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# **An International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement**

**- The Wheat Initiative -**

*Hélène Lucas – PAG 2012-01-14*

# The Wheat Initiative

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- A mechanism to **identify synergies and nurture collaborations** via facilitated open communications between research programmes for **wheat improvement**, research and technology development.
- **Endorsed by the Agricultural Ministries from the G20** member states to improve food security and resolve the urgent challenge of sustainably providing enough safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing population, and **supported by research / funding organisations and research groups from many countries**



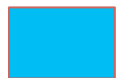
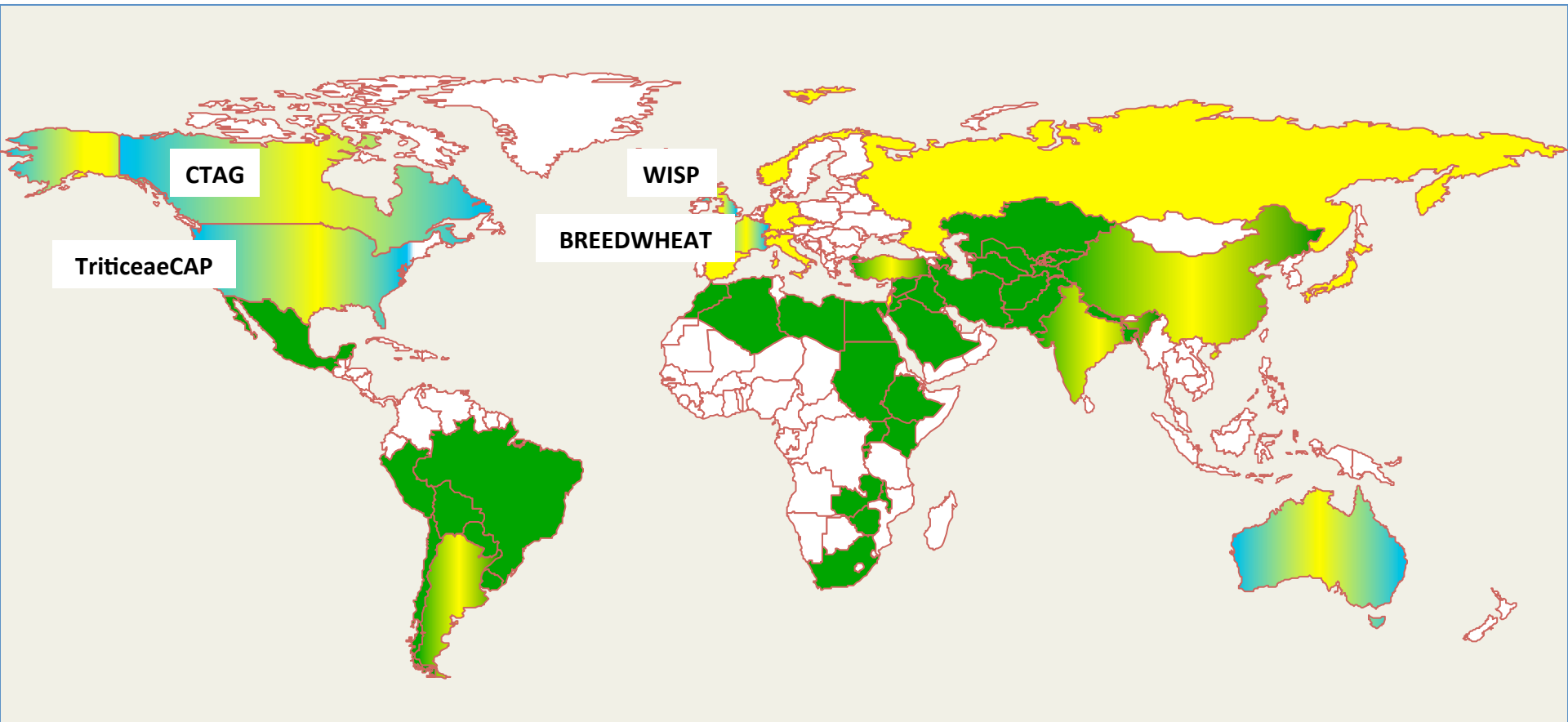
# Scope of the Wheat Initiative

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- Genomics, genetics, agronomy, cropping systems
- Bread wheat and durum wheat
- North and South



