



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Wheat



Accelerating Genetic Gains  
in Maize and Wheat

# Breeder Friendly Phenotyping

Matthew Reynolds & colleagues

The 6th Annual - Nordic Plant Phenotyping Network Workshop

Virtual meeting – Friday 27 November 2020

HeDWIC

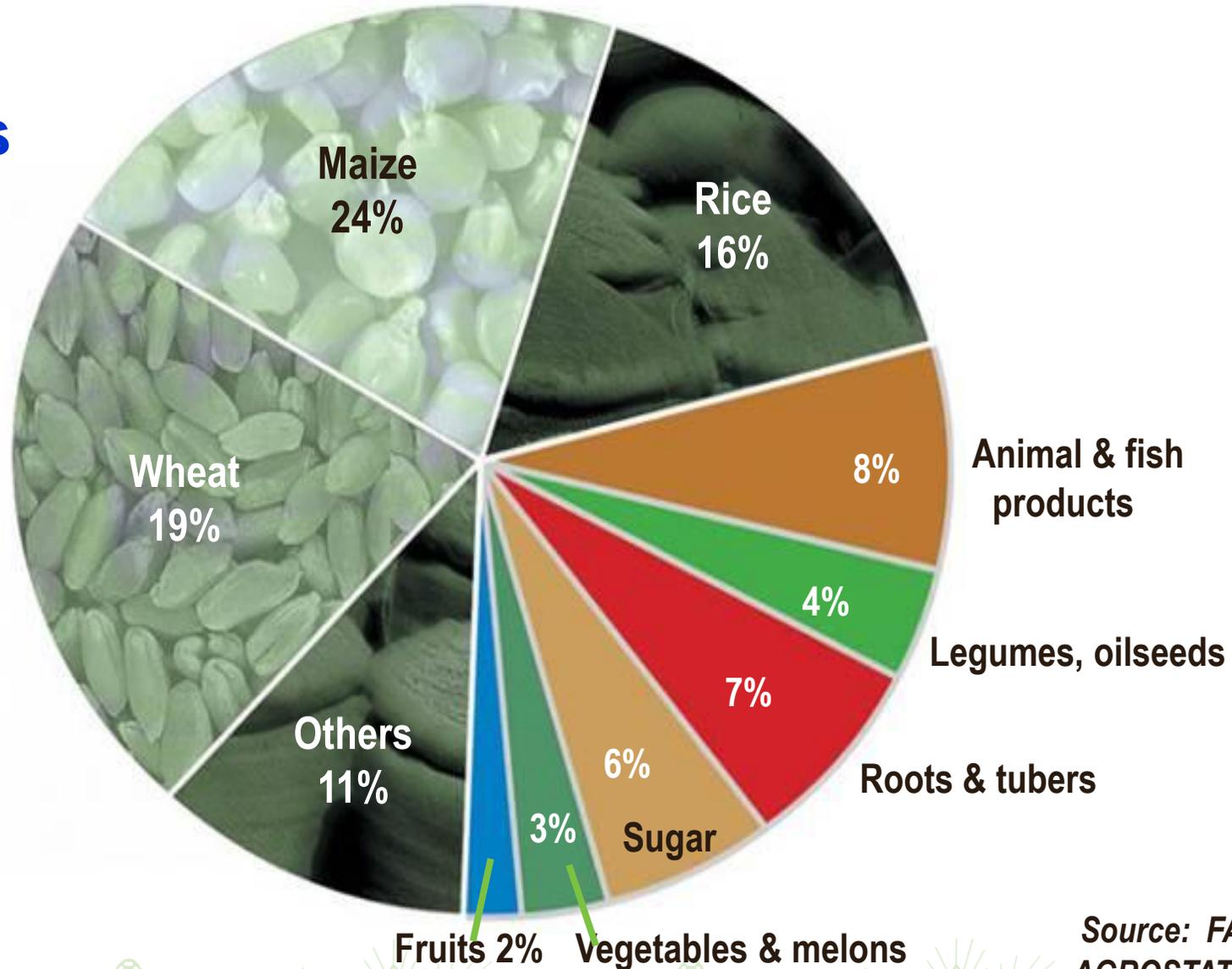


河南農業大學  
Henan Agricultural University



# World food supply: ~3 b tonnes (dry wt)

**Cereals  
70%**



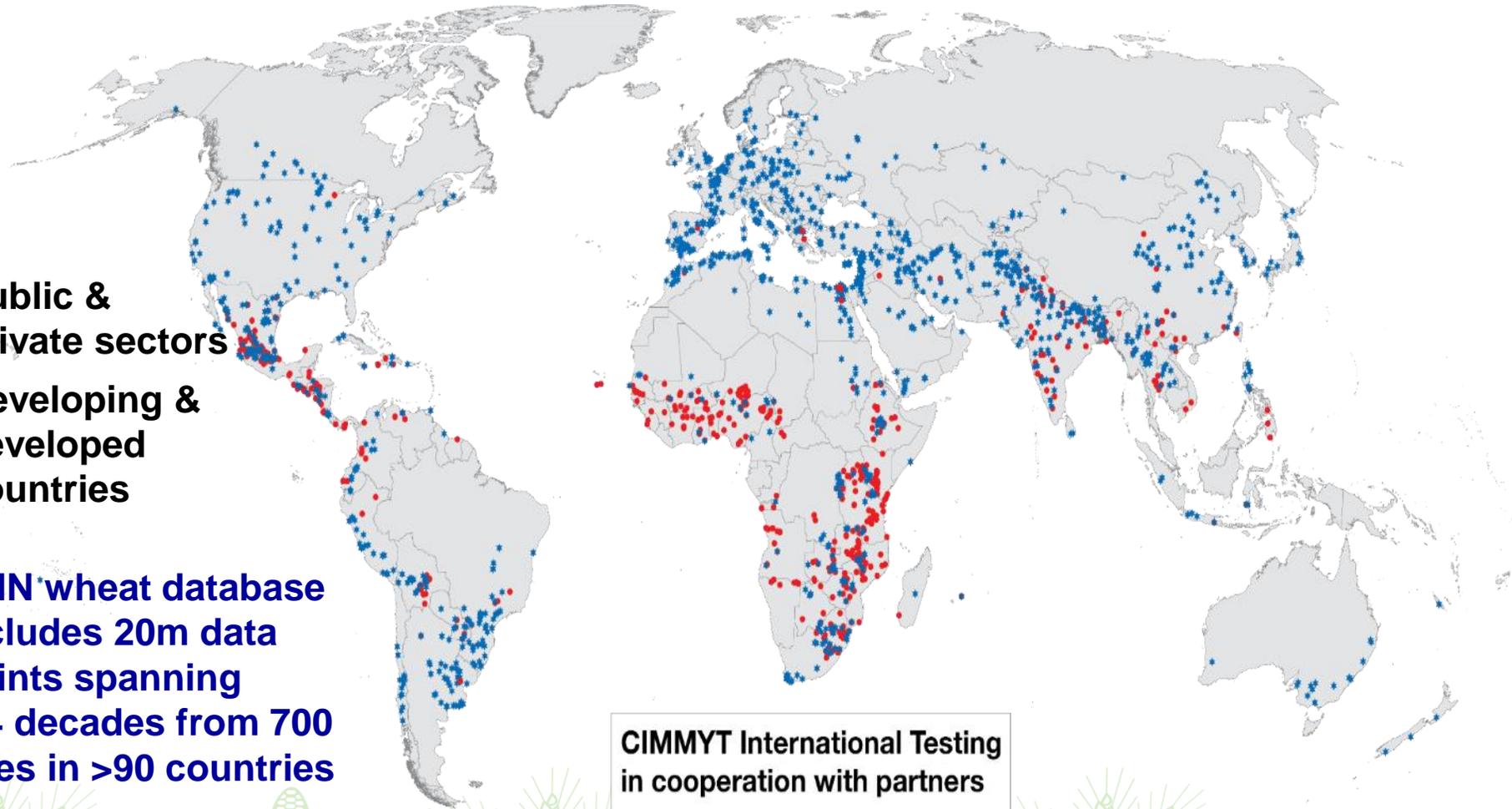
Source: FAO  
AGROSTAT (2012)

# CIMMYT Maize & Wheat Improvement Networks:

in the post Green-Revolution period, emphasis on yield stability, biotic stresses & nutritional quality

- Public & private sectors
- Developing & developed countries

IWIN wheat database includes 20m data points spanning > 4 decades from 700 sites in >90 countries

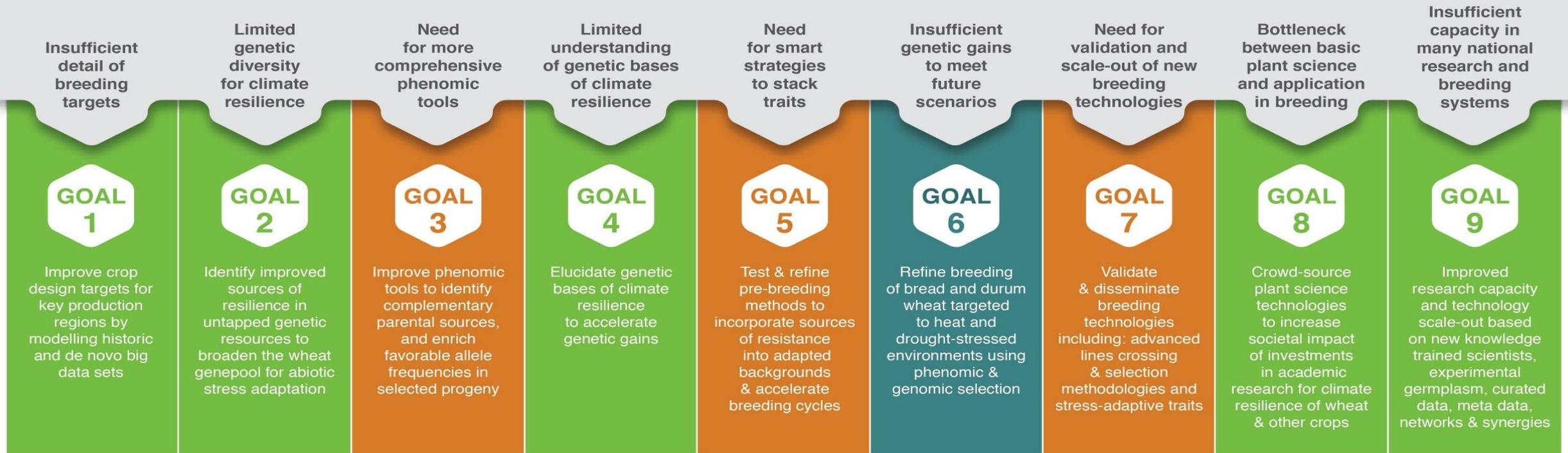


CIMMYT International Testing  
in cooperation with partners

Maize • Wheat \*

# Harnessing translational research across a global wheat improvement network for climate resilience: Research gaps, interactive goals and outcomes

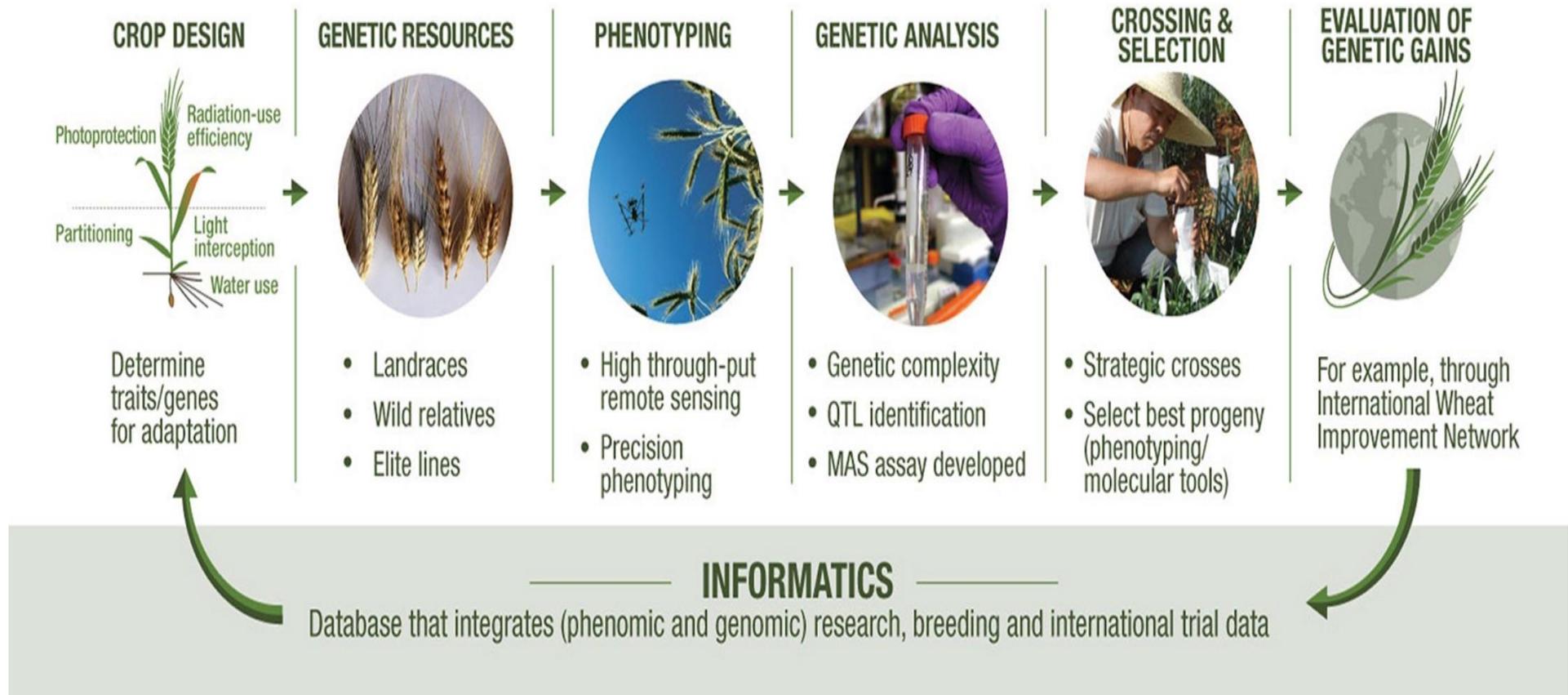
## RESEARCH GAPS:



