4TH INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONGRESS

BOLOGNA, ITALY - 25-29 MAY 2026 - Preliminary Program

Avenue media
Conference & Expo

		SESSION	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER	SPEAKER
DAY 1ST, MAY 25, 2026	9:30-10:15	Opening Keynotes Lectures	**Beat Keller** *(University of Zurich, Switzerlad)* Pathogen-informed strategies for wheat resistance breeding	**Karine Chenu** *(University of Queensland, Australia)* Title TBD	**Philip Pardey** *(University of Minnesota, USA)* To be confirmed					
	11:00-13:00	Session 1. ENABLING SUSTAINABLE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN A BROAD CROPPING SYSTEM. I: CROP MANAGEMENT, SOIL CONSERVATION AND HEALTH	**Kenton Porker** *(CSIRO, Australia)* System synergies to build sustainable wheat yield frontiers in Australia	**Amanda de Oliveira Silva** *(Oklahoma State University, USA)* Assessing wheat nitrogen use efficiency through plant nutrition approaches	**Michele Pisante** *(University of Teramo, Italy)* Translational digital agronomy for durum wheat sustainability	**Subbarao Guntur** *(JIRCAS, Japan)* BNI-Wheats. A new category of nitrogen-efficient low-nitrifying wheats	*Speaker to be confirmed*			
	14:30-16:30	Session 2. ENABLING SUSTAINABLE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN A BROAD CROPPING SYSTEM. II: PHENOMICS, ENVIROMICS, CROP MODELLING, DIGITAL AGRICULTURE	**Bruno Basso** *(Michigan State University, USA)* Digital Twins for the sustainability of cropping systems	**Andries Potgieter** *(QAAFI, Australia)* The Digital Wheat Revolution: satellite analytics and digital tools for smarter, more resilient wheat production	**Jean-Pierre Cohan** *(ARVALIS, France)* Predicting wheat yield and production: considering additional factors to climate change is essential but challenging	**Senthold Asseng** *(TUM, Germany)* Crop model-guided traits for global adaptation to climate warming	**Pierre Martre** *(INRAE, France)* Title TBA			
	17:00-19:00	Session 3. CARBON FOOTPRINT OF WHEAT PRODUCTION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS; SATELLITE MONITORING OF WHEAT FARMING	**Tobias Schuhmacher** *(Verband Deutscher Großbäckereien e.V., Germany)* CO_2-footprint of the wheat value chain – findings from the collaboration between farmers, mills and bakers	**Netrananda Sahu** *(University of Delhi, India)* Carbon footprints and dynamics of wheat farming in India	**Bettina Berger** *(University of Adelaide, Australia)* Title TBA	**Tim George** *(James Hutton, UK)* Increasing sustainability of cereal crops using functional diversity	*Speaker to be confirmed*			
DAY 2, MAY 26, 2026	9:00-11:00	Session 4. EXPLORING WHEAT DIVERSITY, EVOLUTION AND GENETIC RESERVOIRS	**Weilong Guo** *(China Agricultural University, China)* Digitalizing the wheat evolution trajectories and genetic diversity with novel algorithms	**Tzion Fahima** *(Haifa University, Israel)* Genome-wide discovery of kinase fusion proteins as genetic resources for plant defense	**July King** *(Wheat Research Centre of Nottingham, UK)* Genetic diversity from wheat's wild relatives	**Satinder Kaur** *(Punjab Agricultural University, India)* Beyond the cultivated gene pool: mining hidden genetic riches of wild germplasm for wheat improvement	**Elisabetta Mazzucotelli** *(CREA, Italy)* Harnessing the genetic wealth of tetraploid relatives: from core collections to QTL identification for introgression breeding			
	14:00-16:00	Session 5. WHEAT GENOMES AND PANGENOMES	**Marco Maccaferri** *(University of Bologna, Italy)* Tetraploid wheat Pangenome to bridge with hexaploid wheat	**Luxiang Liu** *(Institute of Crop Science of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China)* Genome variation and breeding application of high-energy heavy ion beam irradiation in wheat	**Rajeev Varshney** *(Murdoch University, Australia)* Global Wheat Pangenome: 100+ and rising	**David Gilbert** *(The Wullf Lab, Saudi Arabia)* The Wheat Archive	**Adul Kader Allabdullah** *(John Innes Centre, UK)* GWAS Across wheat genomes: insights from the Watkins Collection			
	17:00-19:00	Session 6. WHEAT FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS	**Gurcharn Brar Singh** *(University of Alberta, Canada)* Application of genomics to characterize and map novel disease resistance genes in wheat	**Xia Lanqin** *(Yazhou Bay National Laboratory, China)* Genome editing facilitates sustainable wheat production and population health	**Yao Yingyin** *(China Agricultural University, China)* Deciphering the Genetic Basis of End-use Quality in Wheat	**Pierre Sourdille** *(INRAE, France)* Evaluation of the fate of wild-relative introgressions in the wheat genome	**Huijun Guo** *(Institute of Crop Science, China)* Innovation of induced mutations and application in genetic analysis of wheat yield			
