

An event by



4TH INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONGRESS



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UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura
e l'analisi dell'economia agraria



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ASSOSEMENTI



SCAN ME

BOLOGNA - ITALY MAY 25-29, 2026

Bologna Congress Center,
Piazza della Costituzione, 4

Conference Chair
Roberto Tuberosa

DISTAL, University of Bologna, Italy

International Organising
Committee - Chair

Rajeev Varshney

Murdoch University, Australia



PROGRAM

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT:



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WWC 4TH INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT CONGRESS

BOLOGNA, ITALY - MAY 25-29, 2026

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University of Teramo

Pre-conference Workshops

Sunday, 24 May 2026

09:00 - 12:30

MORNING SESSION

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <p>Bourlaug Global Rust Initiative
 Chair: Maricelis Acevedo (<i>Cornell University, USA</i>)</p> | Room 1 |
| <p>WheatIS annual meeting
 Organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>WheatIS</i> EWG
 Chair: Michael Alaux (<i>URGI-INRAE, France</i>)</p> | Room 2 |
| <p>Durum for the future farmer and value chain
 Organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>Durum Wheat</i> EWG
 Chair: Luigi Cattivelli (<i>CREA, Italy</i>)</p> | Room 3 |
| <p>Restoring agronomy's role in wheat production systems
 Session organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>Agronomy</i> EWG
 Chair: Romulo Lollato (<i>Kansas State University, USA</i>)
 Kenton Porker (<i>CSIRO, Australia</i>)</p> | Room 4 |
| <p>Spatial Wheat Omics
 Chairs: Zhonghua Chen (<i>University of Adelaide, Australia</i>)
 Rajeev Varshney (<i>Murdoch University, Australia</i>)</p> | Room 5 |
| <p>Actual scenario and perspectives for wheat phenotyping
 Session organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>Phenotyping</i> EWG
 Chairs: Nicola Pecchioni (<i>CREA, Italy</i>), Michela Janni (<i>CNR, Italy</i>)</p> | Room 6 |
| <p>What's new in wheat NUE? – Annual meeting (full day event)
 Session organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>Nitrogen Use Efficiency</i> EWG
 Chairs: Jean Pierre Cohan (<i>ARVALIS, France</i>),
 Jairo Palta (<i>University of Western Australia</i>), Ivan Monasterio (<i>CIMMYT, Mexico</i>)</p> | Room 7 |
| <p>Methods to understand combined abiotic stresses
 Session organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>AWAS</i> EWG
 Chair: Laura Dixon (<i>IPK, Germany</i>)</p> | Room 8 |
| <p>Wheat Pathogens Symposium (full day event)
 Organized by the Wheat Initiative <i>Pathogens</i> EWG
 Chair: Kar Chur Tan (<i>Curtin University, Australia</i>)</p> | Room 9 |

12:00 - 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

Pre-conference Workshops

Sunday, 24 May 2026

13:30 - 18:00

AFTERNOON SESSION

Advancing BNI research breeding, and adoption **Room 1**

Organized by CIMMYT

Chair: Dreisigacker Susanne (*CIMMYT*)

Current trends and challenges in wheat breeding **Room 2**

Session organized by the Wheat Initiative *Breeding* EWGs

Chair: Margaret Krause (*Oregon State University, USA*)

Pest Expert Working Group Annual Meeting **Room 3**

Organized by the Wheat Initiative *Pests* EWG

Chair: Louise McNamara (*Oak Park Crops Research Centre, Ireland*)

Global wheat pangenomes **Room 4**

Chairs: Rajeev Varshney (*Murdoch University, Australia*)

Marco Maccaferri (*University of Bologna*)

**Wheat germplasm conservation & utilization:
challenges and opportunities** **Room 5**

Organized by the Wheat Initiative *Germplasm* EWG

Chair: Shivali Sharma (*Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, India*)

13.30 – 15.30

Hybrid Wheat: Unlocking heterosis for the next generation of breeding **Room 6**

Organized by KWS

Chairs: Gemma Molero (*KWS, France*), Jochen Reif (*IPK, Germany*)