## Main outcomes & beneficiaries: **breeders**, plus **researchers**, plus **farmers & consumers**

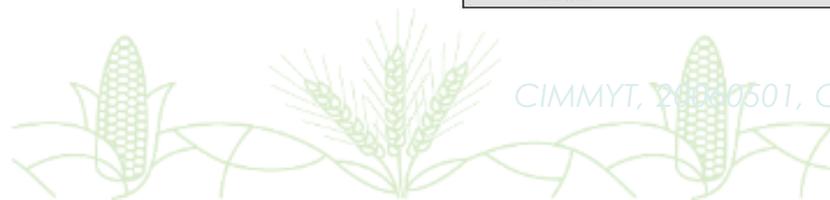
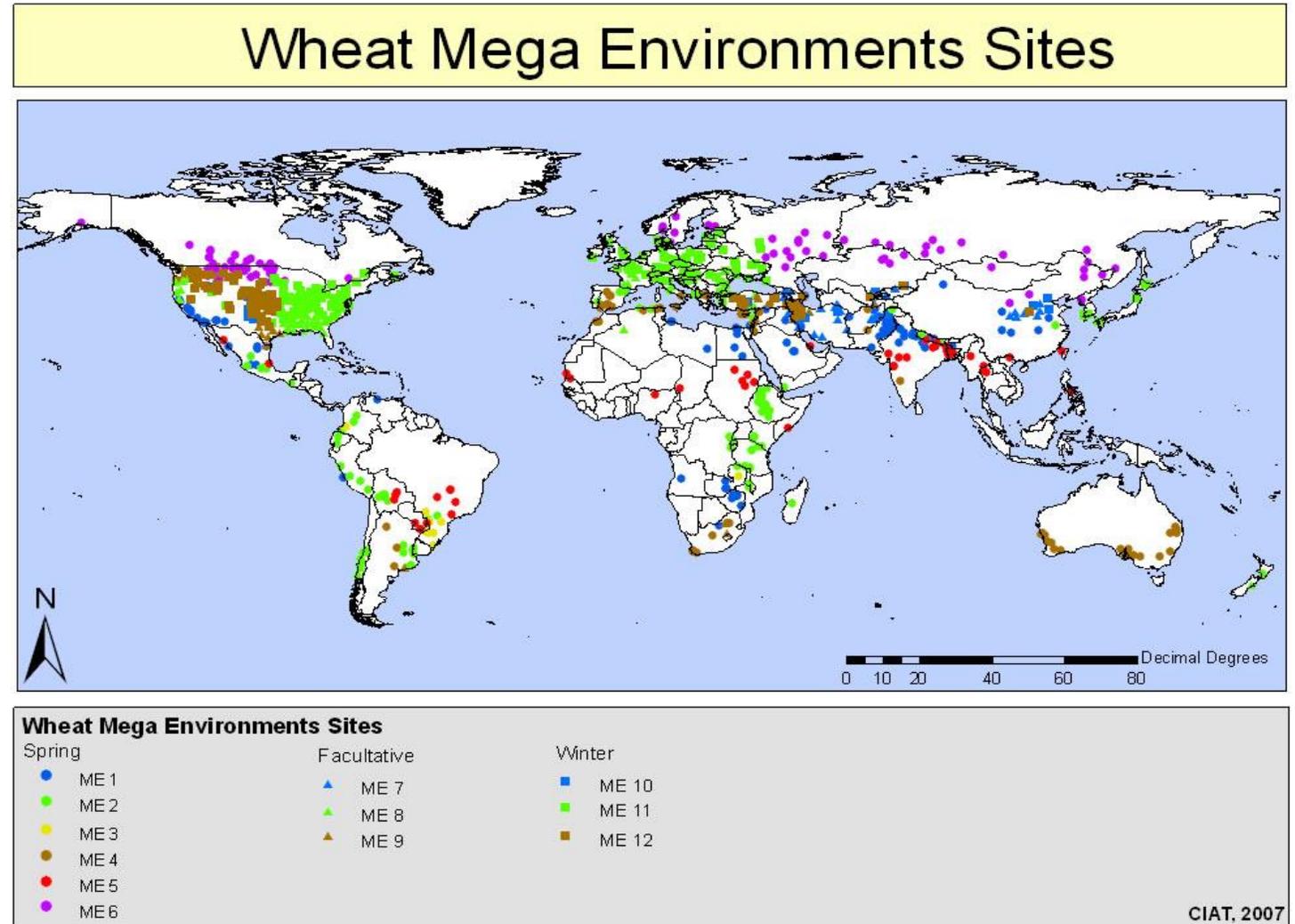


# PHYSIOLOGICAL PRE-BREEDING PIPELINE



# Goal 1: Improve crop design using modeling and IWIN big data sets

- ~1000 new lines sent annually to a network of public & private breeders globally
- Common set of germplasm grown under a diverse conditions
- Generated millions of data points over 4 decades



CIMMYT, 20140501, C



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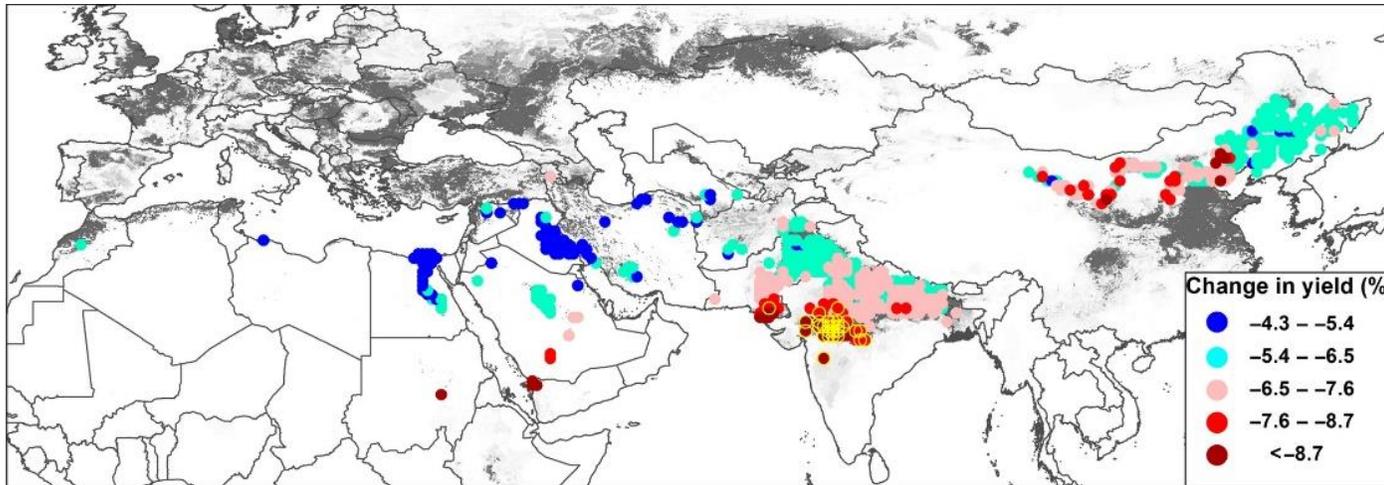
# Builds on Previous Research Using IWIN

## Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2016), doi: 10.1111/gcb.13530

### Hot spots of wheat yield decline with rising temperatures

SENTHOLD ASSENG<sup>1</sup>, DAVIDE CAMMARANO<sup>1,a</sup>, BRUNO BASSO<sup>2</sup>, URAN CHUNG<sup>3,b</sup>, PHILLIP D. ALDERMAN<sup>3,c</sup>, KAI SONDER<sup>3</sup>, MATTHEW REYNOLDS<sup>3</sup> and DAVID B. LOBELL<sup>4,5</sup>



Estimated average yield change for 2030–2041 (compared to baseline 2000–2011) across main global irrigated spring wheat areas with >13.0 °C mean seasonal temperature.

Gourdji, S. M., et al. 2013. An assessment of wheat yield sensitivity and breeding gains in hot environments. *Proceedings of The Royal Society B*, 280: 20122190

Crespo-Herrera, L. A., et al. 2017. Genetic Yield Gains In CIMMYT's International Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials By Modeling. *Crop Science*, 57:789–801

Crespo-Herrera, L. A., et al. 2018. Genetic gains for grain yield in CIMMYT's Semi-Arid wheat yield trials grown in suboptimal environments. *Crop Science*, 58:1890–1898

Juliana, P., et al. 2020. Retrospective quantitative genetic analysis and genomic prediction of global wheat yields. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 11



# DESIGN: conceptual model of heat-adaptive traits

$$\text{YIELD} = \text{LI} \times \text{RUE} \times \text{HI}$$

## Photo-Protection (RUE)

- Leaf morphology (display wax)
- Down regulation
- Pigment composition
  - Chl a:b
  - Carotenoids
- Antioxidants

## Efficient metabolism (RUE)

- Stomatal conductance
- Rubisco (>>)
- C<sub>3</sub> photosynthesis
- C<sub>4</sub> photosynthesis

## Partitioning (HI)

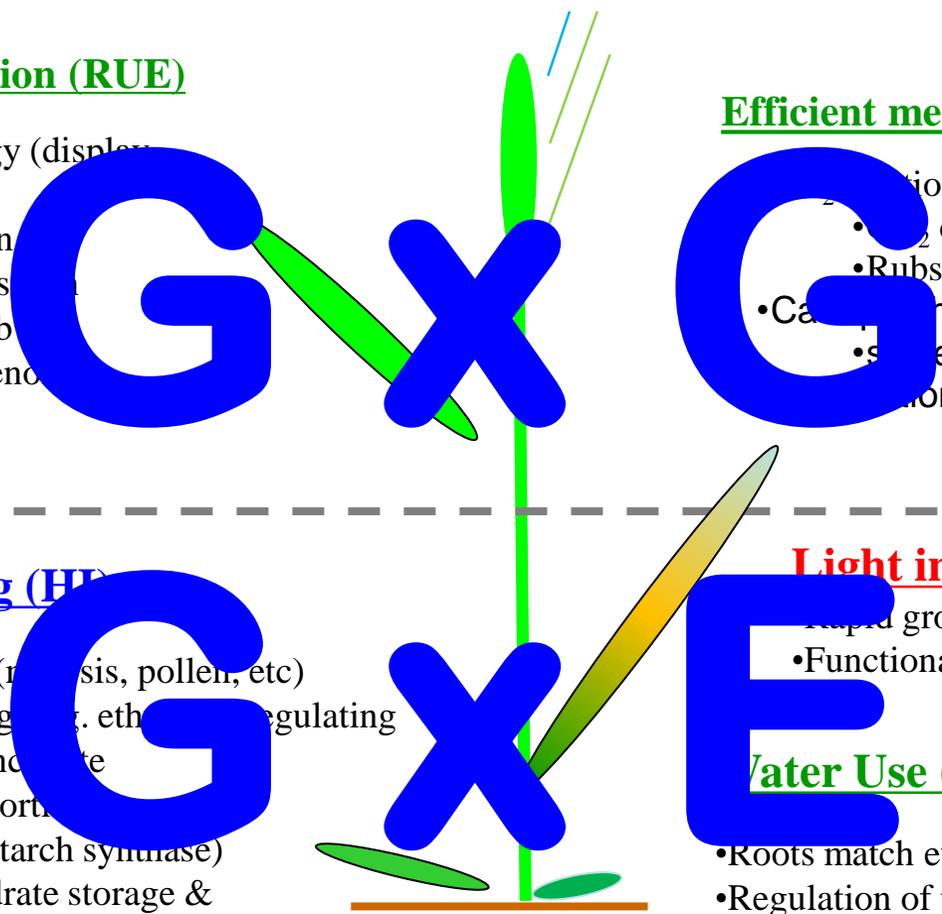
- Spike fertility (anthesis, pollen, etc)
- Stress signaling (e.g. ethylene regulating)
  - senescence
  - floret abortion
- Grain filling (starch synthase)
- Stem carbohydrate storage & remobilization

## Light interception (LI)

- Rapid ground cover
- Functional stay-green

## Water Use (RUE)

- Roots match evaporative demand
- Regulation of transpiration (VPD; ABA)



Cossani CM, Reynolds, MP. 2012. Physiological traits for improving heat tolerance in wheat. Plant Physiology 160: 1710-18



## Goal 2: Explore untapped genetic resources

World Wheat Collection at CIMMYT comprise >150,000 genotypes from more than 100 countries; the largest unified collection in the world for a single crop.



