

From: [Scott Allen Jackson](#)
To: [Ribaut, Jean-Marcel \(GCP\)](#)
Subject: Re: Crops-Genomics conference follow-up
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 3:01:12 PM

Jean Marcel, see my email that was just sent. Sorry for dropping the ball on this. My inbox kept piling up while traveling.

scott

On Sep 25, 2014, at 12:22 AM, Ribaut, Jean-Marcel (GCP) <L.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG> wrote:

Hi Scott,

If suitable, I am ready to take some lead in the organisation of the programme for that Thursday morning session with colleagues cc in the email below. But before rolling the ball it would be nice to hear from you guys is the ideas we have been presenting resonate with the organising committee.

Of course the same group can also make recommendations on possible speakers from developing countries for the other sessions.

Looking fw to hearing from you.

Best,

JM

From: Jeffrey Ehlers <Jeff.Ehlers@gatesfoundation.org>
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 10:34 AM
To: Jean Marcel Ribaut <L.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG>
Cc: Jeremy Schmutz <jschmutz@hudsonalpha.org>, "Ozias-Akins, Peggy (GCP)" <pozias@uga.edu>, "Varshney, Rajeev (ICRISAT-IN)" <R.K.Varshney@CGIAR.ORG>, Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@cropptrust.org>, Scott Allen Jackson <sjackson@uga.edu>
Subject: RE: Crops-Genomics conference follow-up

Dear Jean-Marcel and others,

I agree with the suggestions of everyone on the thread so far. I'd like to see a solid discussion around the challenges to adopting modern breeding in the developing world (especially Africa)- understanding and tackling these will be the key to whether there will be any impact from the technologies there. Ndeye Ndack Diop might have some experiences to share on this.

Several other suggested speakers (2 are women!) from the developing world that come to mind are:

Abdel Ismail-IRRI Rice program (he is from Sudan and has been an integral part of the Sub1 and Saltol rice work.

Demaris Odeny-*Research area: Molecular breeding for resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, and improving the nutritional status of relevant African crops.* ICRISAT

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/fellows/directory/item/damaris-achieng-odeny>

Gerardine Mukeshimana, a 2013 graduate of MSU's doctoral program in plant breeding and genetics in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, was appointed the new Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) of Rwanda by H. E. Paul Kigame, president of the Republic of Rwanda, on July 24, 2014.

If you feel you need some additional names of speaker-scientists from the developing world, I can reach out to Kathy Kahn here at BMGF-she has a wonderful program called PEARLS that is identifying emerging African scientist/leaders and deeply engaged with the Cornell Cassava modern breeding project we support. You might also bring in Gary Atlin to the conversation - he has done a lot of thinking around how to enable scientists in the developing world to access modern breeding technology through things like shared data and informatics platforms.

Thanks,
Jeff

From: Ribaut, Jean-Marcel (GCP) [<mailto:J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG>]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2014 6:49 AM
To: Hannes Dempewolf
Cc: Scott Allen Jackson; Jeffrey Ehlers; Jeremy Schmutz; Ozias-Akins, Peggy (GCP); Varshney, Rajeev (ICRISAT-IN)
Subject: Re: Crops-Genomics conference followup

Hi Hannes,

Quite some good suggestions. We can indeed considering inviting BecA's Director, Djikeng Appolinaire who I know very well. He can talk about Capacity Building et breeding services. It might be very relevant now that BecA will coordinate the CB activities of the MARS initiative that established last year the African Breeding Academy at ICRAF (see below).

Yes it would also be very good to hear the voice of the private sector. I was thinking that Mark Cooper from Pioneer would be the perfect candidate to talk about the GxE impact on MB efficiency. We can also consider having a testimony of somebody from a SME in Africa, such as Barry McCarter who has been the CEO of SeedCo, a small breeding seed company in Zimbabwe.

On the genetic resources, we can try to bring EMBRAPA on board, they have a very nice story to tell about the orange-fleshed sweet potato, obtained thanks to a gene from a wild relative that provides high nutritional value.

If Scott and colleagues agree on the proposed structure, we can start pulling some more specific name and topics for that Thursday morning session.