15.30 – 18.00

Accelerating Hybrid Wheat Innovation with Multi-Omics **Room 6**

Organized by WheatOmics

Chair: Daolin Fu (*Shandong Agricultural University, China*)

What's new in wheat NUE? – Annual meeting (full day event) **Room 7**

Session organized by the Wheat Initiative *Nitrogen Use Efficiency* EWG

Chairs: Jean Pierre Cohan (*ARVALIS, France*),

Jairo Palta (*University of Western Australia*), Ivan Monasterio (*CIMMYT, Mexico*)

Annual AHEAD workshop **Room 8**

Chair: Stefanie Hagemann (AHEAD)

Wheat Pathogens Symposium (full day event) **Room 9**

Organized by the Wheat Initiative *Pathogens* EWG

Chair: Kar Chur Tan (*Curtin University, Australia*)

DAY 1 - Monday, 25 May 2026

- 09:00 - 09:30 **CHAIR:** Roberto Tuberosa (*DISTAL, University of Bologna, Italy*)
WELCOME ADDRESSES
- 09:30 - 10:15 **OPENING KEYNOTES LECTURES**
- 09:30 - 09:50 Philip Pardey (*University of Minnesota, USA*)
New realities of Agri-Food R&D Worldwide: Implications for varietal innovations in wheat
- 09:55 - 10:15 Beat Keller (*University of Zurich, Switzerland*)
Pathogen-informed strategies for wheat resistance breeding
- 10:15 - 11:00 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTERS SET UP**
- 11:00 - 13:00 **Session 1: ENABLING SUSTAINABLE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN A BROAD CROPPING SYSTEM. I: CROP MANAGEMENT, SOIL CONSERVATION AND HEALTH**
CHAIRS: De Oliveira Silva Amanda (*Oklahoma St. University, USA*)
Pierluigi Meriggi (*Horta, Italy*)
- 11:00 - 11:15 Michele Pisante (*University of Teramo, Italy*)
Translational digital agronomy for durum wheat sustainability
- 11:15 - 11:30 Moussadek Rachid (*INRA, Morocco*)
Toward 1M ha of conservation agriculture in Morocco: Soils and crop resilience
- 11:30 - 11:45 Subbarao Guntur (*JIRCAS, Japan*)
BNI-Wheats - A new category of nitrogen-efficient low-nitrifying wheats
- 11:45 - 12:00 Amanda de Oliveira Silva (*Oklahoma State University, USA*)
Assessing wheat nitrogen use efficiency
- 12:00 - 12:15 *Discussion*
- 12:15 - 13:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 13:00 - 14:30 **LUNCH**



DAY 1 - Monday, 25 May 2026

- 14:30 - 16:30 **Session 2: ENABLING SUSTAINABLE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN A BROAD CROPPING SYSTEM. II: PHENOMICS, ENVIROMICS, CROP MODELLING, DIGITAL AGRICULTURE**
- CHAIRS:** Kerstin Neumann (*Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Germany*), Nicola Pecchioni (*CREA, Italy*)
- 14:30 - 14:45 Bruno Basso (*Michigan State Univ, USA*)
Digital twins for the sustainability of cropping systems
- 14:45 - 15:00 Andries Potgieter (*QAAFI, Australia*)
The digital wheat revolution for more resilient wheat production
- 15:00 - 15:15 Jean-Pierre Cohan (*ARVALIS, France*)
Predicting wheat yield and production: Considering climate change effects
- 15:15 - 15:30 Senthold Asseng (*TUM, Germany*)
Crop model-guided traits for global adaptation to climate warming
- 15:30 - 14:45 Pierre Martre (*INRAE, France*)
Global needs for nitrogen fertiliser to improve wheat yield under climate change
- 15:45 - 16:00 *Discussion*
- 16:00 - 16:30 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 16:30 - 17:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 17:00 - 19:00 **Session 3: CARBON FOOTPRINT OF WHEAT PRODUCTION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: SATELLITE MONITORING OF WHEAT FARMING**
- CHAIRS:** Laura Ercoli (*Sant'Anna School for Advanced Studies, Italy*), Jean-Pierre Cohan (*ARVALIS, France*)
- 17:00 - 17:15 Tobias Schuhmacher (*Verband Deutscher Großbäckereien e.V., Germany*)
CO₂-footprint of the wheat value chain from farmers to mills and bakers
- 17:15 - 17:30 Netrananda Sahu (*University of Delhi, India*)
Carbon footprints and dynamics of wheat farming in India
- 17:30 - 17:45 Kenton Porker (*CSIRO - Australia*)
System synergies to build sustainable wheat yield frontiers in Australia