# 70,000 wheat genetic resource samples

Screened under drought and heat, Sonora, Mexico, 2011-2013

Funded by MasAgro-SeeD



Panels of diverse,  
promising lines established  
for research and pre-breeding

There are ~0.8 m samples of wheat  
genetic resources in global  
collections

Reynolds et al (2015): Exploring genetic resources to increase adaptation of wheat to climate change. In *Advances in Wheat Genetics: From Genome to Field*. Eds Ogihara Y, Takumi S, Handa H. Springer Japan; 2015



# Bread wheat diversity panel (n=370)



Includes best performing lines from:

- International nurseries
- Landraces/FIGS panels
- Lines derived from inter-specific hybridization



**Spike diversity in BW panel**



# Primary synthetic panel (n=160)

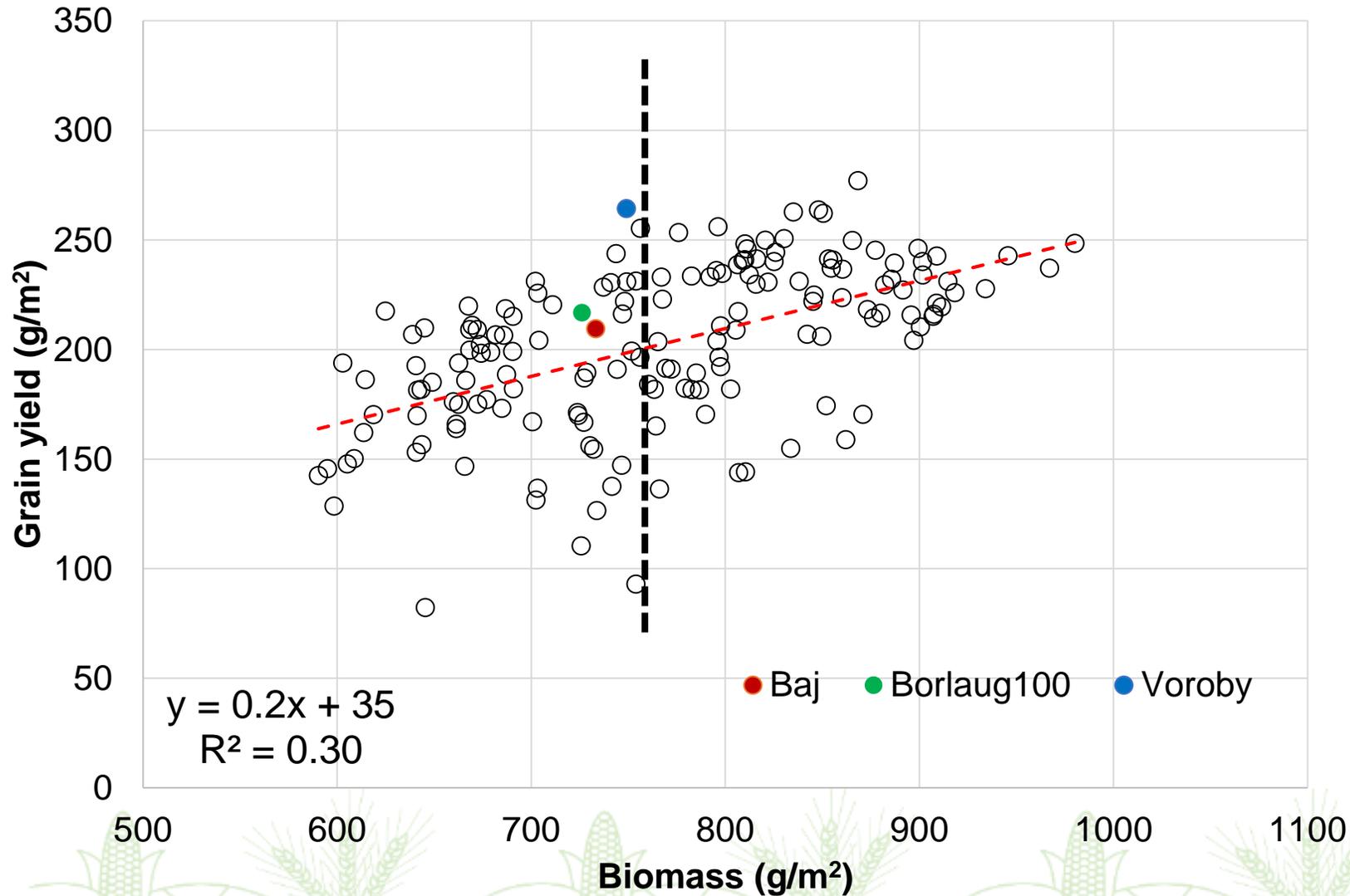


Selected from 2,000 lines (i.e. with brand new hexaploid genomes) for adaptation to heat, drought and favorable conditions

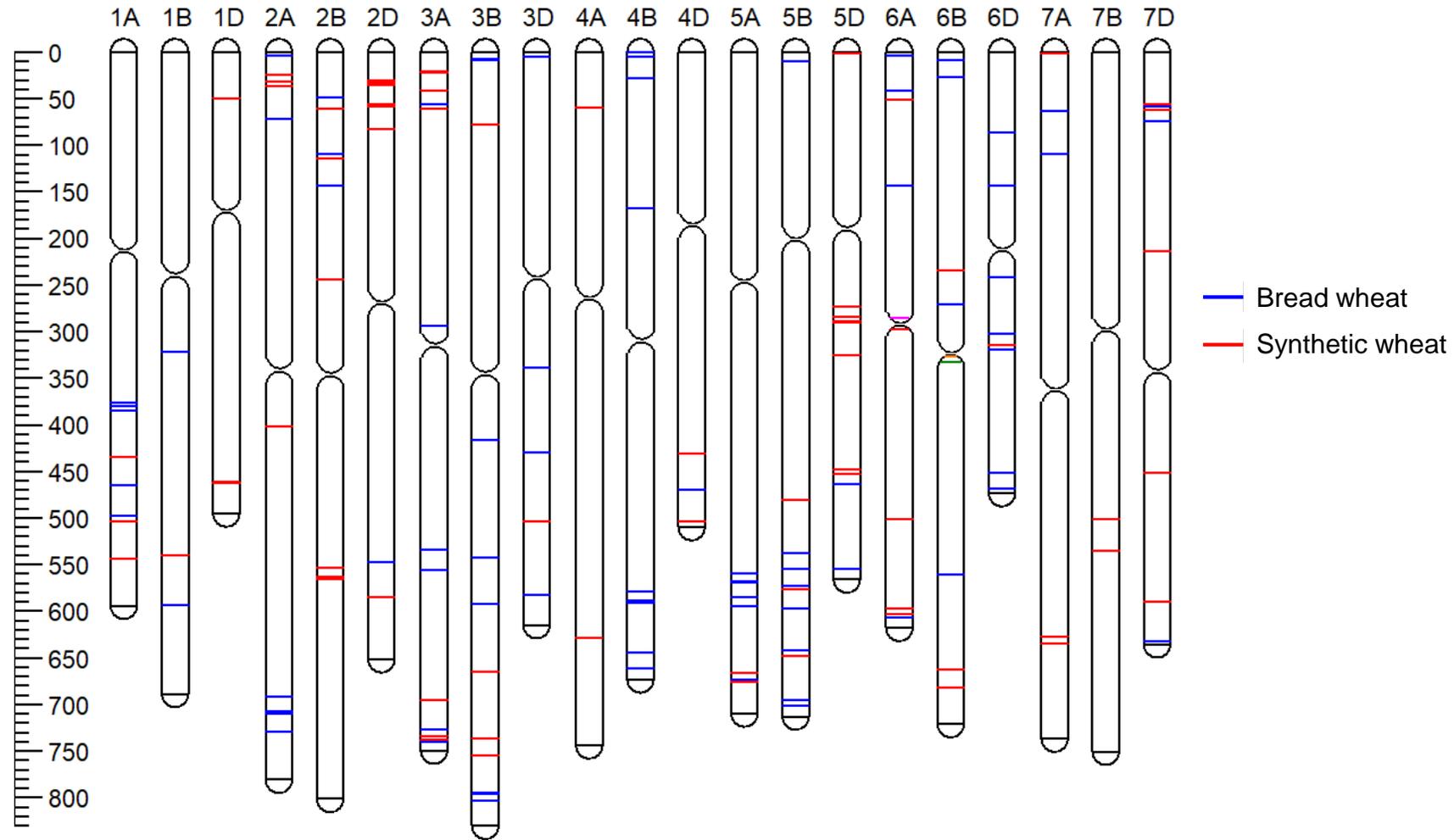


# Genetic variation in synthetic hexaploid wheat (heat stress)

NW Mexico, 2016 & 2017



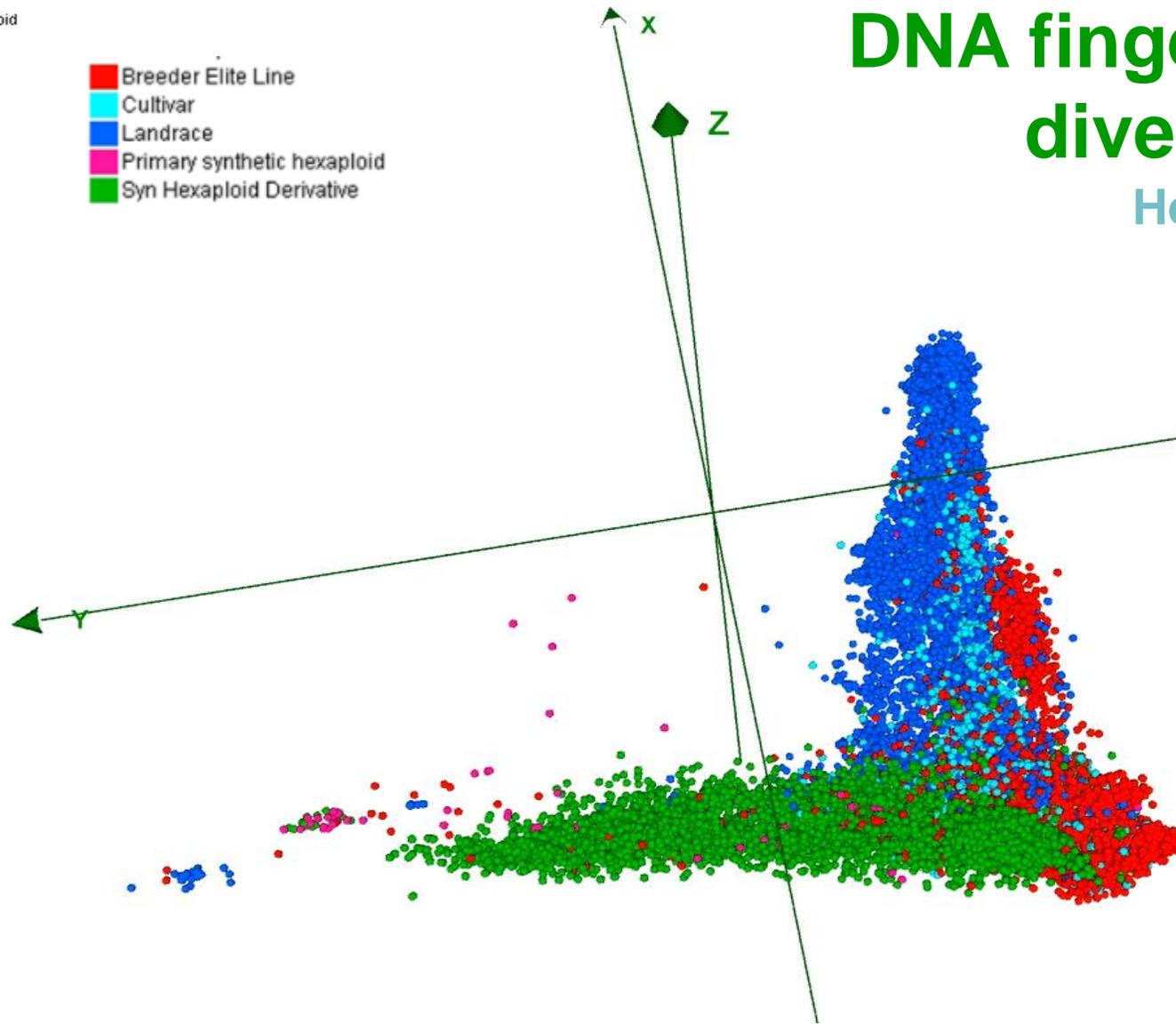
# Chromosome regions for drought tolerance



Sukumaran et al., unpublished...

loid  
re

- Breeder Elite Line
- Cultivar
- Landrace
- Primary synthetic hexaploid
- Syn Hexaploid Derivative



# DNA fingerprinting for diversity subsets

## Hexaploid diversity

60,000 accessions,

8 domesticated species:

*T. aestivum* subs. *aestivum*,  
*T. aestivum* subs. *spelta*,  
*T. aestivum* subs. *compactum*,  
*T. aestivum* subs. *sphaerococcum*,  
*T. aestivum* subs. *macha*,  
*Triticum* hybrid,  
*x Aegilotriticum*  
*x Triticosecale*

ABD genomes,

105 countries

26,500 SilicoDArT

85,500 SNP's

Sansolini et al., 2020. Diversity analysis of 80,000 wheat accessions reveals consequences and opportunities of selection footprints. *Nature Communications*

Modified Roger distance of 60,000 hexaploid accessions displayed in a multidimensional scaling plot.



# Goal 3 Phenotyping



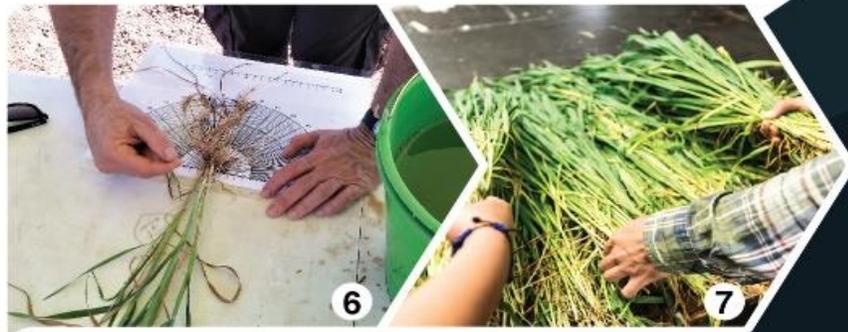
4. Drone for IR and spectral images.  
5. Phenocart.