DAY 3, MAY 27, 2026	9:00-11:00	Session 7: INNOVATIVE WHEAT BREEDING	**Paula Silva** *(INIA, Uruguay)* Driving sustainable wheat production through trait discovery and pre-breeding in a public breeding program	**Jochen Reif** *(IPK-Gatersleben, Germany)* Innovations paving (half)-way towards hybrid wheat breeding	**Jessie Alt** *(Corteva Agriscience, USA)* Advancing hybrid wheat through innovative breeding	**Shuhei Nasuda** *(University of Kyoto)* Exploration of underutilized Asian genetic diversity for wheat improvement through the development of a NAM population	**Tiwarri Vijaj** *(University of Maryland, College Park, USA)* Translational research in wheat using einkorn genomics			
DAY 4, MAY 28, 2026	9:00-11:00	Session 8. DEVELOPING CLIMATE-SMART WHEAT IN THE CONTEXT OF ABIOTIC STRESSES	**Hafssa Kabbaj** *(ICARDA, Morocco)* Title TBA	**Richard Trethowan** *(University of Sydney, Australia)* Buffering yield potential in an increasingly unstable environment	**Daniel Miralles** *(University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)* A simple model based on allele combinations to predict phenology in wheat to prevent extreme weather events	**Laura Dixon** *(IPK-Gatersleben, Germany)* The role of ambient temperatures in cereal adaptation	**Sundeep Kumar** *(ICAR, India)* Towards climate-smart wheat: genomic insights into terminal heat tolerance from India's National Genebank Collections			
	14:00-16:00	Session 9. DISSECTING THE WHEAT-PATHOGEN AND PEST INTERACTION	**Valentyna Klymiuk** *(University of Saskatchewan)* Integrative genomic approaches to resolve wheats genetic diversity for FHB resistance	**Fiona Doohan** *(University College, Dublin, Ireland)* Dissecting wheat resistance against Fusarium head blight and Septoria tritici blotch disease	**Steven Xu** *(USDA -Albany, USA)* Breaking barriers: ph1b-facilitated allosyndetic introgression of novel disease resistance genes from rearranged Aegilops caudata regions into wheat	**Wuletaw Tadesse** *(ICARDA, Ethiopia)* Accelerated wheat breeding and deployment to ensure food security in Africa	**Sarrah Ben M'Barek** *(Regional Field Crops Research Center Béja, Tunisia)* Decoding wheat–fungal pathogen dynamics for resilient crops: Insights from durum wheat landraces			
DAY 5, MAY 29, 2026	9:00-11:00	Session 10. WHEAT QUALITY, END-USE PROCESSING, NUTRITION AND HUMAN-HEALTH	**Francisco Barro** *(CSICS Cordoba, Spain)* CRISPR/Cas strategies for high-quality, CD-safe wheat	**Nigel Halford** *(Rothamsted Research, UK)* Agronomic and genetic approaches to reduce the risk of acrylamide formation in wheat products, in the context of evolving regulations on genome edited crops and acrylamide in food	**Yan De Vries** *(De Vries Nutrition Solutions, The Netherlands)* The role of wheat in a healthy and sustainable diet	**Maria Fiorenza Caboni** *(University of Bologna, Italy)* Whole grain and technological quality: opportunity and challenge	**Katherina Scherf** *(Leibniz Institute for Food Systems Biology at the Technical University of Munich, Germany)* Wheat proteomic insights into baking quality and wheat-related disorders			
	14:00-16:00	Closing session ARE WE READY FOR DESIGNING THE FUTURE WHEAT CROP?	**Brian Beres** *(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada)* The Nitrogen paradox: feeding wheat, cutting emissions, and building resilient cropping systems	**Cristobal Uauy** *(John Innes Centre, UK)* *Speaker to be confirmed*	**Flavio Breseghello** *(CIMMYT, Mexico)* Title TBA	**Curtis Pozniak** *(University of Saskatchewan, Canada)* *Speaker to be confirmed*	**Wolfram Weckwerth** *(University of Wien, Austria)* The Holobiont concept in wheat breeding - a paradigm shift into sustainable agroecosystems	**Eduard Akhunov** *(Kansas State University, USA)* Historical genomics of host-pathogen interaction in wheat rust pathosystem	**Evans Lagudah** *(CSIRO, Australia)* Robust disease resistance	**Mariangela Hungria** *(EMBRAPA, Brasil)* A Micro-Green revolution empowering soil health, mitigating the emission of GHG, and contributing to food and nutrition security