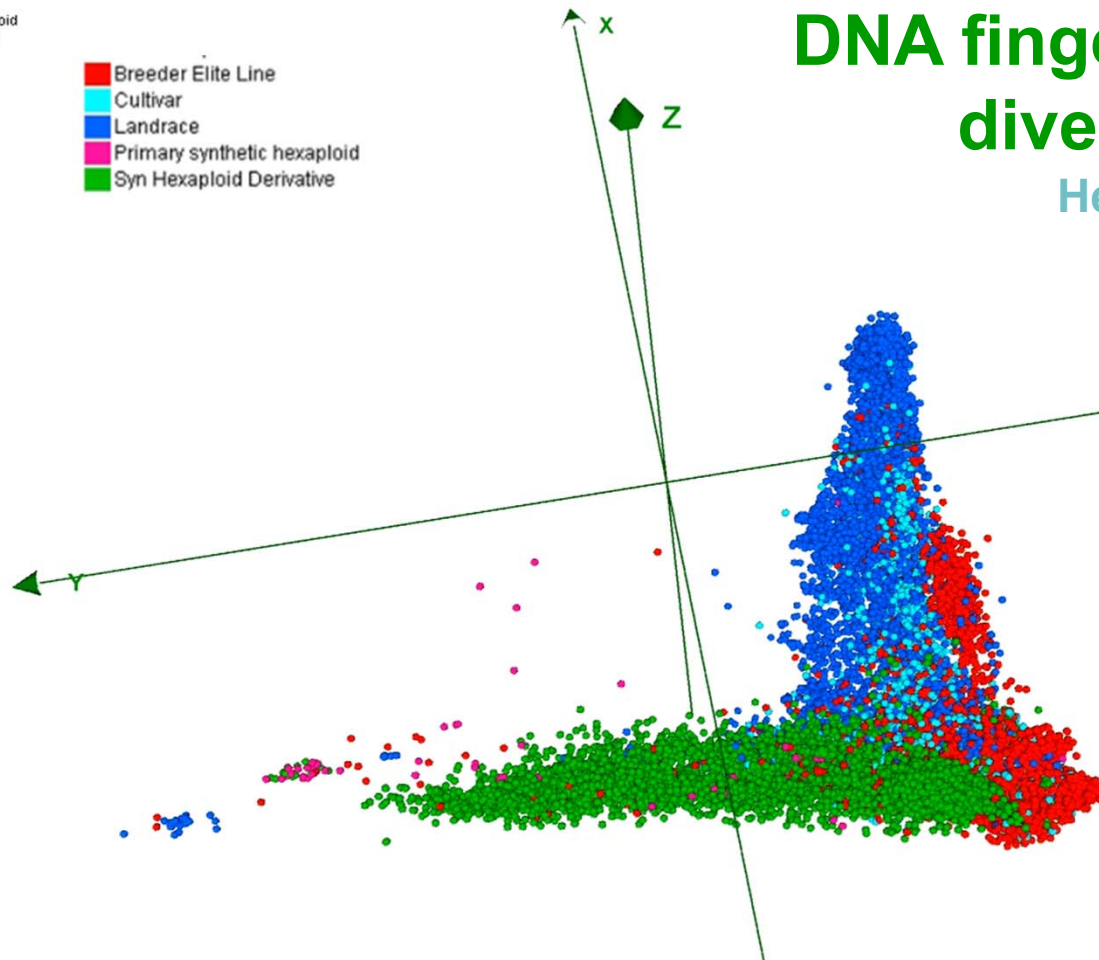
Chromosome regions for drought tolerance



Sukumaran et al., unpublished...

oid
e

- Breeder Elite Line
- Cultivar
- Landrace
- Primary synthetic hexaploid
- Syn Hexaploid Derivative



DNA fingerprinting for diversity subsets

Hexaploid diversity

60,000 accessions,

8 domesticated species:

T. aestivum subs. *aestivum*,
T. aestivum subs. *spelta*,
T. aestivum subs. *compactum*,
T. aestivum subs. *sphaerococcum*,
T. aestivum subs. *macha*,
Triticum hybrid,
x Aegilotriticum
x Triticosecale

ABD genomes,

105 countries

26,500 SilicoDArT

85,500 SNP's

Sansolini et al., 2020. Diversity analysis of 80,000 wheat accessions reveals consequences and opportunities of selection footprints. *Nature Communications*

Modified Roger distance of 60,000 hexaploid accessions displayed in a multidimensional scaling plot.



Goal 3 Phenotyping



4. Drone for IR and spectral images.
5. Phenocart.

Trait class / Approach:

High throughput

Application / Traits:

Spectral indices, thermal (IR) images



6. Root growth analysis.
7. Canopy growth analysis.

Trait class / Approach:

Precision

Application / Traits:

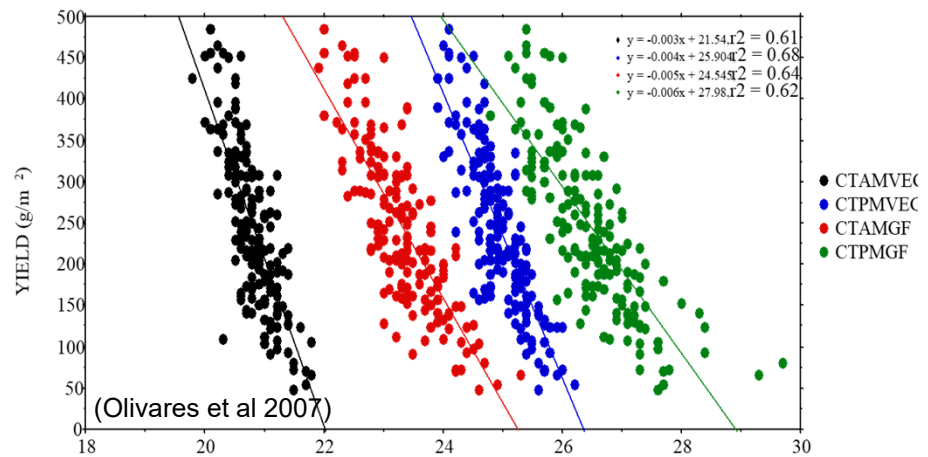
- Growth analysis, above and below ground
- Radiation use efficiency, tiller dynamics
 - Partitioning of N and C to different organs
 - Root dry weight, depth, architecture

- Direct measurement (not shown in photos)
- Energy use efficiency (photosynthesis/respiration)
 - Transpiration
 - Chlorophyll fluorescence
 - Leaf water potential