Trait class / Approach:

**High throughput**

Application / Traits:

Spectral indices, thermal (IR) images



6. Root growth analysis.  
7. Canopy growth analysis.

Trait class / Approach:

**Precision**

Application / Traits:

Growth analysis, above and below ground

- Radiation use efficiency, tiller dynamics
- Partitioning of N and C to different organs
- Root dry weight, depth, architecture

Direct measurement (not shown in photos)

- Energy use efficiency (photosynthesis/respiration)
- Transpiration
- Chlorophyll fluorescence
- Leaf water potential



# BREEDER FRIENDLY PHENOTYPING



1. Low resolution stereoscopic spectral radiometer (eyes) + supercomputer (brain).

Trait class / Approach:

**Handy-visual**

Application / Traits:

Phenology, canopy architecture, disease, pests



2. Greenseeker for NDVI.  
3. IR thermometer for canopy temperature.

Trait class / Approach:

**Handy-physiological**

- NDVI/SPAD
- IR thermometer

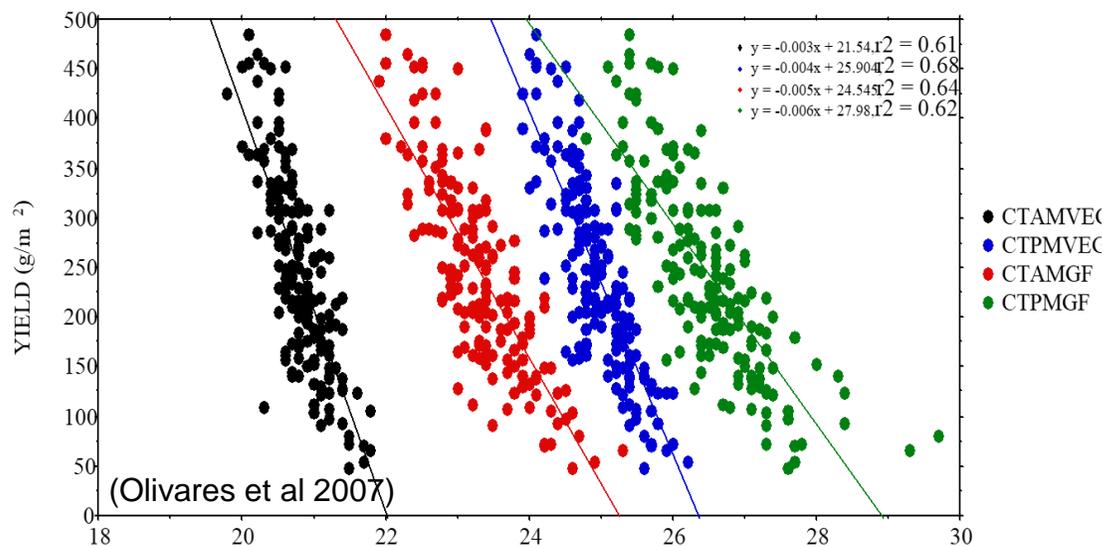
Application / Traits:

Ground cover, green area, biomass, leaf greenness  
Canopy temp: fitness, root depth/capacity



# Canopy temperature (CT)

correlated with yield under drought & heat stress

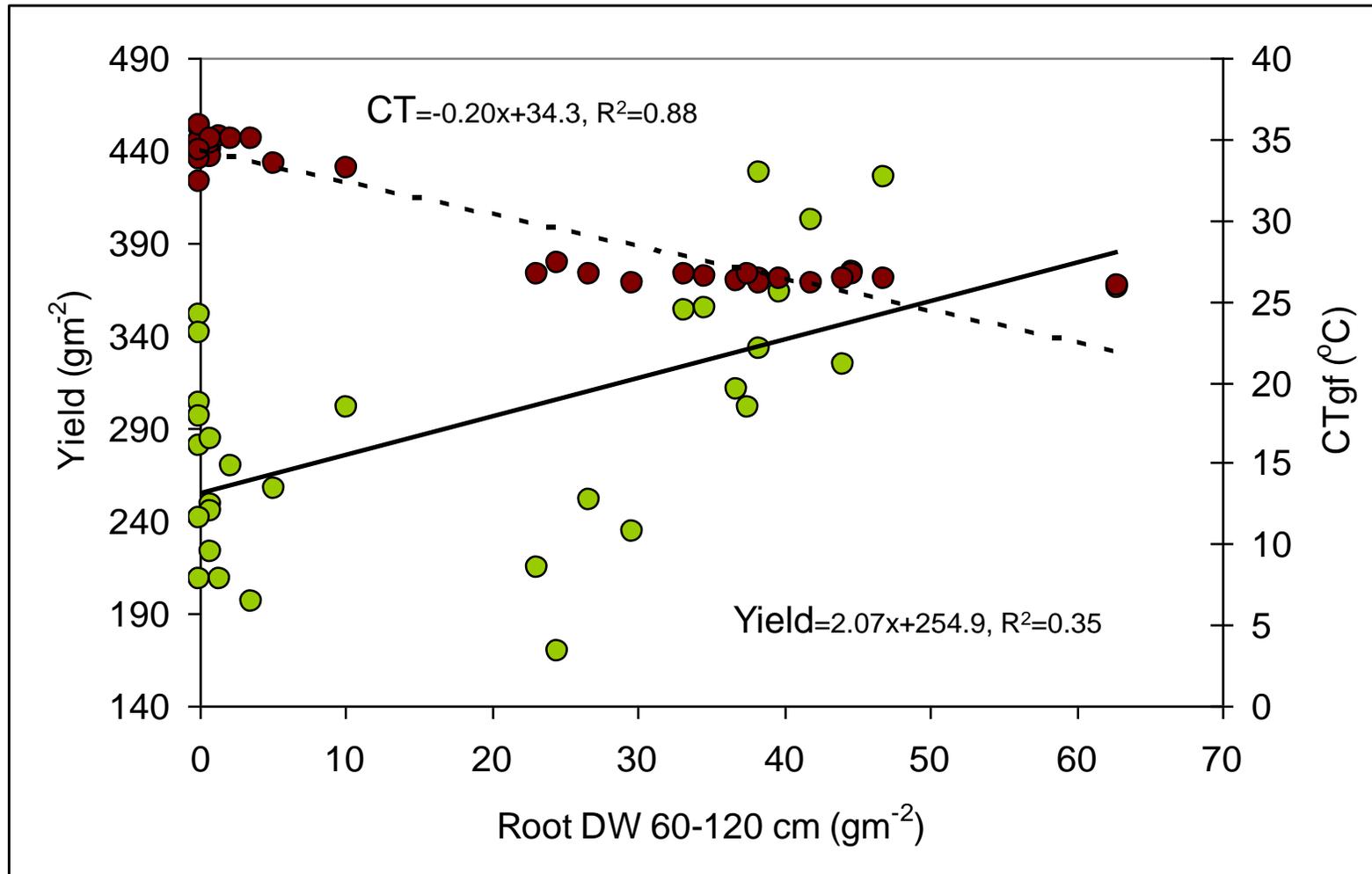


CT under drought, at  
different growth  
stages and times of  
day

Seri/Babax RILs



# Deep root profiles under drought stress

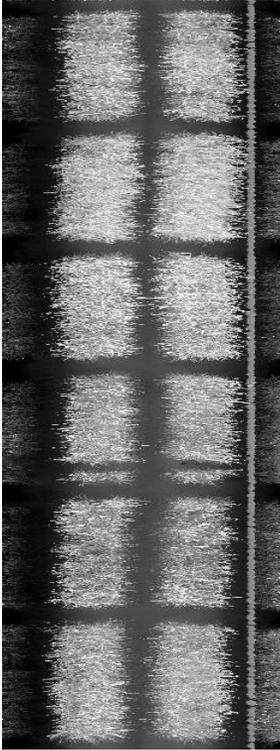


Lopes MS and Reynolds MP, 2010. Partitioning of assimilates to deeper roots is associated with cooler canopies and increased yield under drought in wheat. *Functional Plant Biology* 37:147-156

# Root phenotyping under drought

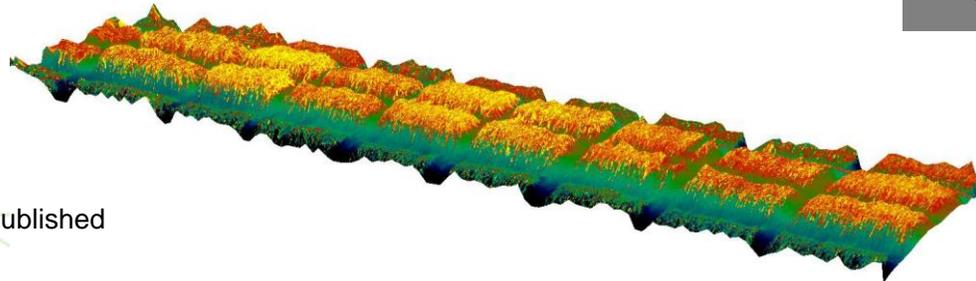


# Versatile platform for ground based phenotyping



Terrestrial vehicle for integrated measurements of different sensors:

- LIDAR: structural traits
- Thermal camera: leaf & canopy temperature
- Multispectral cameras: range of spectral indices.
- Cost of the vehicle <\$2000, much less than commercial options



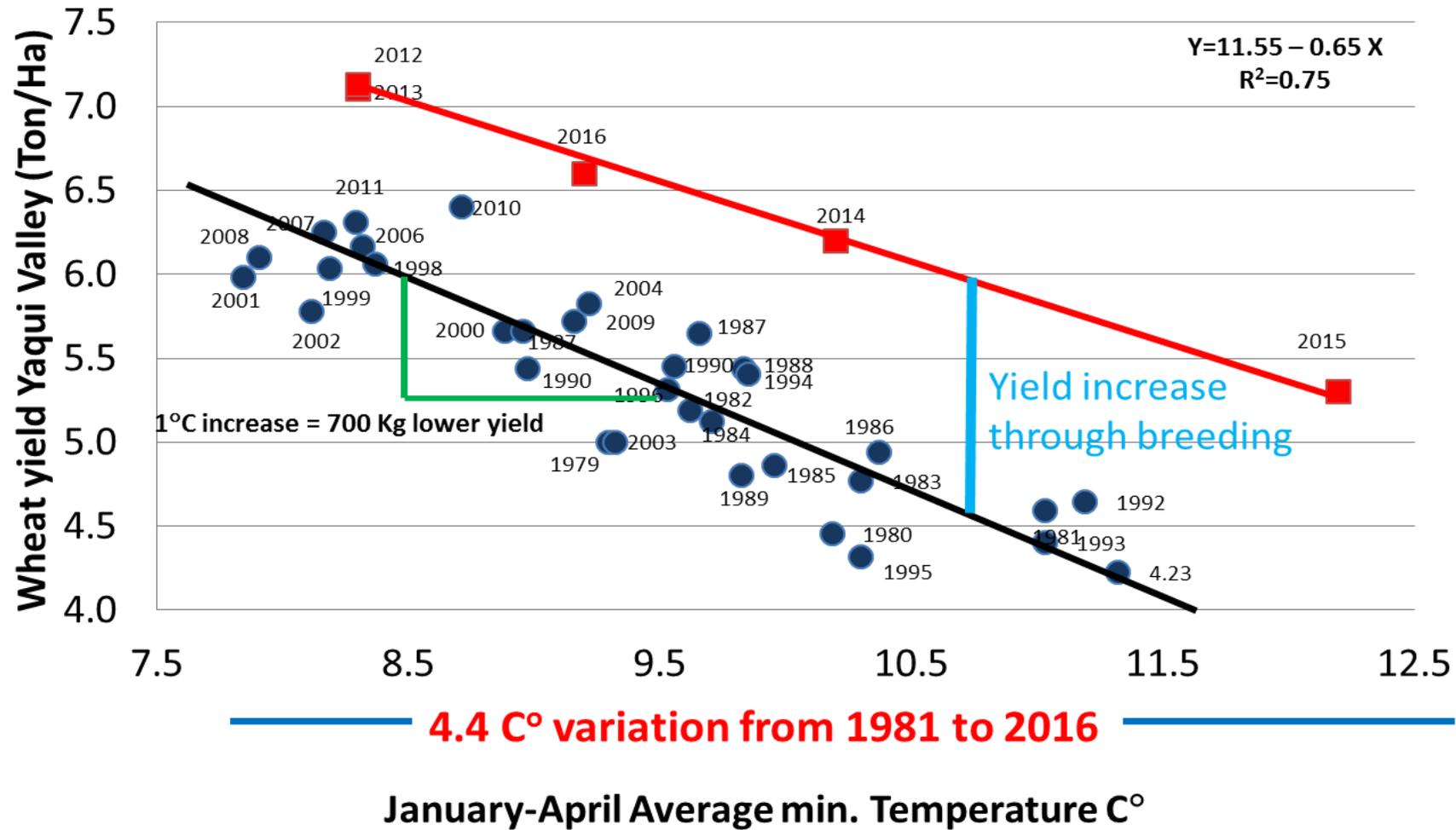
F. Pinto et al., unpublished



# Goal 4: Genetic Dissection



# Response of farm yield to minimum temperature, NW Mexico



Source: H.-J. Braun and I. Ortiz-Monasterio, CIMMYT

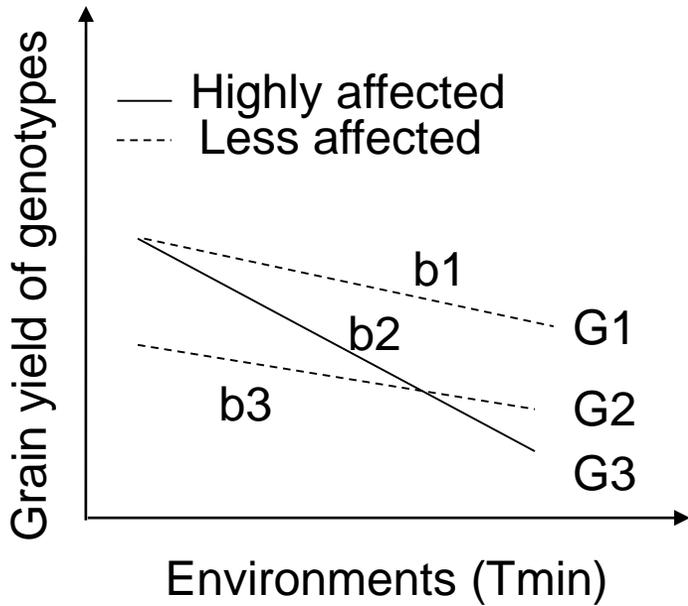
# Partial least square analysis of traits and weather parameters