# The Wheat Initiative: linking wheat research across the globe



**Large wheat  
programmes**



**IWGSC**



**WHEAT focus**



# Objective: coordinate world-wide wheat improvement research efforts.

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- **Identify synergies and encourage collaborations**
  - To add value to existing wheat research capabilities and activities through building and strengthening collaborations, coordination of research and support for accessing research outcomes.
- **Facilitate open communication**
  - Enable exchange of germplasm, data, materials and ideas within the wheat research community
- **Support the development of publically available integrated databases and platforms**
  - Develop minimum data standards and protocols for consistent and comparable analyses
- **Identify and update priorities for wheat research**
  - Monitor progress of scientific activities
  - Communicate to funding agencies the needs of wheat research



# Principles of Governance

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Synergy through collaboration

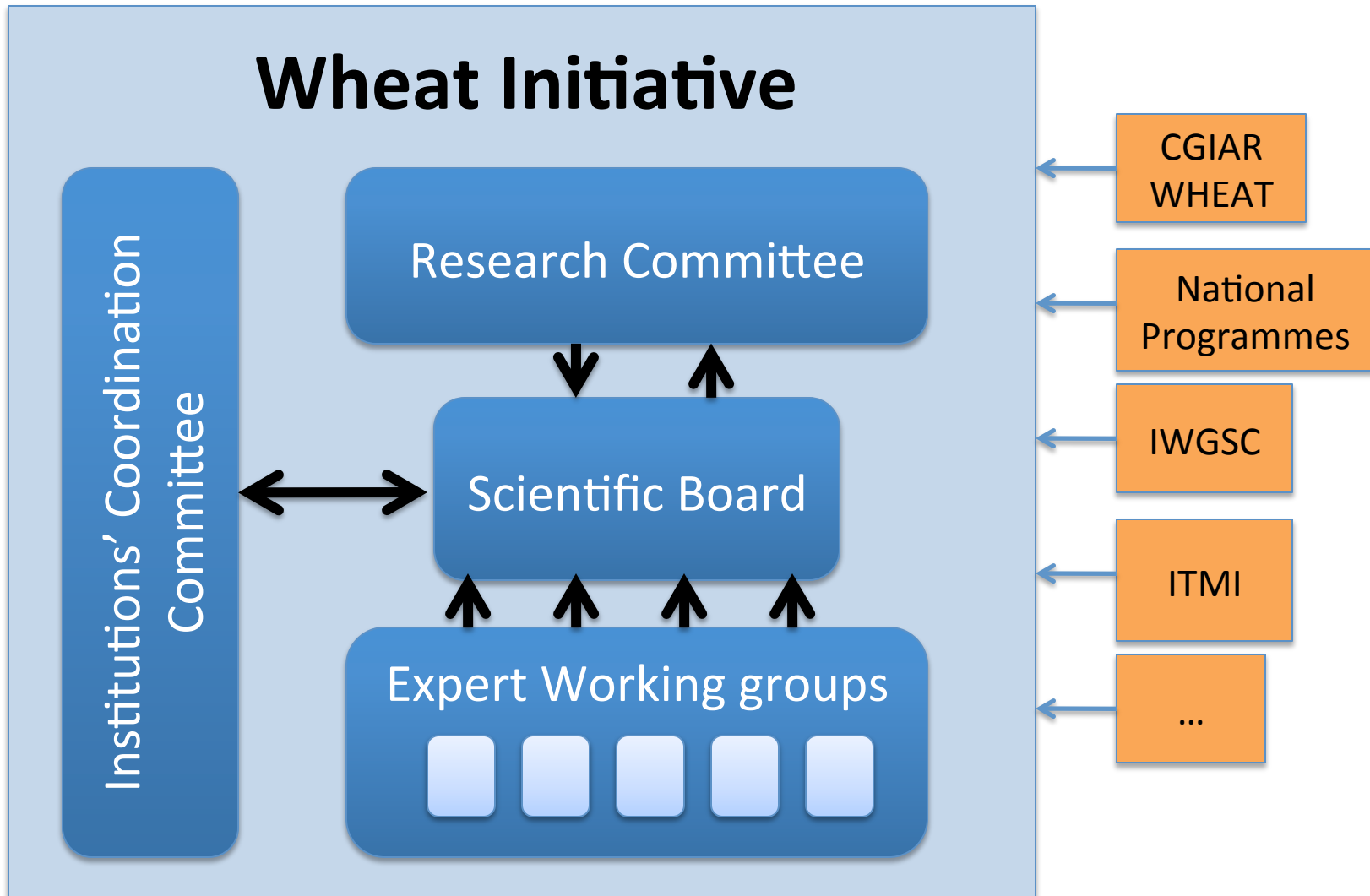
Transparency

Sharing

Inclusivity

Engagement

# Governance framework



# What is the Wheat Initiative?

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## **The Wheat Initiative is:**

