



Ministerial Declaration

**ACTION PLAN ON FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY
AND AGRICULTURE**

**Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers
Paris, 22 and 23 June 2011**

Annex n°1: International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI)



We decide to launch the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI), bridging national research programs and the international WHEAT program coordinated by CIMMYT (the CGIAR's International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center). We agree on the objectives and next steps of this initiative that were defined and supported by several national and international research and funding organizations. The IRIWI should avoid duplication of efforts with and add value to the existing public and private initiatives.

The main objectives of the IRIWI, coordinated by the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee, are the following:

- Cooperate in world-wide bread and durum wheat improvement research efforts in the field of genomics, genetics and agronomy, to increase food security, wheat nutritional value and safety while taking into account societal demands for sustainable and resilient agricultural production systems;
- Provide a forum to identify synergies and encourage collaborations among major nationally, regionally and internationally (public and private) funded wheat programs with the result of maximising opportunities for gaining added-value internationally;
- Facilitate open communication and exchange of germplasm, data and materials in accordance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and facilitate exchange of ideas within the wheat research community;
- Support the development of publicly available integrated databases and platforms;
- Recommend minimum data-reporting standards and develop protocols to allow consistency for screening and analyses;
- Organize knowledge transfer and capacity building;
- Monitor and summarize progress of scientific activities;
- Establish and periodically update priorities for wheat research of global relevance;
- Communicate to national and international funding agencies as well as to agricultural ministries the needs of the wheat research community of participating nations.

INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) and CIMMYT will contribute to the coordination of activities of the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee for the 4 first years of the project. Over this initial period, sustainable funding mechanisms will be created through engagement of research and funding organizations in the public and private sector, on a voluntary basis.

IRIWI will pave the way to similar initiatives for other crops constituting the predominant basis of human nutrition (rice, maize, millet, sorghum, root crops, barley, legumes, etc.).



Next steps

- The International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI) will be presented to the wheat scientific community during the 2011 International Triticace Mapping Initiative (ITMI) Workshop (Mexico, September 5-9), to ensure input and support from the international community. Interactions with the Chiefs Executive Officers (CEOs) of the G20 countries research organizations working on wheat will be pursued through e-mail and video-conferences to develop a common vision and agenda.
- A high level meeting bringing together international wheat scientific leaders, CEOs of major G20 countries and international research organizations and representatives of the G20 countries will be organized in Paris on the 15th of September 2011 to implement the first steps of the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement.
- The International Wheat Research Coordination Committee will be set up before September 2011 using a mechanism ensuring a good and flexible representation of the participating countries and international organizations. It will be open to all countries interested. Rotating Chair and Co-Chairs will be selected from representatives. Representatives from private companies will be welcomed as observers.
- A web portal and discussion forum will be launched before December 2011.
- A vision paper and strategic plan will be written by the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee to develop a common research agenda to be undertaken for January 2012.
- The International Wheat Research Coordination Committee will undertake a scoping study to determine the best platform for the centralized information system for January 2012. It may be possible to build on existing wheat databases or to modify an existing system developed for other crop species. The wheat centralized information system will operate as soon as possible and before March 2012.
- IRIWI will be presented to International Grains Council, to the German Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in January 2012 and to the next Grain Summit in Saint Petersburg in June 2012.

International Wheat Research Conferences and International Wheat Genetics Symposia are organized every 4-5 years. The International Wheat Research Coordination Committee will endeavour to link these two initiatives and organize every other year an international conference bringing together scientists involved in wheat research, to share the latest results in the different fields of wheat research and to create or sustain links between the research groups and help setting up international collaborations.