Weather	Grain yield		Thousand-grain weight	
	Variance	x.loading	Variance	x.loading
RH-v	0.20	-0.25	0.01	0.05
RH-h	0.05	-0.12	0.18	0.17
RH-gf	0.13	-0.20	0.12	0.14
T <sub>max</sub> -v	0.02	0.07	0.02	-0.06
T <sub>max</sub> -h	0.17	-0.23	0.91	-0.39
T <sub>max</sub> -gf	0.33	-0.32	0.67	-0.33
T <sub>max35</sub>	0.07	-0.14	0.48	-0.28
T <sub>min</sub> -v	<b>0.59</b>	<b>-0.42</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>-0.33</b>
T <sub>min</sub> -h	<b>0.91</b>	<b>-0.53</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>-0.37</b>
T <sub>min</sub> -gf	<b>0.78</b>	<b>-0.49</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>-0.36</b>

V, vegetative stage; h, heading; gf, grain filling

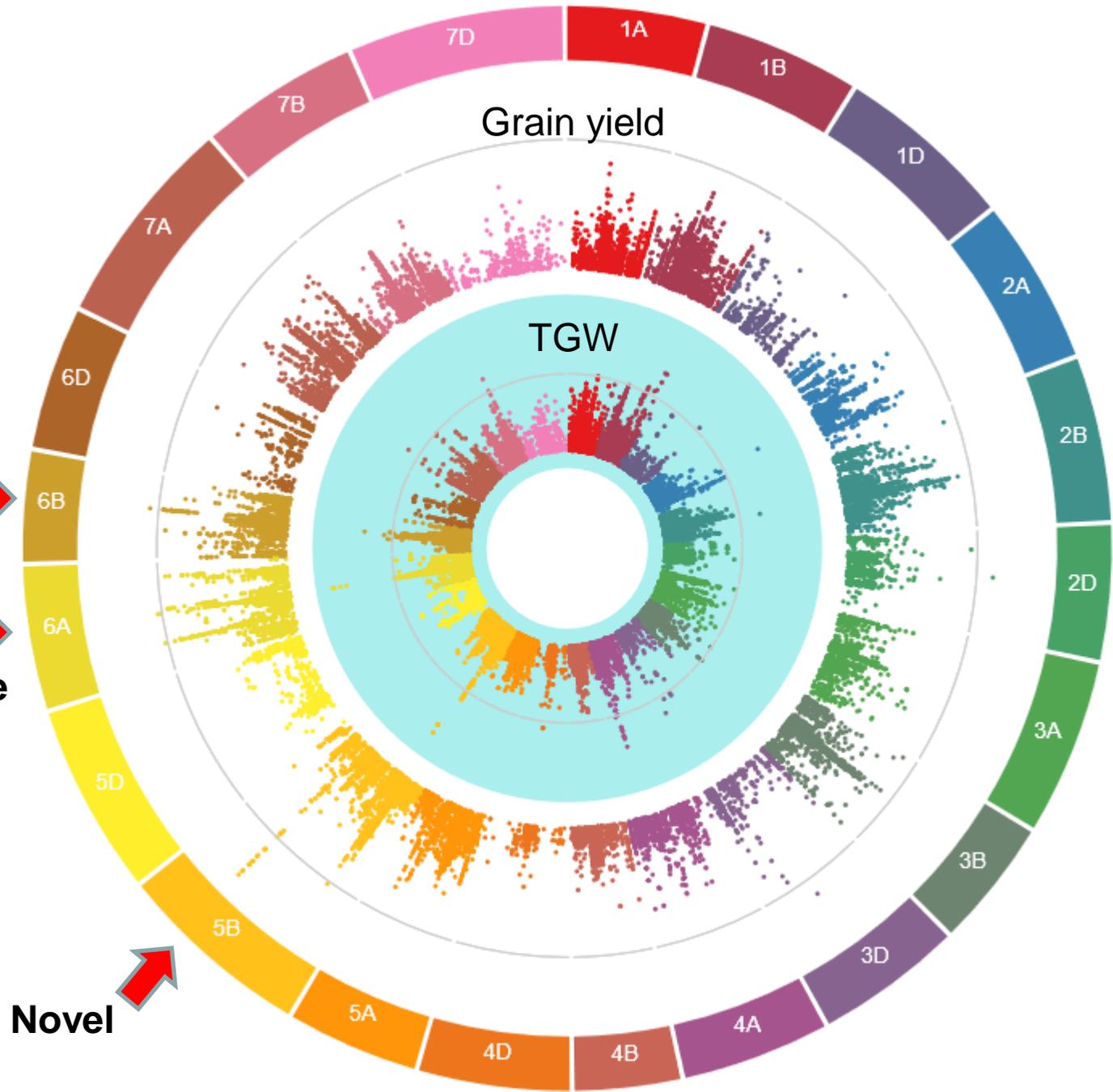


# Slope of reaction norms



Novel →

→ TaGW2 gene

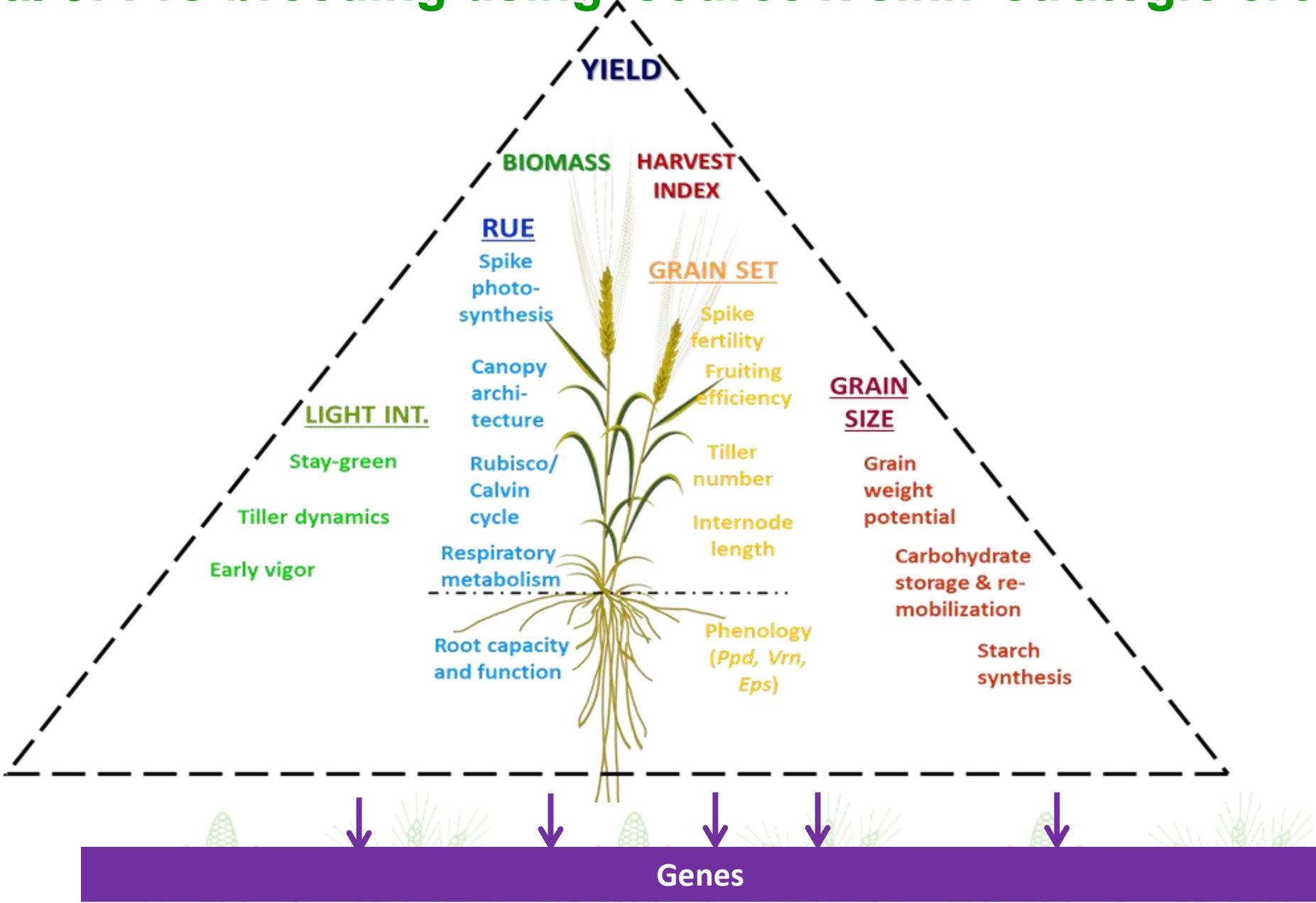


**TaGW2** gene is involved in trait variation, response to night time temperature, and phenotypic plasticity

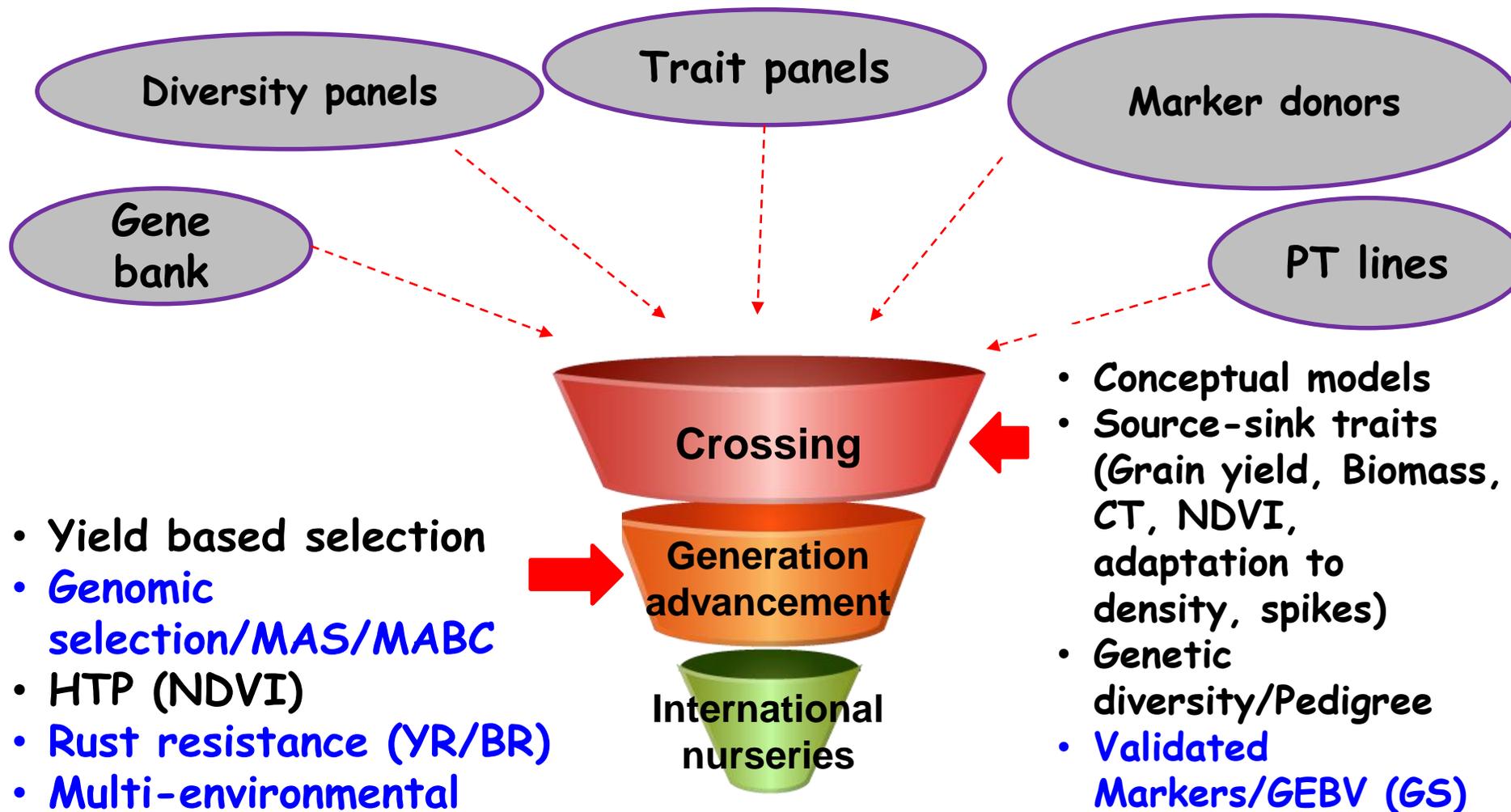
Sukumaran et al. (unpublished)