Canopy temperature (CT)

correlated with yield under drought & heat stress

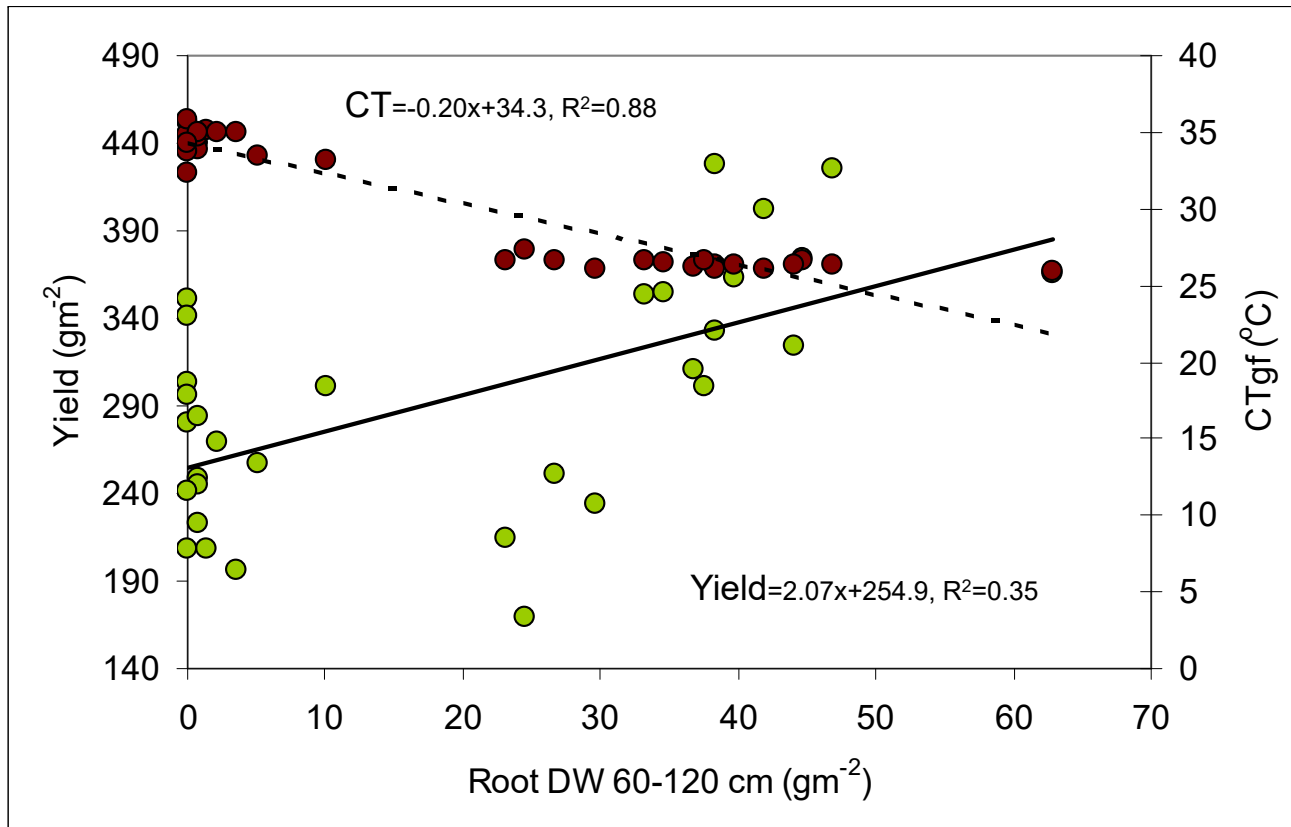


CT under drought, at different growth stages and times of day

Seri/Babax RILs



Deep root profiles under drought stress



Lopes MS and Reynolds MP, 2010. Partitioning of assimilates to deeper roots is associated with cooler canopies and increased yield under drought in wheat. *Functional Plant Biology* 37:147-156