Best wishes,

JM

<image001.png> **Susan MacMillan (ILRI): LAUNCHING TODAY AT ICRAF Nairobi** The African Orphan Crops Consortium (AOCC) is officially launching today the African Plant Breeding Academy at ICRAF. The consortium is an international effort to improve the nutrition, productivity and climatic adaptability of some of Africa's most important traditional food crops (orphans in terms of research since not much research has been done on them). The consortium is supported by the largest food company in US, Mars Ltd. The program of the day has been developed by the ICRAF team. Appolinaire Djikeng, director of the Biosciences eastern and central Africa-ILRI Hub, is serving as master of ceremonies at the launch. The BecA-ILRI Hub will be playing a role in this academy, chiefly in capacity building for NARs. This afternoon, there will be a lab tour of the BecA-ILRI Hub facilities. More information from [@Ethel Makila](#), communications specialist for the BecA-ILRI Hub, or [@Paul Stapleton](#) and [@Daisy Ouya](#) of [@icraf](#) cc: [@appolinaire Djikeng](#), [@Tim Hall](#)
11:59 PM - Dec 02 / [Reply](#)

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org>
Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 3:37 AM

To: Jean Marcel Ribaut <J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG>

Cc: Scott Allen Jackson <sjackson@uga.edu>, "Ehlers, Jeff (GCP)" <Jeff.Ehlers@gatesfoundation.org>, Jeremy Schmutz <jschmutz@hudsonalpha.org>, "Ozias-Akins, Peggy (GCP)" <pozias@uga.edu>, "Varshney, Rajeev (ICRISAT-IN)" <R.K.Varshney@CGIAR.ORG>

Subject: Re: Crops-Genomics conference followup

Hi Scott and all,

Your suggestion sounds like a good idea and I am also fully supportive of Jean-Marcel's further comments on this. I wonder to what extent we may want to specifically approach some of the Biotech networks in Africa, such as BECCA, to see whether they may be interested to help provide inputs in the session on 'international perspectives'?

Another question I had was the involvement of the private sector. Would it be feasible/desirable from your perspective to have someone from industry speak about their outlook and strategy with regards to genomics enabled breeding in Africa and Asia - whether that is within their own companies or through public/private partnerships etc.?

I would also suggest we try to bring in the genebank perspective, since as we are know, the demands on genebanks are dramatically changing in the context of genomics-enabled breeding and I think few developing country genebanks (or developed country/CG genebanks for that matter) are prepared for this.

Hannes

On Fri, Sep 19, 2014 at 6:48 AM, Ribaut, Jean-Marcel (GCP) <J.RIBAUT@cgiar.org> wrote:

Hi Scott,

Thanks for your follow-up message.

Yes my suggestion was indeed to have perhaps one of the plenary speakers for most sessions to be from a developing countries. As an example Rajeev's work should be presented during day 1 or 2. I can easily identified 2-3 other speakers from developing countries who would be able to report excellent work related to GW, trait discovery, gene cloning and or identification of predictive markers for breeding.

If one of the major objectives of the meeting is also about technology transfer and translational biology, it makes sense to keep a separate session to address some issues specific to developing countries, as it is now in the programme. We can have a general opening talk on translational biology to put things into context and then a series of 4-5 speakers to address some specific thematics such as: GxE impact on genetic gain prediction in particular for GWS, capacity building and human resources, lack of infrastructure and tools/resources (now under day 2 but perhaps more relevant for that session), breeding for resilience and not genetic gain per se, the important of partnership, challenges of technology transfer and sustainable adoption, etc.

I would suggest that we keep a least 1 hour at the end of the morning for a round table to try to refine the challenges and limitations of modern breeding in developing countries and develop some recommendations. Ideally we should aim to publish the output of that discussion to help donors, policy makers and others to address them in a constructive way. Perhaps even a paper, the interest to Plant Translational Research is growing and we might want to consider a synthesis paper with some conclusion and recommendation in some high impact journal.

Once we have an advanced draft programme we can approach some sponsors to support the participation of students/scientists from developing countries.

Just some thoughts to start rolling the ball :-)

Best,

JM

On 9/18/14 8:24 PM, "Scott Allen Jackson" <sjackson@uga.edu> wrote:

Hi Jean-marcel, Hannes, and Jeff,

One outcome of the call from a few weeks ago as to follow up on how best to integrate international applied activities into the program so that we have a robust meeting that will be of value for all attendees. Jean-Marcel I believe had suggested that we integrate the international speakers/activities into the general program rather than having a separate session on that. I think we all agree that's a good idea and plan to do so. Will need your help on identifying good speakers. We were wondering if there would be some value in keeping a separate session for training or distilling lessons from the general session for international impact? Would it increase the value for the international participants to have something like this that may be training-like?

So, the questions are:

- 1) International speakers for the general sessions; and
- 2) maintain a session for international perspectives and, if so, how to structure it?

I hope the three of you (pull in others if you need) can help with that. One final question, given the difficulty getting money, though we are trying, how best to find and pay for international participants? I

FYI A preliminary website is up: <http://www.hudsonalpha.org/crops/>

Thanks, Scott Jackson

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Conserving Crop Diversity, Forever

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