# Goal 5: Pre-breeding using 'source x sink' strategic crossing



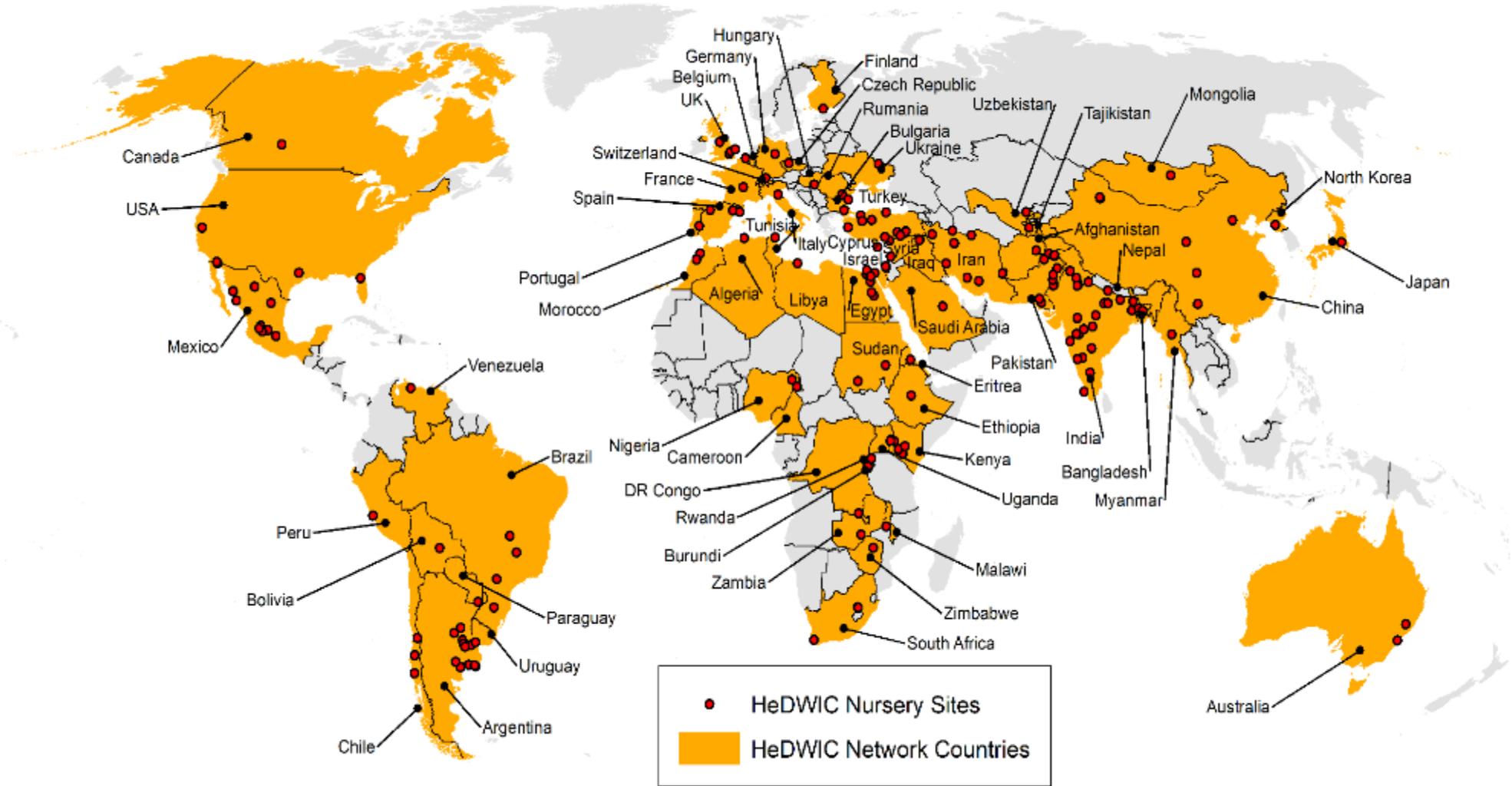
# Pre-breeding pipeline



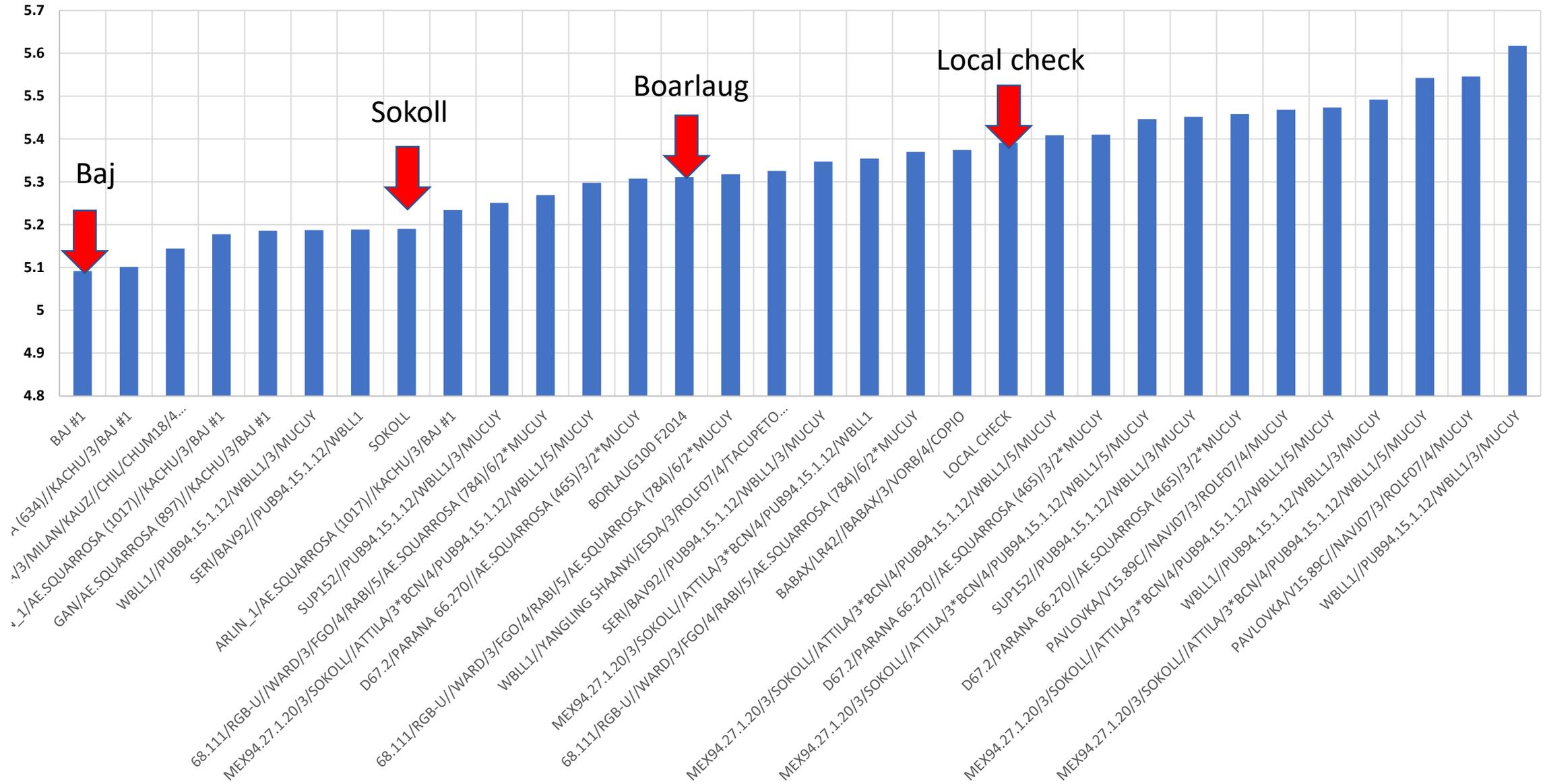
WYCYTs & SATYNs



# HeDWIC international collaboration including SATYN nursery sites



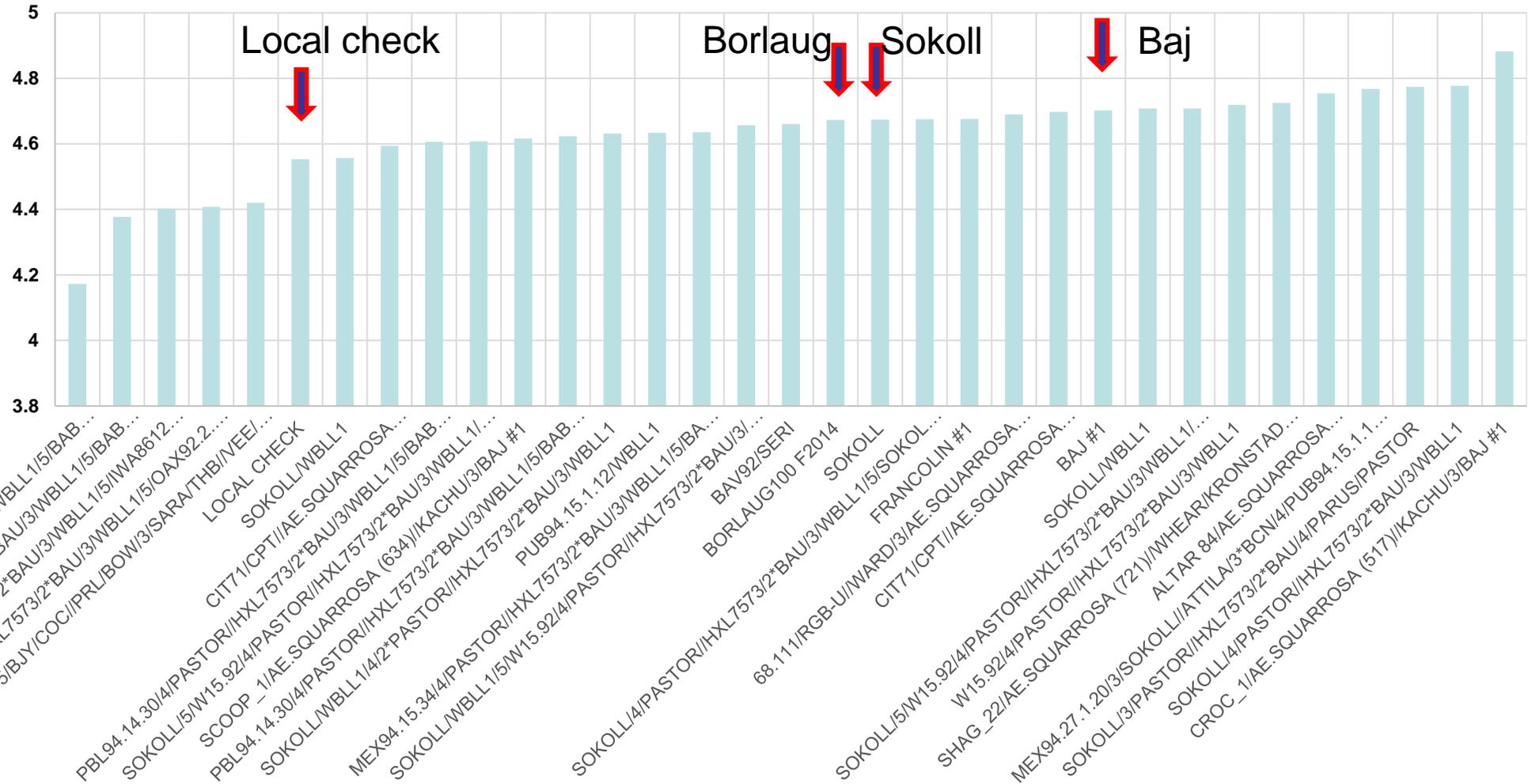
# Avg. yield of 6<sup>th</sup> WYCYT lines (BLUPs) across 32 environments