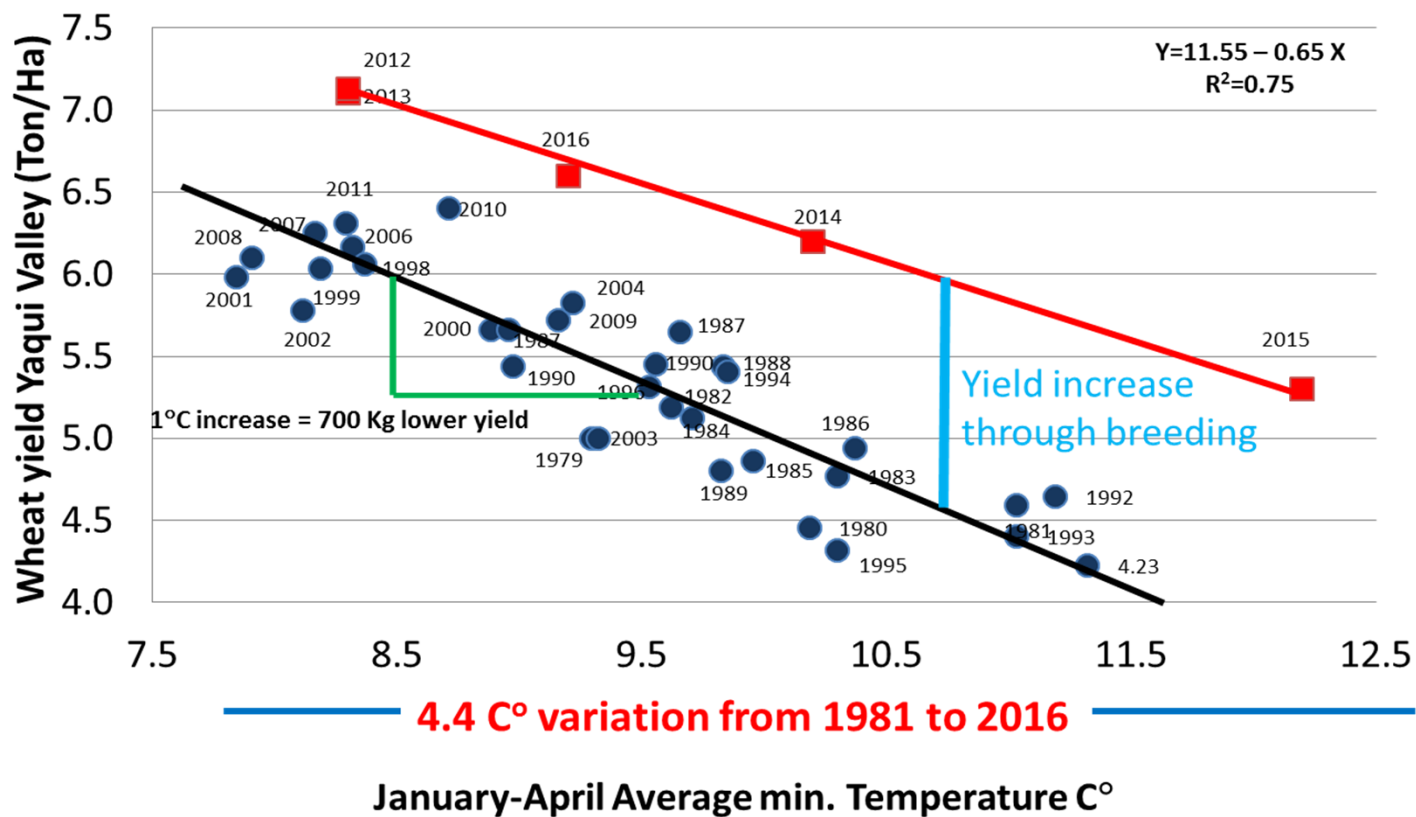
Root phenotyping under drought



Goal 4: Genetic Dissection



Response of farm yield to minimum temperature, NW Mexico



Source: H.-J. Braun and I. Ortiz-Monasterio, CIMMYT



Partial least square analysis of traits and weather parameters

Weather	Grain yield		Thousand-grain weight	
	Variance	x.loading	Variance	x.loading
RH-v	0.20	-0.25	0.01	0.05
RH-h	0.05	-0.12	0.18	0.17
RH-gf	0.13	-0.20	0.12	0.14
T _{max} -v	0.02	0.07	0.02	-0.06
T _{max} -h	0.17	-0.23	0.91	-0.39
T _{max} -gf	0.33	-0.32	0.67	-0.33
T _{max35}	0.07	-0.14	0.48	-0.28
T _{min} -v	0.59	-0.42	0.65	-0.33
T _{min} -h	0.91	-0.53	0.85	-0.37
T _{min} -gf	0.78	-0.49	0.81	-0.36

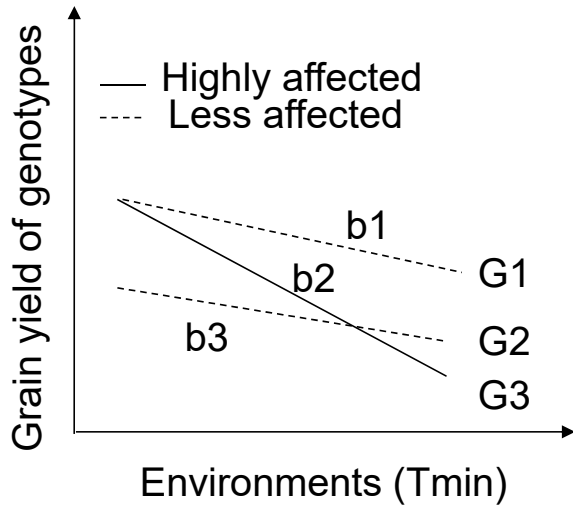
V, vegetative stage; h, heading; gf, grain filling

Sukumaran et al. (unpublished)