- A science-led initiative
- A way to bridge national and international programmes addressing grand challenges
- A mechanism for the wheat community to define and update research priorities
- A information platform for institutions to establish investment priorities
- Self-funded through members

## **The Wheat Initiative is not:**

- A competing program with national or international existing initiatives
- A funding entity



# Initial tasks for the Wheat Initiative

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- Wheat Initiative **Kick-Off meeting**, Paris, September 15  
125 attendees, 24 countries (57 scientists, 46 representatives of countries or institutions, 22 private companies/stakeholders)
- Establishing and populating the **governance structure**
- Establishment of a **Wheat Centralised Information System**
- Building a Wheat Initiative **Website**.
- Produce draft of **vision paper and strategic plan**



# Populating the governance structure

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- **Research Committee**
  - Public research : 1 representative per country, representing the collective view of the national research community
  - Private companies & stakeholders : 1 representative per Cie/stakeholder
- **Institutions' Coordinating Committee**
  - 1 representative public institution / country
- **Scientific Board:**
  - Interim Scientific Board: S. Baenziger, H. Braun, C. Feuillet, P. Langridge, G. Moore, Curtis Pozniak
  - International Scientific Coordinator: H. Lucas ( + A. Collis)
- **Expert Working Groups:**
  - Wheat Information System (Hadi Quesneville, Mario Caccomo)
    - **PAG: Towne - Sunday 10:20-12:30**
  - Durum wheat (Roberto Tuberosa, Luigi Cattivelli)
    - **PAG: end of ITMI workshop**

# Membership

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- Need for 250-500 k€ annual budget
- Representation in the different committees providing payment of membership fees
- Annual membership fees:
  - Institutions
    - G20/OECD countries: 10 k€
    - International Research Centres: 5 k€
    - Others: 2 k€
  - Stakeholders:
    - Annual turnover > 500 million €: 20 k€
    - 50-500 million €: 10 k€
    - < 50 million €: 5 k€

HOME

RESEARCH

COMMUNITY

NEWS

EVENTS

WHEAT INITIATIVE

TUTORIALS



## Welcome to the Wheat Portal, an information resource and forum for the International Wheat Research community

A central resource where you can **access wheat datasets**, **find researchers** for collaboration, start a **discussion**, watch **video tutorials** and keep up-to-date with the **latest publications**, **news** and **events**

### WHEAT DATA ▸

Links in one place, up-to-date and reliable

### PRIVATE WORKSPACES ▸

Helping you collaborate remotely, and securely

### PUBLICATIONS ▸

A list of all significant research papers and pubs

### FUNDING INFORMATION ▸

A directory of international funding organisations

### TUTORIALS ▸

Helping the next generation of researchers

### LEARN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT INITIATIVE ▸

Organisations from across the world are working towards improving wheat for future food security.

### LATEST NEWS

Rothamsted Research granted approval to undertake scientific research of GM wheat »

Launching "Breedwheat", a French Stimulus Initiative Project »

Global Food Security Champion appointed by public partnership »

[See all »](#)

### RESEARCH ▸

Research Datasets, resources and tools to help you in your research, plus the latest wheat research publications and details of research grants and consortia.

### RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITY

Stephen B. Goodwin updated his current project to [Improving wheat yields under water-limitation](#) - 2 hours ago

Mike Flowers and Stephen B. Goodwin are now connected - 1 day ago

Mike Flowers - "The SQL is based on the relative performance of check varieties to historical means and the degree of variability ..." on the [Cereal Extension project](#) - 1 day ago

### COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

[Cold acclimation protein WCOR410b »](#)  
[Help with wheat images »](#)

[Wheat COS markers aligned to Brachypodium »](#)

[For all those at Plant GEM 2011 in Istanbul »](#)

[See all »](#)

### FEATURED MEMBER



Stephen B. Goodwin  
USDA Professor

**Location:** USA

**Asked** 20 Questions

**Provided** 25 Answers

**Autobiography:** Plant Pathology - molecular genetics of host pathogen interactions...

[Full Profile »](#)

# Contacts

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Contact: [wheat.initiative@versailles.inra.fr](mailto:wheat.initiative@versailles.inra.fr)

Please sign in here or send an e-mail if you want to be included in the Wheat Initiative mailing list!

Basic information on the Wheat Initiative:

<http://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Species/Wheat/Projects2/Wheat-Initiative>