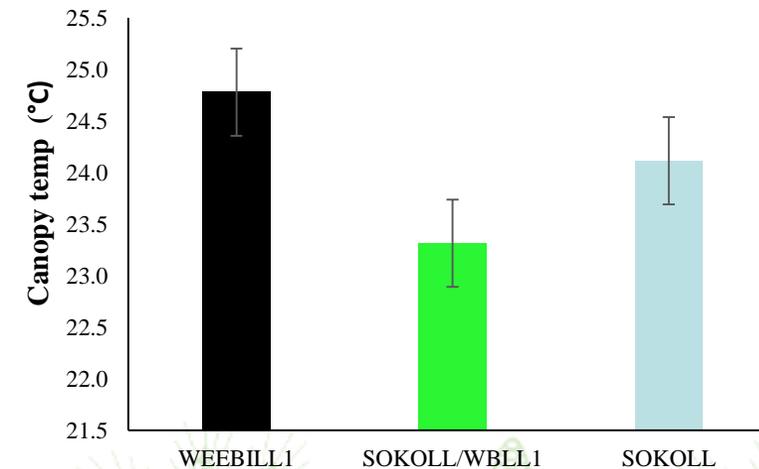
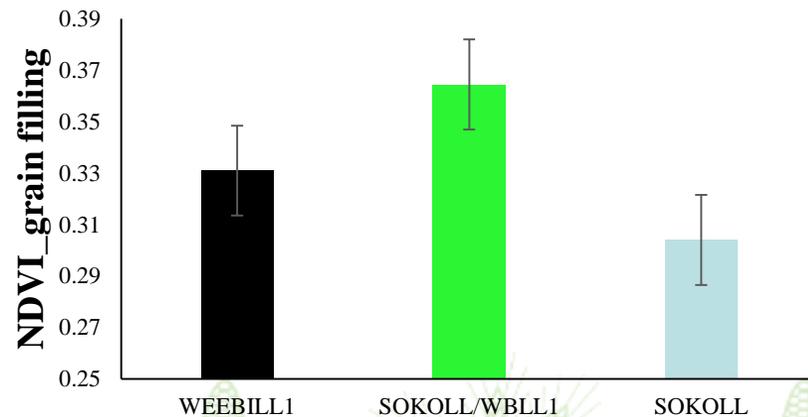
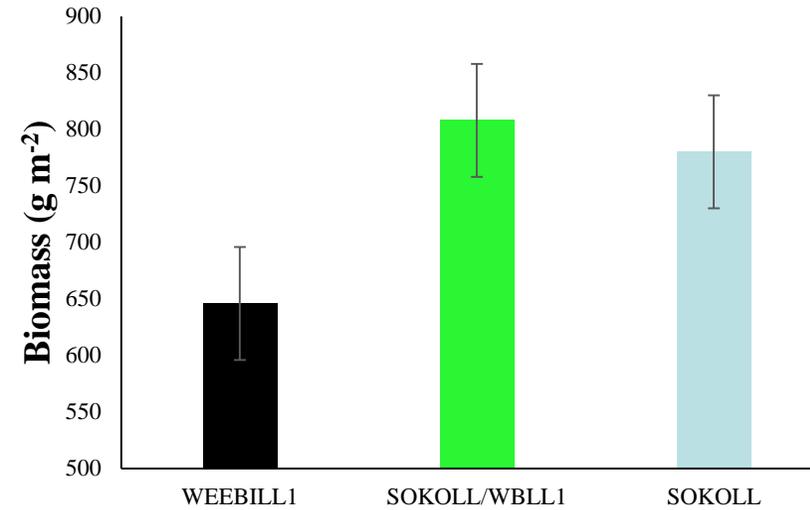
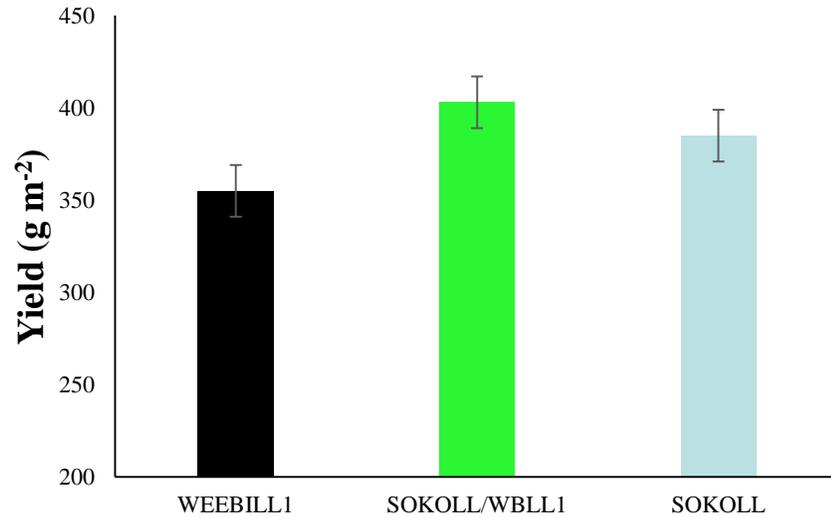
# 8th SATYN lines in 33 environments, 2018/19

Best 3 lines  
7% above  
local checks

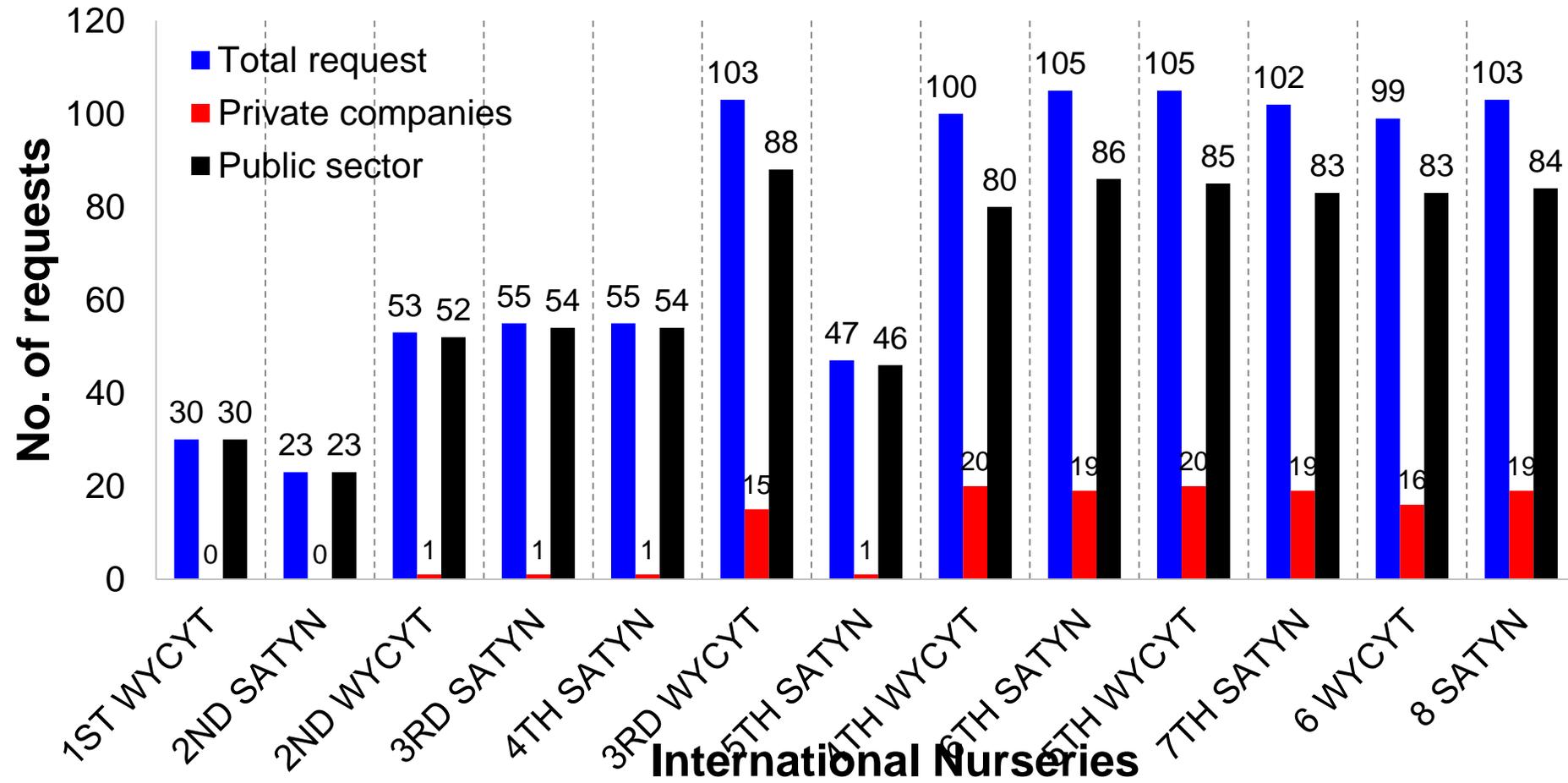
Best line  
4% above  
elite  
CIMMYT  
Check Baj



# TESTING: Sokoll/Weebil cross (Mexico data under drought stress)



# Requests for international nurseries

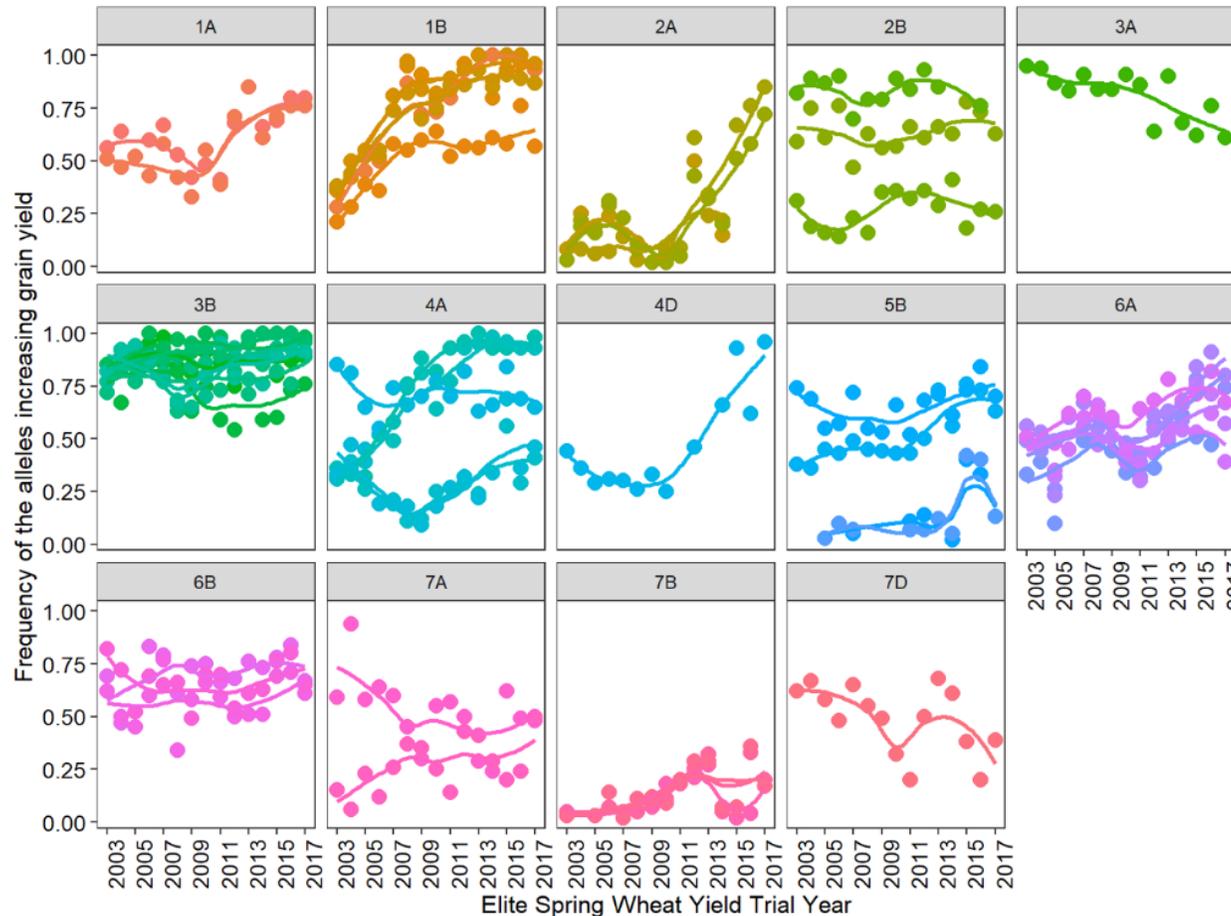


# Goal 6: Continuous improvement in breeding

- Predict breeding value & select parents using pedigree and genomic data
- Rapid generation advancement
- Genomic selection assisted rapid-cycle recurrent selection
- Practical haplotype graph and utilization for predicting breeding values.
- Integrate new traits sources through mainline breeding pipelines



# Molecular tracking of favorable allele frequencies over 15 years of breeding



□ CIMMYT's Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials (2003–2017) using 47 markers associated with yield

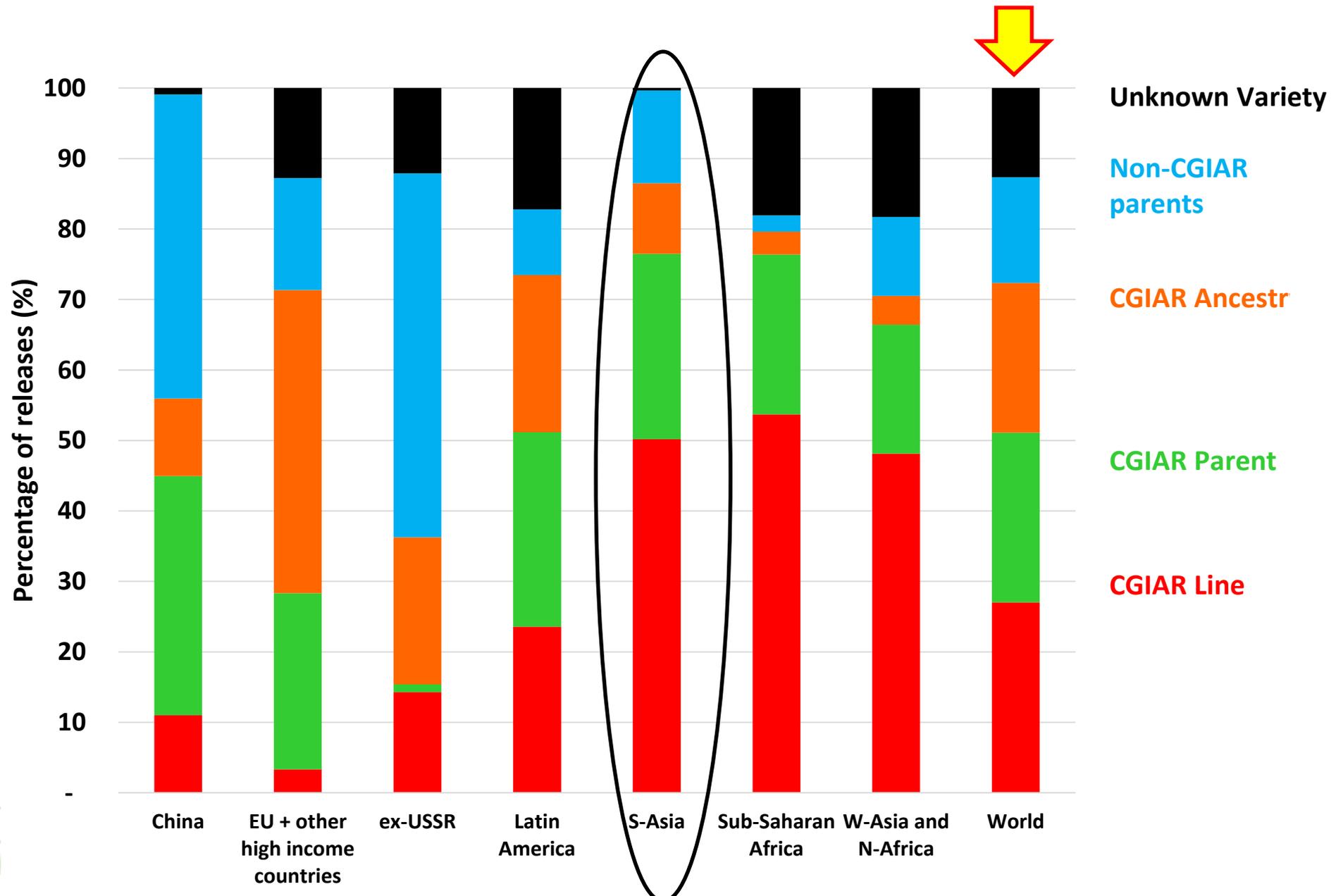
□ Several favorable alleles have reached near-fixation indicating the effectiveness of phenotypic selection in Mexico

□ Illustrates importance of integrating genomic data in achieving accelerated allele enrichment.