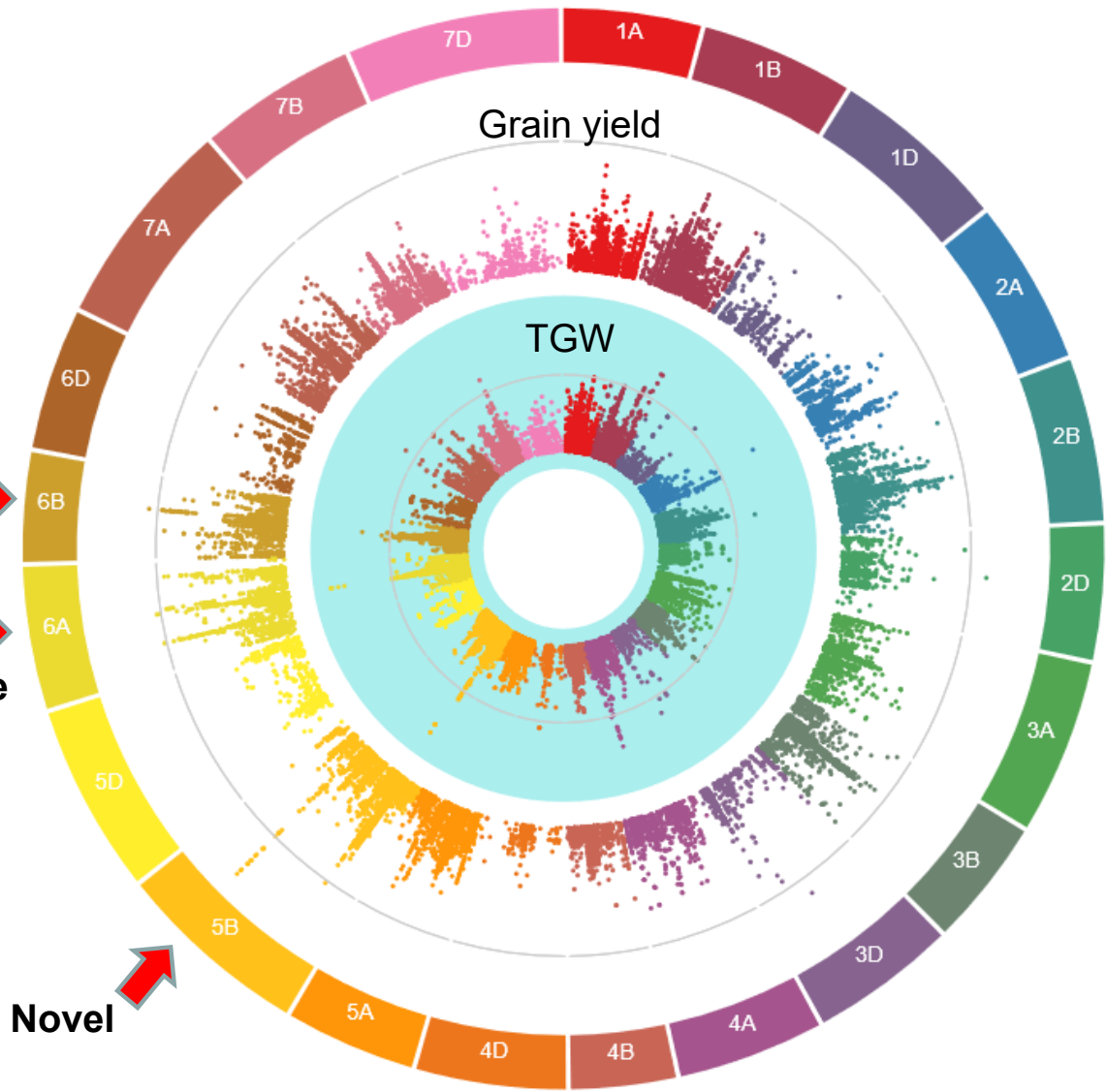
CIMMYT™



Slope of reaction norms



Novel →
TaGW2 gene →

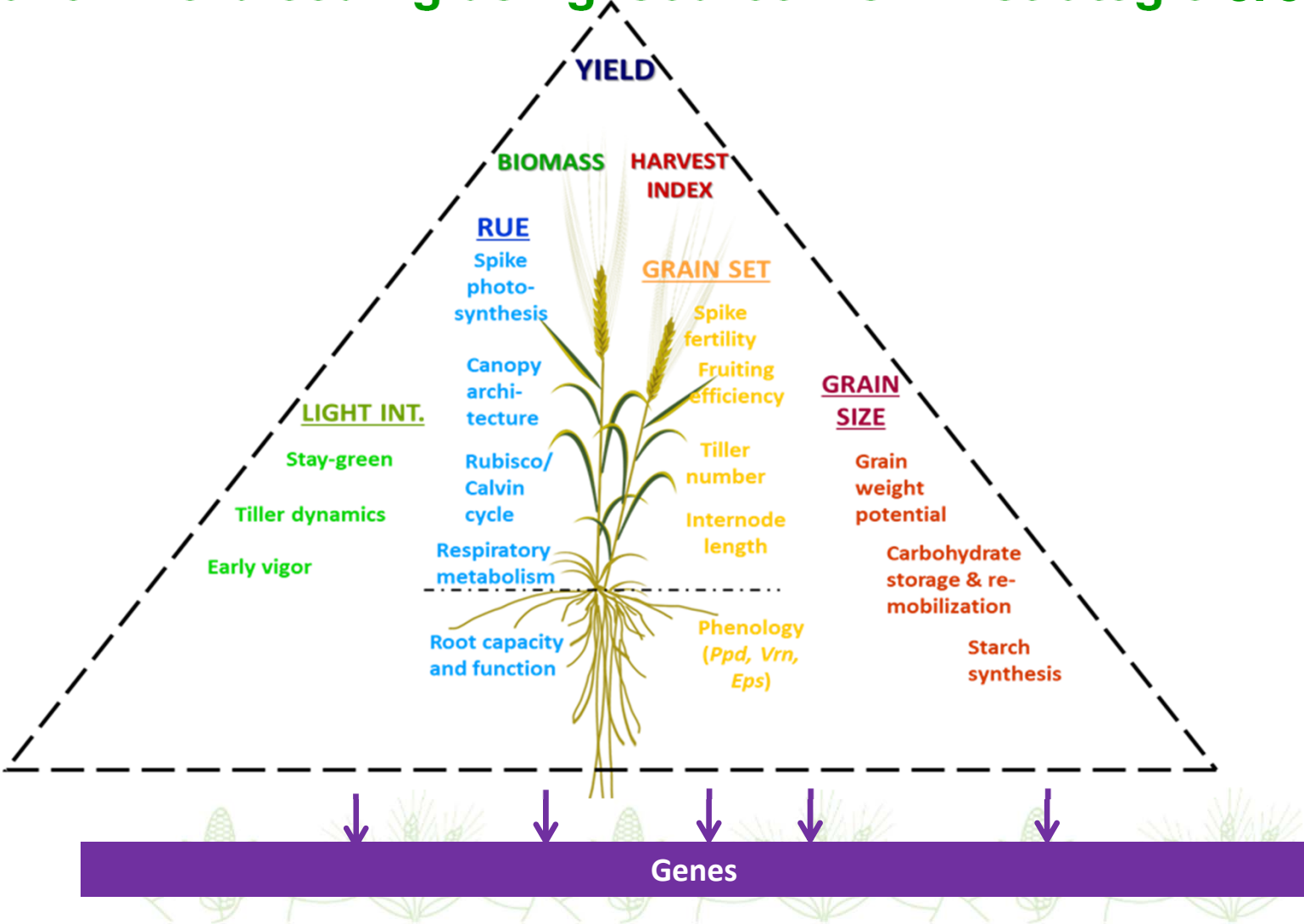


TaGW2 gene is involved in trait variation, response to night time temperature, and phenotypic plasticity

Sukumaran et al. (unpublished)



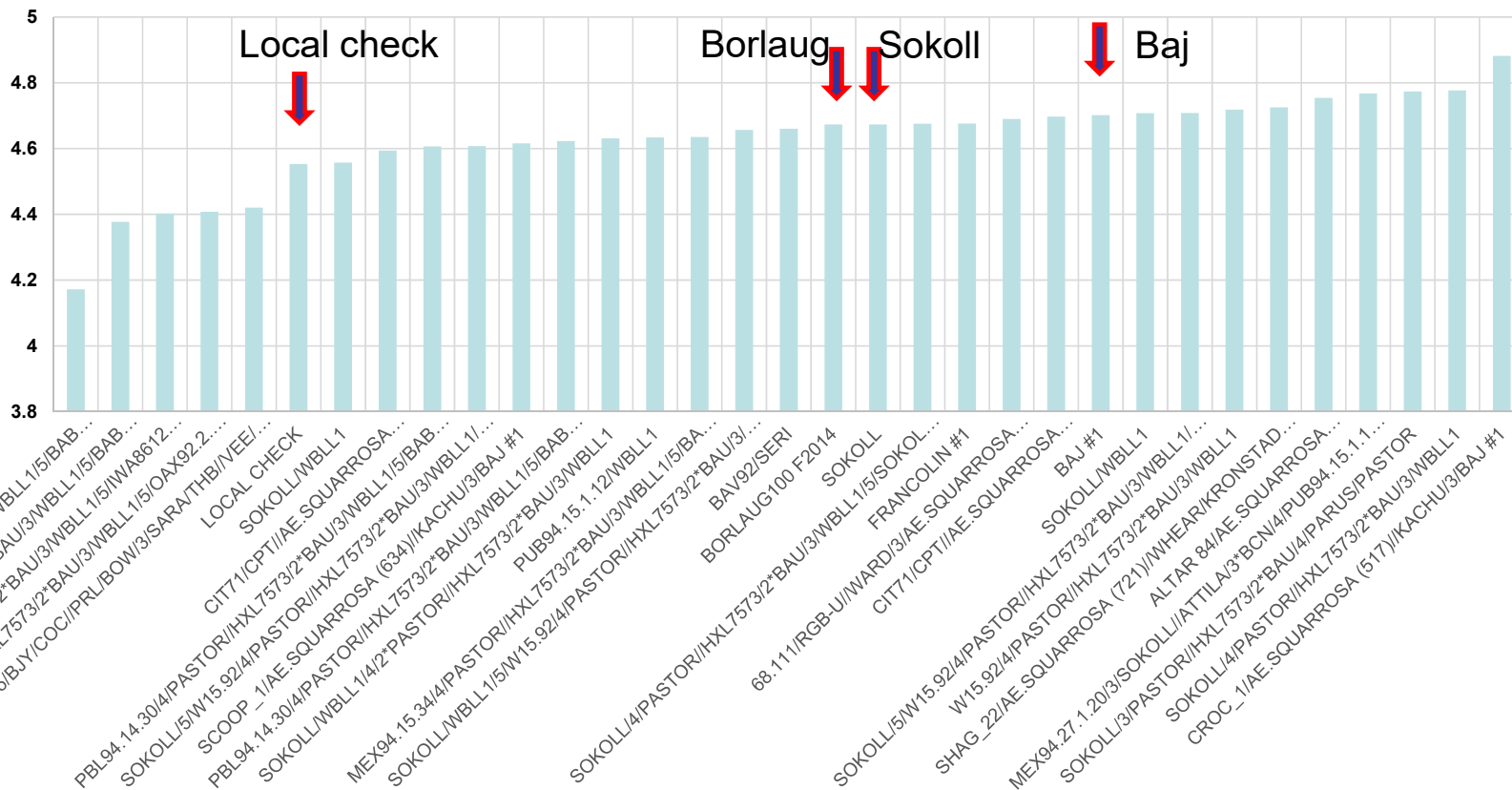
Goal 5: Pre-breeding using 'source x sink' strategic crossing



