

**From:** [Scott Allen Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Ribaut, Jean-Marcel \(GCP\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Hannes Dempewolf](#); [Ehlers, Jeff \(GCP\)](#); [Jeremy Schmutz](#); [Peggy Ozias-Akins](#); [rajeev varshney](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Crops-Genomics conference followup  
**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:00:55 PM

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Sorry. been traveling and now catching up.

I completely agree with Jean-Marcel's comments below. I had anticipated that Rajeev would be a speaker during the meeting. I hope that you, Rajeev, Jeff and Hannes can help to identify some additional speakers, as you say.

I like the ideas of the effect of GxE on genetic gain and resilience versus gain, per se. This definitely fits in the context of translational research and should make an interesting meeting for all (national, international, public, private, etc....).

If you all could please start pulling ideas together into a format and some potential speakers, that would be great! If we could find some speakers that could at least cover their own airfare, that would help with fundraising and being able to help fund some international participants that don't have travel money.

If you (Hannes, Jean-Marcel, Jeff and Rajeev) would like to discuss further by phone, we can arrange for a conf call. I would like to participate as well.

Thanks, Scott

On Sep 19, 2014, at 9:48 AM, Ribaut, Jean-Marcel (GCP) <[J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG](mailto:J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG)> wrote:

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

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**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

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**From:** Hannes Dempewolf <[hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org](mailto:hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org)>

**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2014 3:37 AM

**To:** Jean Marcel Ribaut <[J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG](mailto:J.RIBAUT@CGIAR.ORG)>

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

<[R.K.Varshney@CGIAR.ORG](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 thematic 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](mailto: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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