**Trends in the grain yield favorable allele frequencies in the globally distributed Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials**

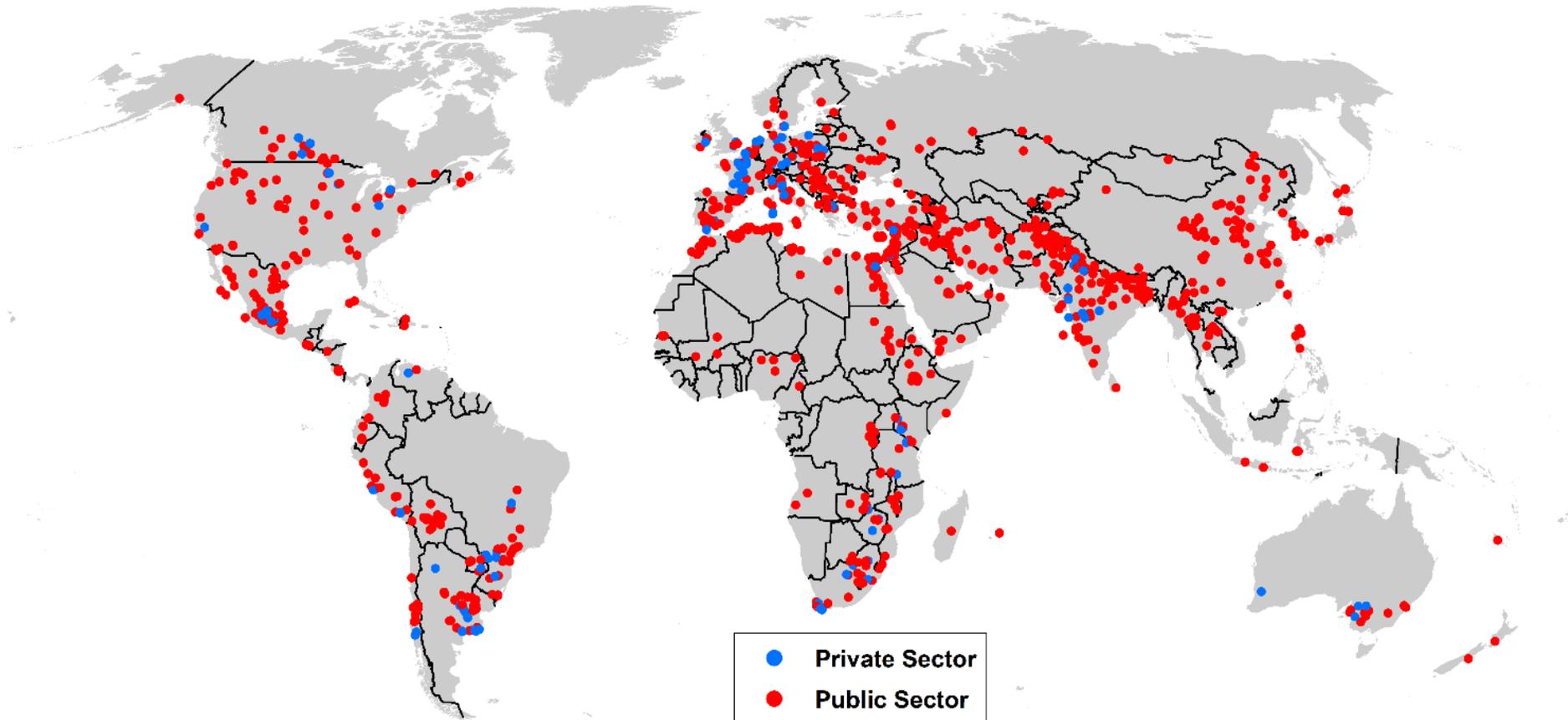


# Spring bread wheat releases by region and origin 1994-2014



# Goal 7: Dissemination of technology

## International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN)

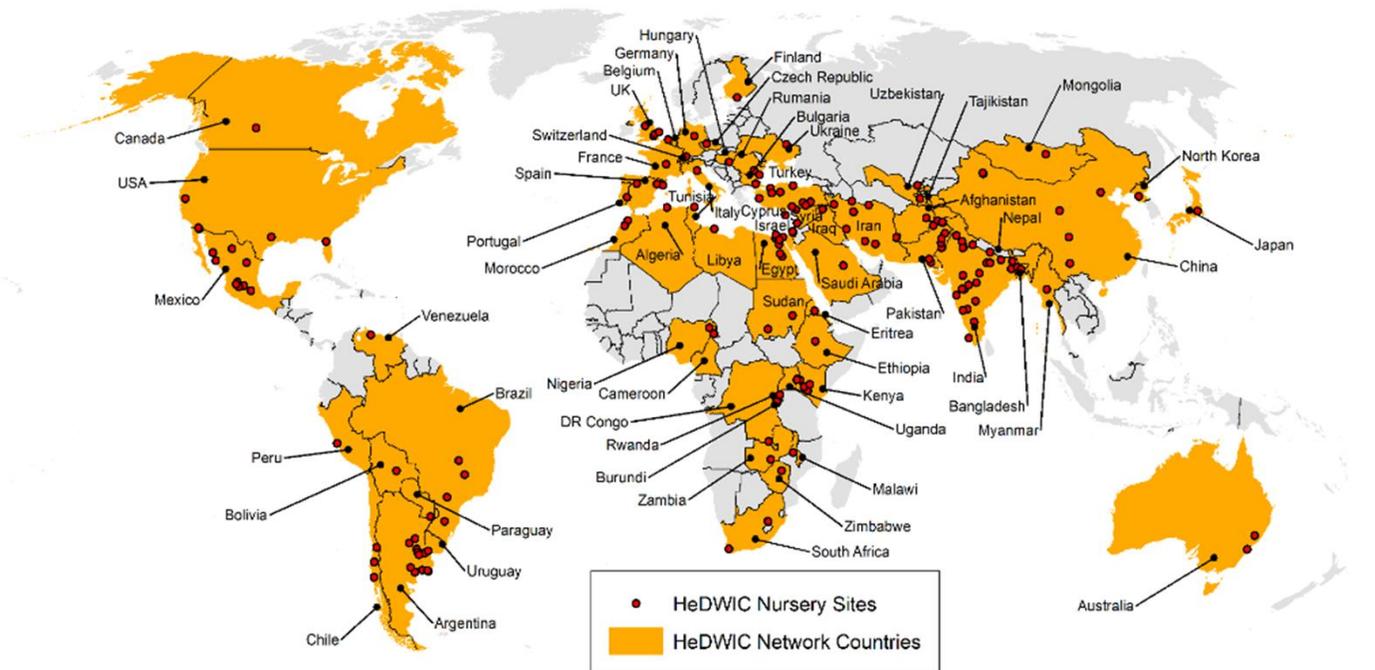


Public and private breeding programs and other partners that have received germplasm through the International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN)



# GOAL 8:

**Crowd-source novel plant science technologies to increase societal impact of investments in academic research on climate resilience of wheat and other crops.**

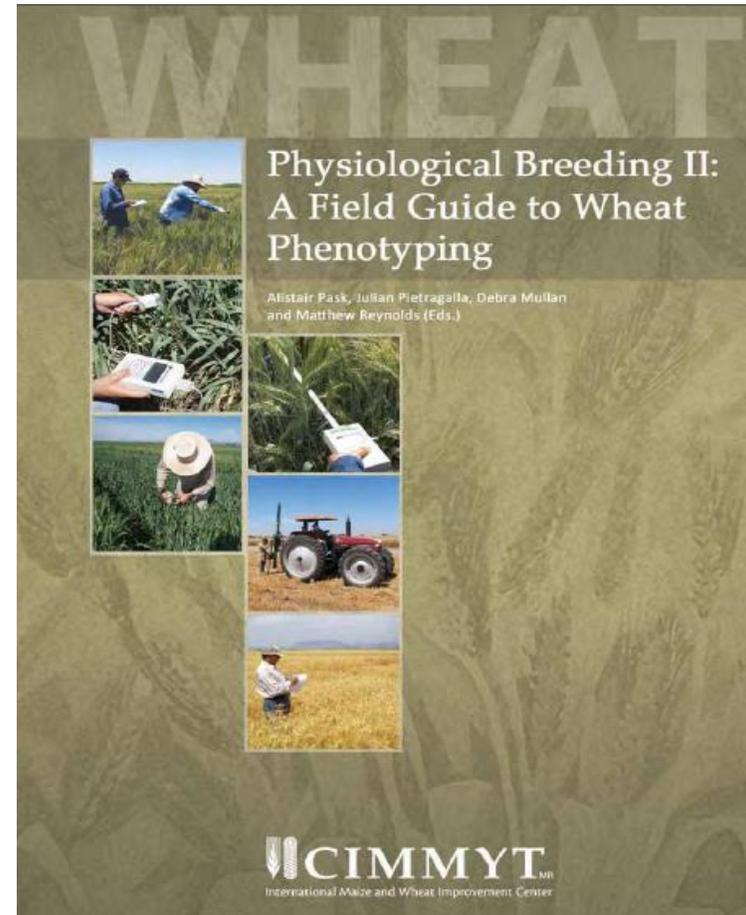
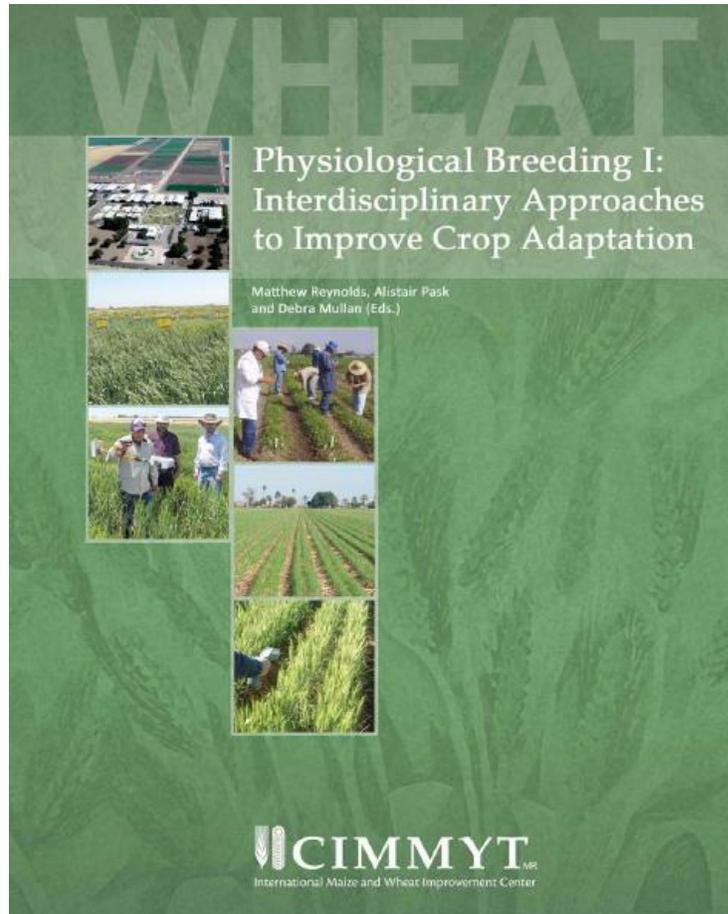


## **GOAL 9:**

**Improved research capacity and technology scale-out based on new knowledge, trained scientists, experimental germplasm, curated data and metadata sets, and networks involving expertise, infrastructure and synergistic collaboration.**



# Shared protocols:



<http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/96140.pdf>

[libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/96144.pdf](http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/96144.pdf)

- Reynolds MP and Langridge P, (2016). **Physiological Breeding**. Current Opinions in Plant Biology 31: 162–171.
- Reynolds et al. 2017. **Strategic crossing of biomass and harvest index—source and sink—achieves genetic gains in wheat**. Euphytica 213:257-80



# Take home points

- Climate is becoming warmer and less predictable
- Many opportunities exist to improve wheat's adaptation:
  - Advances in genomics and phenomics
  - Exploring untapped genetic resources
  - Physiological and molecular breeding
- Impacts will reach farmers and consumers sooner if efforts are coordinated through collaboration and technology sharing platforms such as HeDWIC and the Wheat Initiatives (AHEAD)



## CIMMYT

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