8th SATYN lines in 33 environments, 2018/19

Best 3 lines
7% above
local checks

Best line
4% above
elite
CIMMYT
Check Baj



Released/potential varieties

Year	Name	Cross / pedigree
2013	Pakistan-13	MEX94.27.1.20/3/SOKOLL//ATTILA/3*BCN
2016	Borlaug-16	SOKOLL/3/PASTOR//HXL7573/2*BAU
2017	Kohat 17	SOKOLL/WEEBIL
2018	CASCABEL	SOKOLL//W15.92/WBLL1 (<i>Spot blotch resistant line</i>)
2020	Kunar 20	MEX94.27.1.20/3/SOKOLL//ATTILA/3*BCN/4/PUB94.15.1.12/WBLL1

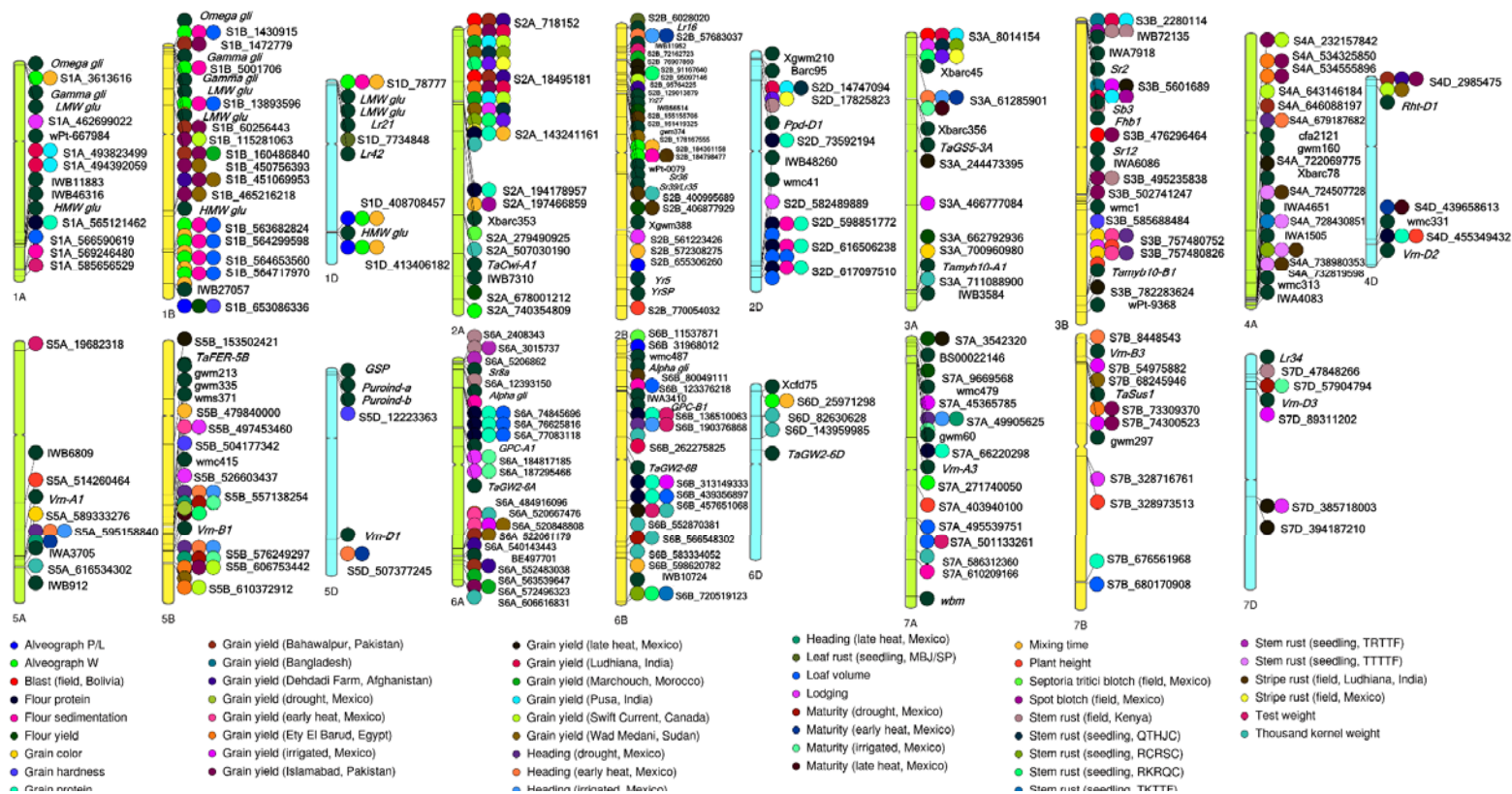


Goal 6: Continuous improvement in breeding

- Predict breeding value & select parents using pedigree and genomic data
- Rapid generation advancement
- Genomic selection assisted rapid-cycle recurrent selection
- Practical haplotype graph and utilization for predicting breeding values.
- Integrate new traits sources through mainline breeding pipelines



GENETIC ANALYSIS: reference genotype-phenotype map with key trait-linked markers aligned to the Reference Genome

