



Coordinating global research for wheat

Scientific Board Meeting Summary 4-5 June 2015

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) , Via Alfonso Corti, 12, 20133 Milano, Italy

AGENDA

4th June 2015 (18:00-20:00) – Room EXPO

5th June (8:00- 10:00) – Sala Pentagonale

1. Summary of previous meetings and actions arising
2. Organisation of the next SB elections
3. Management of EWGs
4. Update on EWGs
5. Participation of the Wheat Initiative to the Sydney IWC
6. Scientific papers for website
7. Representation of SB members by proxies
8. Paper on New Breeding technologies
9. Launch of the SRA in Turkey
10. Any other business

Participants to the meeting:

Scientific Board:

Present: Hirokazu Handa, Peter Langridge, H el ene Lucas, Curtis Pozniak, Gabriela Tranquilli,

Apologies: Hans Braun, Graham Moore, Indu Sharma, Chris Tapsell

Chair of the Research Committee (invited):

Frank Ordon (Julius K uhn-Institut, Germany)

Wheat Initiative Secretariat:

Thomas Amand, Anna Dall'Oca, Vicky Jackson (only June 4)

Invited guests

Viktor Korzun, Ravish Chatrath

1. Summary of previous meetings and actions arising

Since its last face-to-face meeting held on October 2, 2014 in Paris, the Scientific Board held four videoconferences. The main decisions and actions arising from these meetings are summarised below.

Communications strategy

- The SB approved the new logo for the Wheat Initiative.
- The SB agreed to provide interesting scientific papers and summaries to be posted on the Wheat Initiative website/newsletter.

SRA

- The SB edited the SRA sections as received by different writers for endorsement by the ICC before the open consultation.
- Three members of the SB finalised the SRA (Peter Langridge, H  l  ne Lucas, Gabriela Tranquilli), together with representatives from the RC (Frank Ordon) and from the ICC (Jos   Costa), taking into account the comments sent via the open consultation.

Associated Programmes

- IWYP, IWGSC and the BGRI were invited to become Associated Programmes to the Wheat Initiative.
- The EU project WHEALBI was invited to submit a request to become an Associated Programme.

Participation to the WIC in Sydney

- It was suggested to the WIC organisers to invite the EWG leaders to give an overview of their EWGs during the conference, and it was offered that the Wheat Initiative give a presentation on the importance of wheat research in the world.
- The Wheat Initiative Secretariat is arranging meeting rooms for EWGs wishing to organise meetings in conjunction with the WIC.

EWGs

- The SB decided on the budget allocated to each EWG in 2015, taking into account the overall 2015 budget as decided by the ICC.
- Recommendations on the use of the EWG budget were included in the EWGs' guidelines
- The SB analysed the proposal to set up an EWG on Wheat quality and safety and sent their recommendations to the Research Committee.

2. Elections of Scientific Board members

The RC agreed with the election process summarised below during their meeting in Yokohama in September 2013:

- In 2013, the RC elected all SB members, including 6/8 from ISB.
- In 2014, 3 ex- ISB members stepped down from the SB, the RC elected 3 SB members.
- In 2015, 3 ex-ISB members will step down from the SB, the RC will elect 3 SB members.

- The stepping down ISB members can be candidates for their re-election, which will be considered as a second term.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ISB1	V. Korzun		C. Tapsell					
ISB2	R.K. Sharma		I. Sharma					
ISB3	S. Baenziger			H. Handa				
ISB4	C. Feuillet			G. Tranquilli				
ISB5	H. Braun			H. Braun				
ISB6	P. Langridge							
ISB7	G. Moore							
ISB8	C. Pozniak							
ISC	H. Lucas							

In brown: Interim Scientific Board (ISB) member

In orange: 1st elected term of ISB member (resignation after 1 or 2 years)

In yellow: possible second term of ISB member.

ISC: International Scientific Coordinator, not elected, 4-year mandate

P. Langridge and C. Pozniak kindly agreed to stand for re-election to the Scientific Board at the end of 2015.

The SB recommended organising the elections of 3 SB members by email before the end of 2015. The Secretariat was asked to write a document summarising what is expected from SB members, including a commitment to attend SB meetings and contributing to on-going actions such as literature reviews and EWG liaising, and to organise a call for nominations.

3. Management of EWGs

The SB concurred that most EWG annual reports lacked consistency, that the EWGs' guidelines were hardly followed by some EWGs, and that the current outputs of the EWGs did not match the Wheat Initiative Members expectations.

A letter from the three Wheat Initiative Committees chairs was sent recently to EWGs to encourage them to deliver concrete results. The SB agreed to send all EWGs a follow-up letter clarifying further what is expected from them, and requesting them to develop metrics in their proposals and action plans that would be used as indicators of success in the annual reports. It was also agreed that EWGs should provide annual feedbacks on the SRA that could be used to update it if needed.

The SB concurred on the important role of the SB liaisons to help and assist the EWGs, in particular for coordinating with other EWGs. They agreed to attend the EWGs' meeting when possible, as well as liaising with the EWGs' leaders to have regular updates on their progress.

4. Update on EWGs

Each SB member present at the meeting reported on the activities of the EWGs they liaise with (see also annual reports of EWGs at <http://www.wheatinitiative.org/activities/expert-working-groups>).

Considering the usefulness of the EWGs update, it was decided that all SB members provide twice a year a progress update of the EWGs they liaise with.

5. Participation of the Wheat Initiative to the Sydney IWC

Considering that most EWGs meeting planned alongside the Sydney IWC were short meetings, the SB concurred that the Wheat Initiative should only provide support for meetings rooms and catering, and not for travels.

Considering the importance of the Wheat Initiative to be present at the IWC, it was agreed that the ISC and the SB Chair would contact the organisers in the following days to push forward their initial proposals (contribution of EWG leaders to the sessions, talk about wheat research in the world).

6. Scientific Papers to share on the Wheat Initiative website

The SB agreed to share scientific papers that they thought would be of general interest for the wheat research community. A short summary /commentary of these papers, together with their reference, will be posted on the Wheat Initiative Website and/or Newsletter by the Communications officer.

7. Representation of SB by proxies at SB meetings

In order to allow continuity and confidentiality of discussions, it was decided that SB members could not be represented by proxies at SB meetings, but that the Chair and the International Scientific Coordinator could invite guests without right to vote at SB meetings, whenever extra expertise is needed by the meeting's agenda.

8. Paper on New Breeding Techniques

The SB agreed that there would be some value in expressing the view of the Wheat Initiative about the new breeding techniques, considering that there was a lot of discussion about regulations at the moment. This short statement should be targeted to the general public and policy makers and signed by the SB and the RC, and provide definitions and neutral description of the new technologies. Peter Langridge and Frank Ordon agreed to send a first draft to the SB members.

9. Launch of the SRA

Hélène Lucas will make a progress report of the Wheat Initiative, including the SRA, at the next G20-Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Izmir (Turkey) at the end of July.

The SB recommended not to organise a press conference but rather to send a Press Release to all Wheat Initiative members with an embargo date corresponding to the G20-MACS.

In order to avoid the cost of sending printed versions of the SRA, it was suggested that the electronic file should be sent to Members for them to print.

10. Any other business

Peter Langridge was approached by a publisher to edit a collection on wheat. The SB approved his suggestion to do it under the auspices of the Wheat Initiative, and to include a foreword by the Wheat Initiative upfront in the book.

The SB had agreed to have its next face-to-face meeting in Sydney on the 20th of September. The participants to the meeting agreed to organise their one after next face-to-face meeting at PAG, San Diego, on the 8th of January (after the RC meeting).