COORDINATING GLOBAL WHEAT RESEARCH
THE CHALLENGE: IMPROVING WHEAT PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

WHY WHEAT

WHEAT...
- is the world’s most important food crop
- provides 20% of all calories and 20% of all protein in developing and developed countries
- is the most traded crop

BUT...
- wheat production is not meeting demand
- yields are stagnating
- demand is predicted to increase by 60% by 2050
- to meet this demand, global annual yield increases must rise from the current level of 1% per year to 1.6% per year by 2050.

All wheat producing countries share an urgent need to increase the rate of genetic gains for yield, tolerance to abiotic stresses, resistance to pathogens and pests, as well as to improve efficiency for sustainable wheat production, while ensuring high quality, safe and nutritious food products.
provides a framework to establish and coordinate strategic research and organisation priorities for wheat research at the international level in both developed and developing countries.

- establishes and fosters communication between the research community, funders and global policy makers, and aims at securing efficient and long-term investments to meet wheat research and development goals.

- identifies, through its Expert Working Groups (EWG) research priorities and potential synergies, and nurtures collaborations between research and development programmes for wheat improvement.
WHEAT INITIATIVE PROFILE

NUMBERS

11 Expert Working Groups (EWG)

600+ EWG members

14 member countries (public)

5 industry members (private)

2 research organisations

5 observer countries

5 Associated Programmes

VISION

A vibrant global public-private research community that shares resources, capabilities, data, game changing ideas, and technologies to improve wheat productivity, quality, and sustainable production around the world.

HISTORY

2011
Founded September 15, endorsed by G20 countries, based at INRAE in France

2012
Establishing Committees

2013
Vision paper published; first EWGs established

2014
1st International Wheat Congress

2015
Strategic Research Agenda

2016
German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture agrees to host WI

2017
Transfer of WI office to Berlin, Germany

2018
2nd International Wheat Congress

2019
3rd International Wheat Congress

2020
Alliance for wheat adaption to heat & drought (AHEAD)

2021
10 years anniversary

PURPOSE

Increase food security, wheat nutritional value and safety while taking into account societal demands for sustainable and resilient agricultural production systems; and maximising opportunities for gaining added value internationally.
play a role in identifying global research priorities for wheat to help ensure food security

link to representatives of governments, funding agencies and companies to share ideas and problems facing wheat production

identify new opportunities for collaboration and participation in global research initiatives

ensure that researchers in your country or company have access to resources and capabilities from around the world

maximise the value of your investment in wheat improvement by keeping at the cutting edge of wheat research.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND PROVIDE SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD PRODUCTS
The success of the Wheat Initiative depends on the engagement of the global wheat community. It is of great importance that all countries and potential members from the private and public sector, who are interested in wheat improvement, participate and contribute to the development of the global research coordination initiative.

The Wheat Initiative currently brings together 14 public members countries, 2 international research organisations, and 5 private industry members.

Please contact us for more information:

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