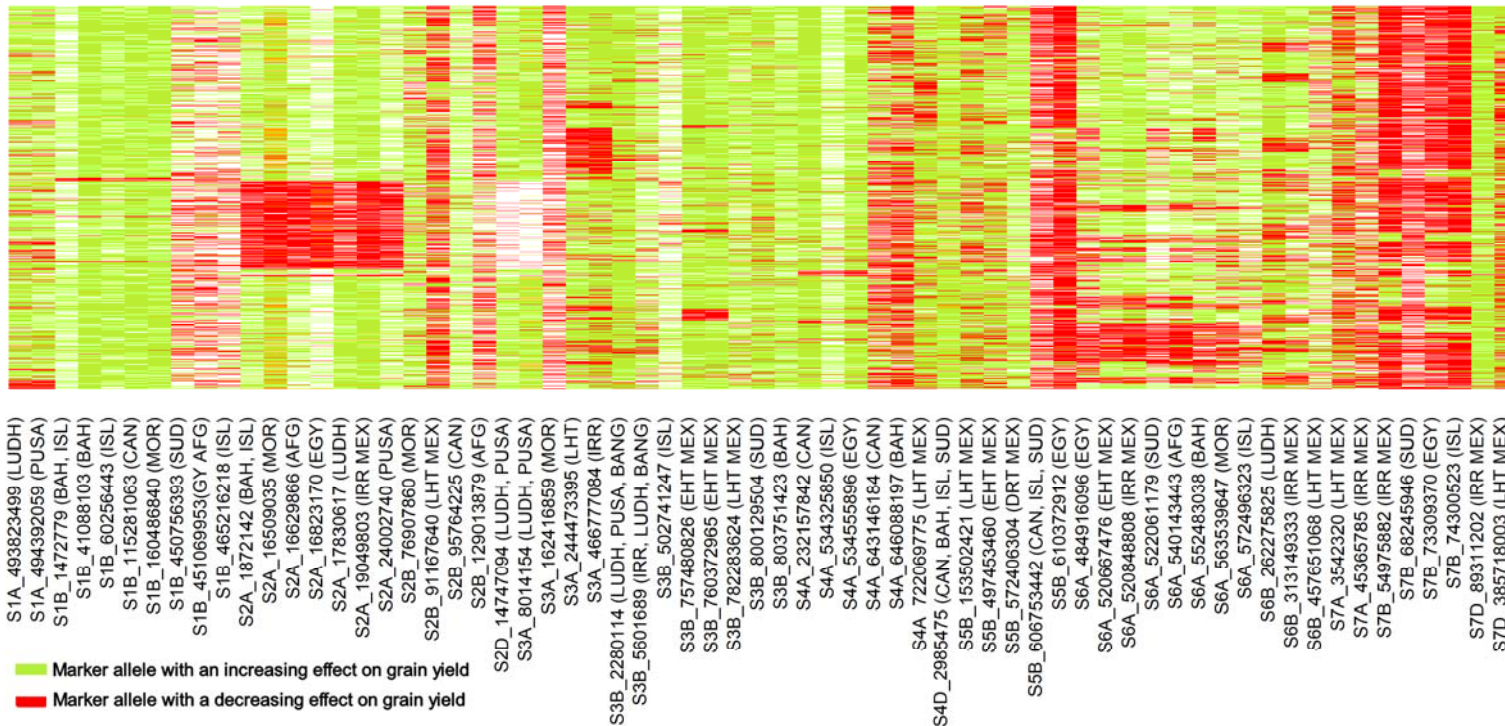


Genotyping-by-sequencing markers associated with all the traits evaluated by the breeding program at CIMMYT have been aligned to the RefSeq v1.0.

Juliana, P., Poland, J., Huerta-Espino, J. *et al.* Improving grain yield, stress resilience and quality of bread wheat using large-scale genomics. *Nat Genet* 51, 1530–1539 (2019)



Genomic-fingerprints of CIMMYT's global wheat breeding germplasm (44,624 lines) for key trait-linked markers

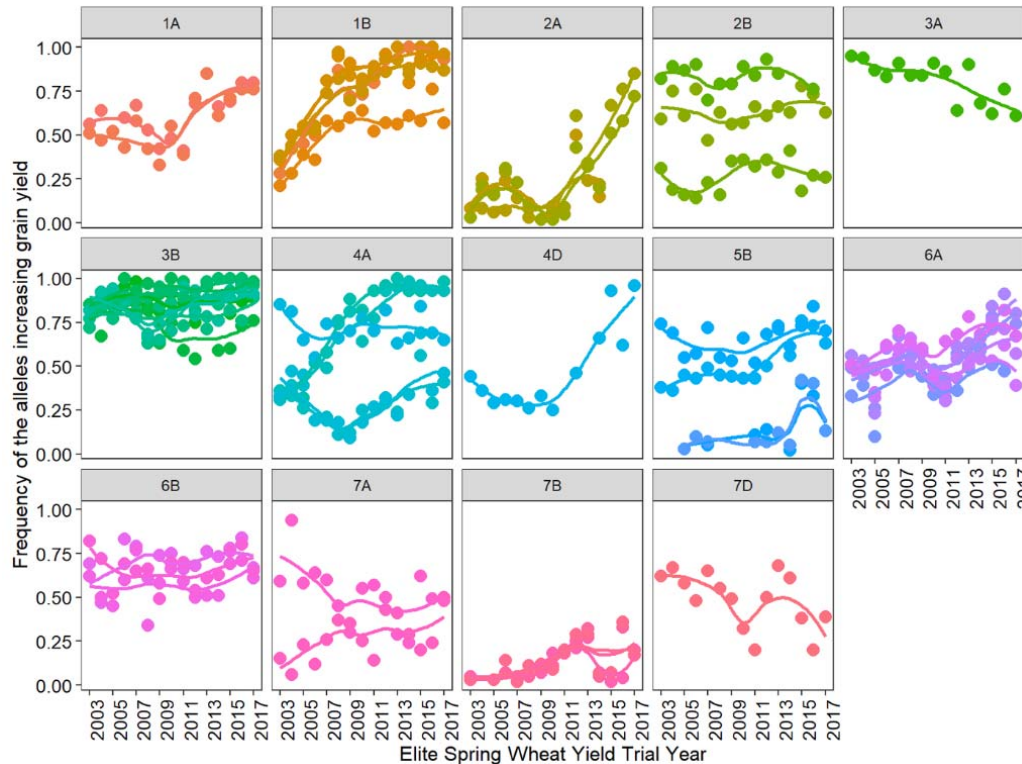


Irrigated environments in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, Mexico, India, Morocco, Sudan
 Drought and heat stressed environments in Mexico

Juliana, P., Poland, J., Huerta-Espino, J. *et al.* Improving grain yield, stress resilience and quality of bread wheat using large-scale genomics. *Nat Genet* **51**, 1530–1539 (2019)



Molecular tracking of favorable allele frequencies over 15 years of breeding



□ CIMMYT's Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials (2003–2017) using 47 markers associated with yield

□ Several favorable alleles have reached near-fixation indicating the effectiveness of phenotypic selection in Mexico