DAY 1 - Monday, 25 May 2026

- 17:45 - 18:00 Tim George (*James Hutton, UK*)
Increasing sustainability of cereal crops using functional diversity
- 18:00 - 18:15 Discussion
- 18:15 - 19:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**

DAY 2 - Tuesday, 26 May 2026

- 09:00 - 11:00 **Session 4: EXPLORING WHEAT DIVERSITY, EVOLUTION AND GENETIC RESERVOIRS**
- CHAIRS:** Anna Maria Mastrangelo (*CREA, Italy*),
Zhiyong Liu (*Chinese Academy of Sciences, China*),
- 09:00 - 9:15 Weilong Guo (*China Agricultural University, China*)
Digitalizing the wheat evolution trajectories and genetic diversity
- 09:15 - 9:30 Tzion Fahima (*Haifa University, Israel*)
Genome-wide discovery of kinase fusion proteins for plant defense
- 09:30 - 09:45 Julie King (*Wheat Research Centre of Nottingham, UK*)
Genetic diversity from wheat's wild relatives
- 09:45 - 10:00 Satinder Kaur (*Punjab Agricultural University, India*)
Beyond the cultivated gene pool: Mining hidden genetic riches of wild germplasm
- 10:00 - 10:15 Elisabetta Mazzucotelli (*CREA, Italy*)
Harnessing the genetic wealth of tetraploid wheat relatives
- 10:15 - 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 - 11:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTERS VISION**
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Panel Discussion I - SOIL AND THE RHIZOSPHERE IN WHEAT PRODUCTION: THE NEW FRONTIER FOR A SUSTAINABILITY**
- CHAIRS:** Laura Ercoli (*Sant'Anna School for Advanced Studies, Italy*),
Lee Hickey (*University of Queensland, Australia*)

DAY 2 - Tuesday, 26 May 2026

12:30 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 16:00

Session 5: WHEAT GENOMES AND PANGENOMES

CHAIRS: Valentyna Klymiuk (*University of Saskatchewan, Canada*)

Mao Long (*Shandong Agricultural University, China*)

14:00 - 14:15

Marco Maccaferri (*University of Bologna, Italy*)

Tetraploid wheat pangenome to better bridge with hexaploid wheat

14:15 - 14:30

Luxiang Liu (*Institute of Crop Science of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China*)

Genome variation and breeding application of irradiation in wheat

14:30 - 14:45

Rajeev Varshney (*Murdoch University, Australia*)

Wheat pangenome 100+ and rising: building a global haplotype catalogue

14:45 - 15:00

David Gilbert (*The Wulf Lab, Saudi Arabia*)

The wheat Rchive

15:00 - 15:15

Adul Kader Allabdullah (*John Innes Centre, UK*)

GWAS across wheat genomes: Insights from the Watkins collection

15:15 - 15:30

Discussion

15:30 - 16:00

SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS

16:00 - 17:00

COFFEE BREAK & POSTER VISION

17:00 - 19:00

Session 6: WHEAT FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS

CHAIRS: Philippa Borrill (*John Innes Centre, UK*), Eduard Akhunov (*Kansas State University, USA*),

17:00 - 17:15

Gurcharn Brar Singh (*University of Alberta, Canada*)

Genomics of novel disease resistance genes in wheat

17:15 - 17:30

Xia Lanqin (*Yazhou Bay National Laboratory, China*)

Genome editing for sustainable wheat production and population health

17:30 - 17:45

Yao Yingyin (*China Agricultural University, China*)

Deciphering the genetic basis of end-use quality in wheat

17:45 - 18:00

Pierre Sourdille (*INRAE, France*)