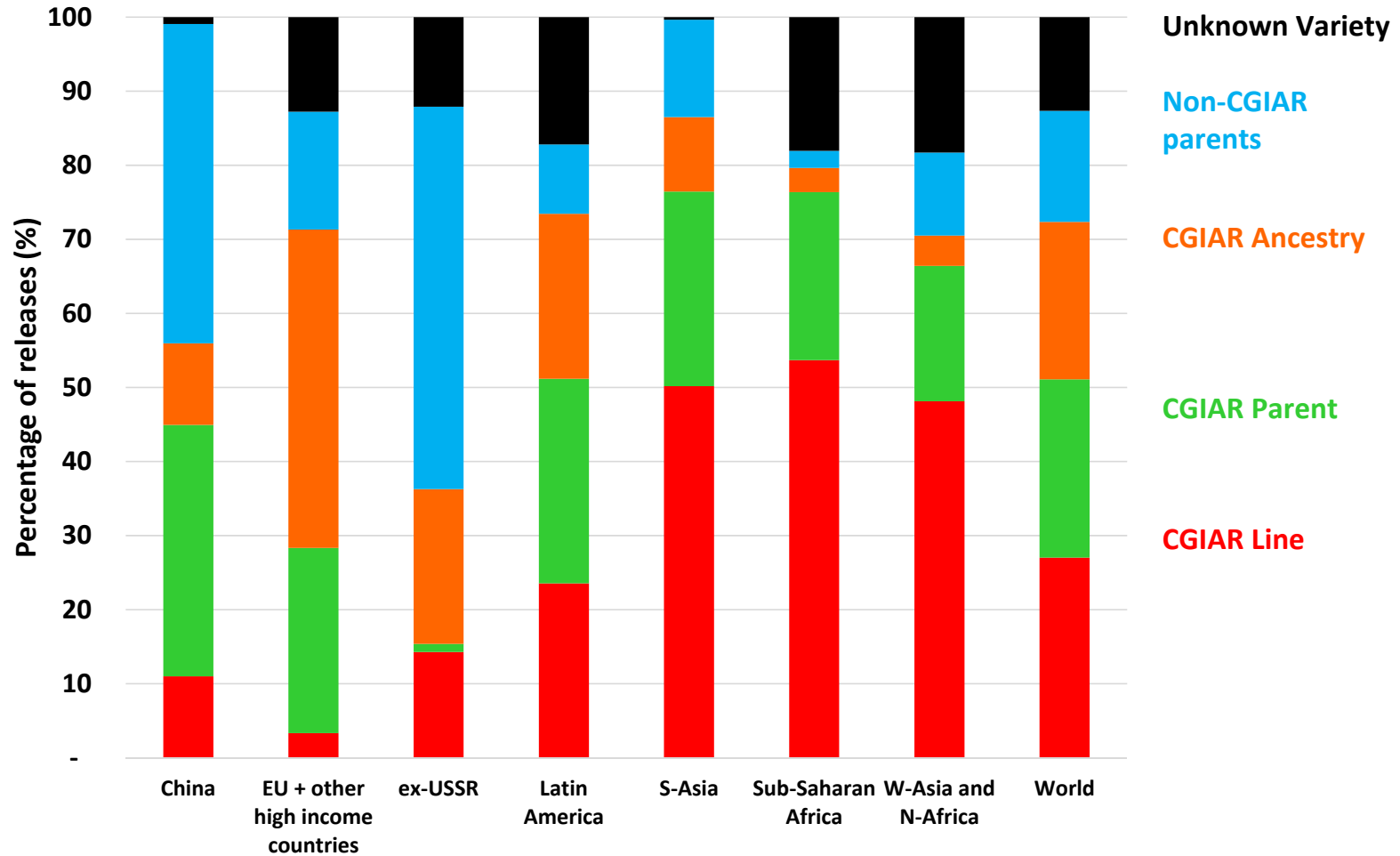
□ Illustrates importance of integrating genomic data in achieving accelerated allele enrichment.

Trends in the grain yield favorable allele frequencies in the globally distributed Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials

Juliana, P., Poland, J., Huerta-Espino, J. *et al.* Improving grain yield, stress resilience and quality of bread wheat using large-scale genomics. *Nat Genet* **51**, 1530–1539 (2019)

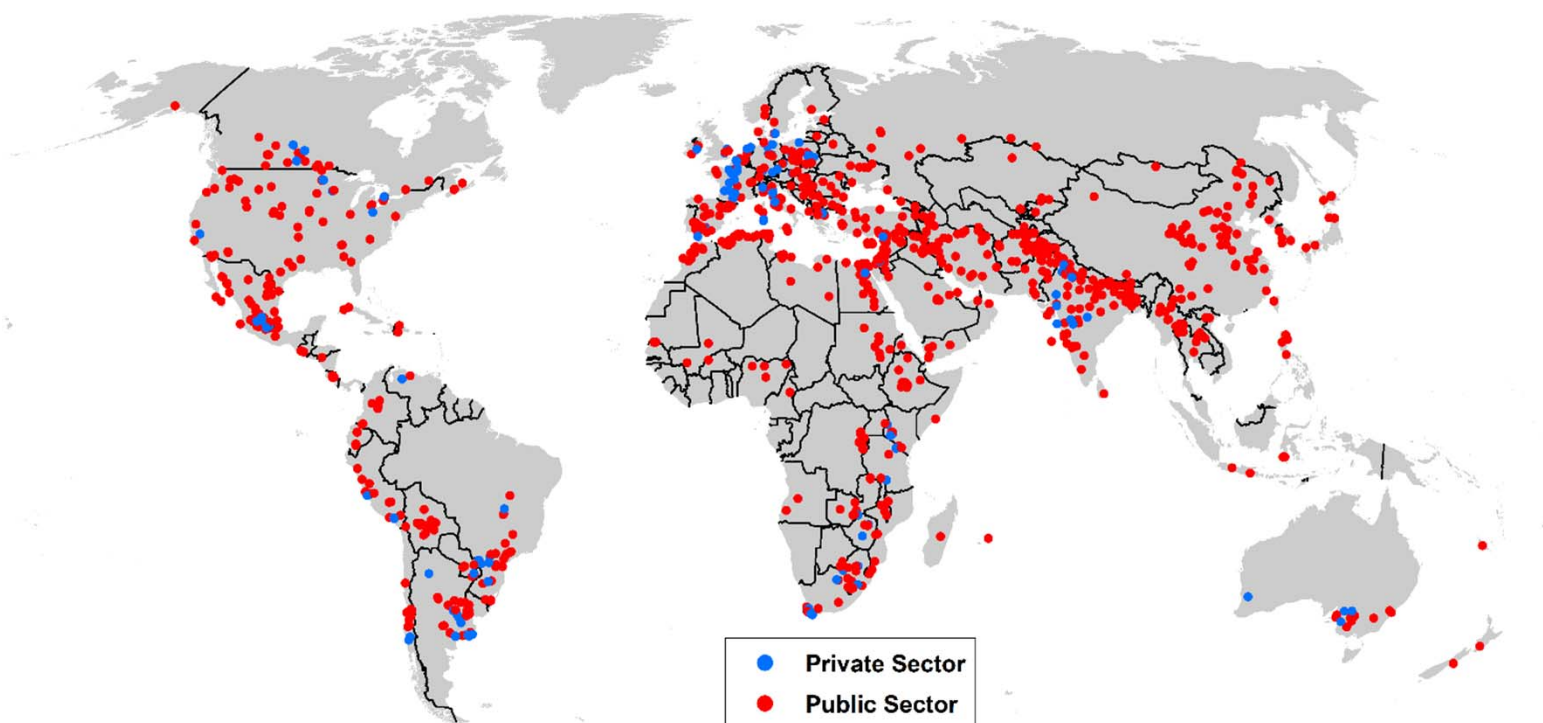


Spring bread wheat releases by region and origin 1994-2014



Goal 7: Dissemination of technology

International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN)

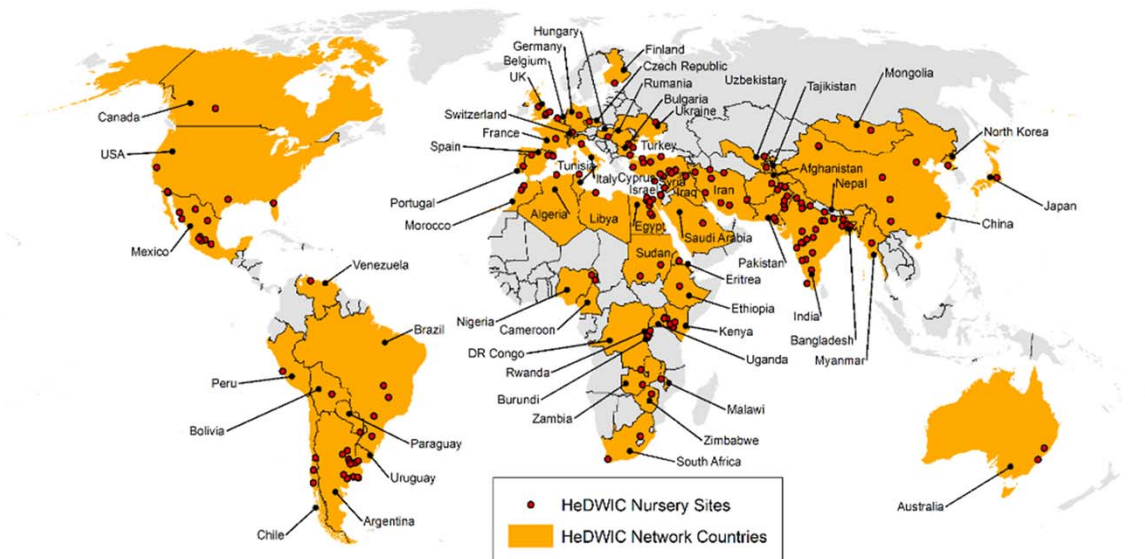


Public and private breeding programs and other partners that have received germplasm through the International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN)



GOAL 8:

Crowd-source novel plant science technologies to increase societal impact of investments in academic research on climate resilience of wheat and other crops.

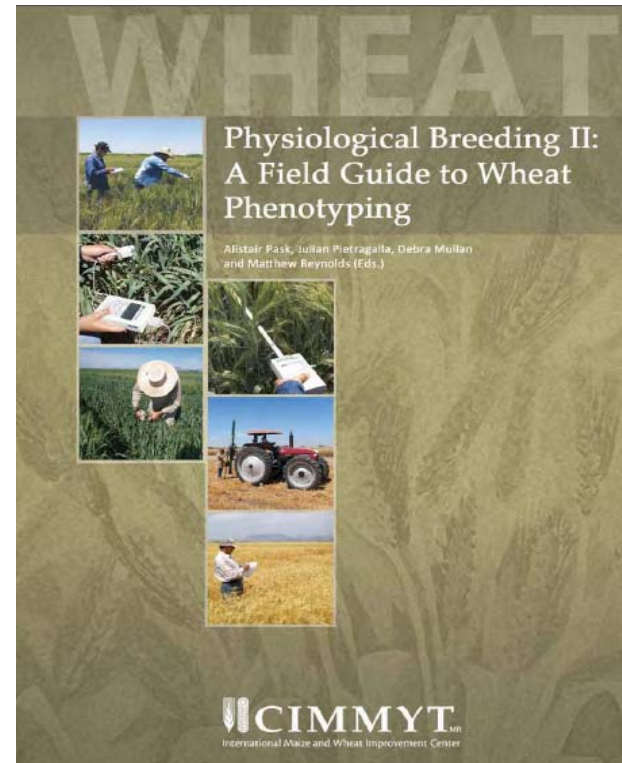
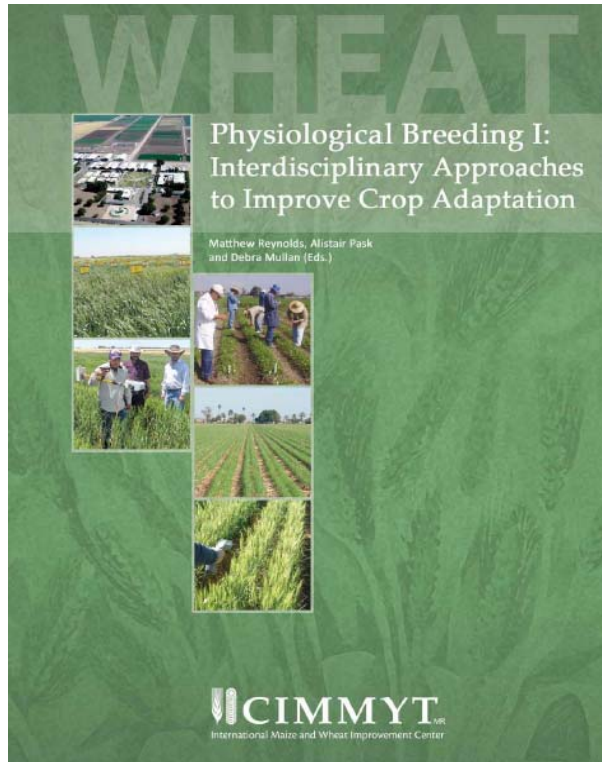


GOAL 9:

Improved research capacity and technology scale-out based on new knowledge, trained scientists, experimental germplasm, curated data and metadata sets, and networks involving expertise, infrastructure and synergistic collaboration.



Shared protocols:



<http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/96140.pdf>

libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/96144.pdf

- Reynolds MP and Langridge P, (2016). **Physiological Breeding**. Current Opinions in Plant Biology 31: 162–171.
- Reynolds et al. 2017. **Strategic crossing of biomass and harvest index—source and sink—achieves genetic gains in wheat**. Euphytica 213:257-80



CIMMYT^{MS}

Take home points

- Climate is becoming warmer and less predictable
- Many opportunities exist to improve wheat's adaptation:
 - Advances in genomics and phenomics
 - Exploring untapped genetic resources
 - Physiological and molecular breeding
- Impacts will reach farmers and consumers sooner if efforts are coordinated through collaboration and technology sharing platforms such as HeDWIC and the Wheat Initiatives (AHEAD)



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