Evaluation of the fate of wild-relative introgressions in wheat



DAY 2 - Tuesday, 26 May 2026

- 18:00 - 18:15 Huijun Guo (*CAAS, China*)
Induced mutations and application in genetic analysis of wheat yield
- 18:15 - 18:30 Discussion
- 18:30 - 19:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**

DAY 3 - Wednesday, 27 May 2026

- 08:55 - 11:00 **Session 7: INNOVATIVE WHEAT BREEDING**
- CHAIRS:** Susanne Dreissigacker (*CIMMYT, Mexico*),
Curtis Pozniak (*University of Saskatchewan, Canada*)
- 09:00 - 09:15 **Keynote Lecture:** Eduard Akhunov (*Kansas State University, USA*)
Historical genomics of host-pathogen interaction in wheat rust pathosystem
- 09:15 - 09:30 Paula Silva (*INIA, Uruguay*)
Sustainable wheat production through trait discovery and pre-breeding
- 09:30 - 09:45 Jochen Reif (*IPK-Gatersleben, Germany*)
Innovations paving (half)-way towards hybrid wheat breeding
- 09:45 - 10:00 Jessie Alt (*Corteva Agriscience, USA*)
Advancing hybrid wheat through innovative breeding
- 10:00 - 10:15 Shuhei Nasuda (*University of Kyoto*)
Exploration of Asian wheat genetic diversity through NAM population
- 10:15 - 10:30 Vijaj Tiwari (*University of Maryland, College Park, USA*)
Translational research in wheat using einkorn genomics
- 10:30 - 10:45 Discussion
- 10:45 - 11:15 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 11:15 - 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTERS VISION**
- 11:45 - 12:45 **Panel Discussion II: LIMITING PESTICIDE USE FOR A SUSTAINABLE WHEAT WITH A LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT**
- CHAIRS:** McNamara Louise (*Oak Park Crops Research Centre, Ireland*),
Kar-Chun Tan (*Curtin University, Australia*)
- 12:45 - 14:00 **GROUP PHOTO AND LUNCH**
- 14:00 - 19:00 **TOURS**

DAY 4 - Thursday, 28 May 2026

- 09:00 - 11:00 **Session 8: DEVELOPING CLIMATE-SMART WHEAT IN THE CONTEXT OF ABIOTIC STRESSES**
- CHAIRS:** Laura Dixon (*IPK-Gatersleben, Germany*), Kiran Gaikwad (*ICAR, India*)
- 09:00 - 09:15 Hafssa Kabbaj (*ICARDA, Morocco*)
Genomic breeding for heat tolerance at ICARDA
- 09:15 - 09:30 Richard Trethowan (*University of Sydney, Australia*)
Buffering yield potential in an increasingly unstable environment
- 09:30 - 09:45 Daniel Miralles (*University of Buenos Aires, Argentina*)
A model based on allele combinations to predict phenology to prevent extreme weather events
- 09:45 - 10:00 Laura Dixon (*IPK-Gatersleben, Germany*)
The role of ambient temperatures in cereal adaptation
- 10:00 - 10:15 Sundeep Kumar (*ICAR, India*)
Genomic insights into terminal heat tolerance from India's National Genebank collections
- 10:15 - 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 - 11:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTERS VISION**
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Panel Discussion III: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
- CHAIRS:** Jeff Rosichan (*International Wheat Yield Partnership, USA*), Peter Langridge (*University of Adelaide, Australia*)
- 12:30 - 14:00 **LUNCH**
- 14:00 - 16:00 **Session 9: DISSECTING THE WHEAT-PATHOGEN AND PEST INTERACTION**
- CHAIRS:** Fiona Doohan (*University College Dublin*), Evans Lagudah (*CSIRO, Australia*)
- 14:00 - 14:15 Valentyna Klymiuk (*University of Saskatchewan*)
Integrative genomic approaches to resolve wheats genetic diversity for FHB resistance

DAY 4 - Thursday, 28 May 2026

- 14:15 - 14:30 Fiona Doohan (*University College, Dublin, Ireland*)
Dissecting wheat resistance to FHB and *Septoria tritici* blotch disease
- 14:30 - 14:45 Steven Xu (*USDA, USA*)
Breaking barriers: *Ph1b*-facilitated introgression of novel disease resistance genes from *Aegilops caudata*
- 14:45 - 15:00 Wuletaw Tadesse (*ICARDA, Ethiopia*)
Accelerated wheat breeding and deployment to ensure food security in Africa
- 15:00 - 15:15 Sarrah Ben M'Barek (*Regional Field Crops Research Center Béja, Tunisia*)
Decoding wheat-fungal pathogen dynamics: Insights from durum wheat landraces
- 15:15 - 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 - 16:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 16:00 - 17:00 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTER VISION**
- 17:00 - 18:45 **Panel Discussion IV: FROM STRAMPELLI TO INFORMED BREEDING IN A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SCENARIO**
CHAIRS: Gemma Molero (*KWS, France*),
Roberto Tuberosa (*DISTAL, University of Bologna, Italy*)
Nazareno Strampelli Award 2026 prizes
- 19:00 - 19:10 **Presentation of IWC5 (2028)**
- 20:00 - 23:00 **SOCIAL DINNER**

DAY 5 - Friday, 29 May 2026

- 09:00 - 11:00 **Session 10: WHEAT QUALITY, END-USE PROCESSING, NUTRITION AND HUMAN-HEALTH**
- CHAIRS:** Itria Ibba (*CYMMIT, Mexico*), Tatsuya Ikeda (*National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences in Japan, Japan*)
- 09:00 - 09:15 Francisco Barro (*CSICS Cordoba, Spain*)
CRISPR/Cas strategies for high-quality, celiac disease-safe wheat
- 09:15 - 09:30 Nigel Halford (*Rothamsted, UK*)
Agronomic and genetic approaches to reduce the risk of acrylamide formation in wheat products
- 09:30 - 09:45 Jan De Vries (*De Vries Nutrition Solutions, The Netherlands*)
The role of wheat in a healthy and sustainable diet
- 09:45 - 10:00 Maria Caboni (*University of Bologna, Italy*)
Whole grain and technological quality: opportunities and challenges
- 10:00 - 10:15 Katherina Scherf (*University of Munich, Germany*)
Proteomic insights into baking quality and wheat-related disorders
- 10:15 - 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 - 11:00 **SELECTED SHORT (5 MIN) TALKS**
- 11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK & POSTERS VISION**
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Panel Discussion V: NOVEL NUTRITIONAL TRENDS TOWARD A HEALTHIER WHEAT-BASED DIET**
- CHAIRS:** Marina Carcea (*CREA, Italy*),
Jan De Vries (*De Vries Nutrition Solutions, The Netherlands*),
- 12:30 - 14:00 **LUNCH**
- 14:00 - 16:00 **Closing Session: ARE WE READY FOR DESIGNING THE FUTURE WHEAT CROP?**
- CHAIRS:** Sylvie Coultier (*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada*),
Peter Langridge (*University of Adelaide, Australia*)
- 14:00 - 14:15 Mariangela Hungria (*EMBRAPA, Brasil*)
A MicroGreen revolution empowering soil health, mitigating the emission of GHG for food production (remote presentation)

DAY 5 - Friday, 29 May 2026

- 14:15 - 14:30 Brian Beres (*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada*)
The nitrogen paradox: feeding wheat, cutting emissions, and building resilient cropping systems
- 14:30 - 14:45 Flavio Breseghello (*CIMMYT, Mexico*)
Is hybrid wheat a good thing for the Global South?
- 14:45 - 15:00 Ksenia Krasileva (*University of California, Berkeley, California*)
The rise of resistance: from natural diversity to precise modification of plant immune receptors
- 15:00 - 15:15 Evans Lagudah (*CSIRO, Australia*)
Embedding robust disease resistance into the architecture of tomorrow's wheat
- 15:15 - 15:30 Wolfram Weckwerth (*University of Wien, Austria*)
The holobiont concept in wheat breeding - a paradigm shift into sustainable agroecosystems
- 15:30 - 16:00 Discussion
- 16:00 - 16:20 **Presentation of IWC6 (2030)**
- 16:20 - 16:20 **Congress closure:** Roberto Tuberosa (*DISTAL, University of Bologna, Italy*),
Peter Langridge (*University of Adelaide, Australia*)