



Newsletter N° 2/2015

IWGSC Newsletter – May to August 2015

Published three times a year, the IWGSC newsletter keeps you abreast of the latest news and activities of the IWGSC.

The IWGSC

- The IWGSC by-laws have been adopted by the Board of Directors on 11 March 2015
- As of August 2015, the IWGSC had 1,125 members, working in 366 institutes/companies in 55 countries. Check out the [map](#).
- Currently, the IWGSC has 19 sponsors. Two new sponsors have joined (Keygene, University of Saskatchewan/Crop Development Center). To ensure continuation of activities, additional sponsors are needed. Please inform us if you know any potential sponsors (research institutes, universities, governmental agencies, or companies).

Projects

The [projects progress overview](#) is regularly updated.

- The IWGSC published its [sequencing standards](#) for BAC-based sequencing of chromosomes / chromosome arms
- Three chromosome reference sequencing projects have been funded: [4B](#) (France), [5D](#) (Turkey) and [2B](#) (Canada)
- Reference sequencing projects are now underway for 13.5 chromosomes that are expected to reach the standard of chromosome 3B within the next 1-2 years and efforts continue to identify funding for the remaining 6.5 chromosomes. More details on individual projects can be found on the [reference sequencing page](#)
- The [IWGSC wheat data repository at URGI](#) has been updated to provide access to additional physical maps. Data recently added or updated are physical maps for chromosomes: [1AL](#), [3AS](#), [5AL](#), [5AS](#), [7AL](#), [7AS](#), [1D](#), [4D](#), and [6D](#)
- The IWGSC public Blast at URGI has been updated with news functionalities: addition of a "download all" button, link from the matching contigs to the browsers (zoomed in the region) and link to EnsemblPlants chromosomes

People

Throughout the year, the IWGSC highlights the work of its members by profiling them on the website

- Latest Leader Spotlight: [Hikmet Budak](#), Professor in the Molecular Biology, Genetics and Bioengineering Program at Sabanci University, Turkey, where he leads the Plant Genetics and Genomics team.

Meetings/Workshops

- January 2016 – PAG 2016: [first announcement](#) The IWGSC will hold two workshops and a business meeting at the [Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXIV](#), 9-13 January 2016, San Diego, USA. If you are interested in giving a talk at the main workshop or wish to nominate someone for the early career award, please contact Kellye Eversole. The deadline for nominations and abstracts is 25 September.
- July 2015 – PAG Asia: the IWGSC held a [workshop](#), organized by Rudi Appels, at the Plant and Animal Genome in Singapore on 14 July.



- June 2015 – Expo 2015: Wheat Initiative conference at Expo 2015: [report by Jane Rogers](#)

Community news:

- 08/12: [6B physical map published](#)
- 07/27: [Wheat Initiative publishes its Strategic Research Agenda](#)
- 06/16: [5DS physical map published](#)
- 06/02: [Wheat Initiative Strategic Research Agenda identifies completing the wheat genome reference sequence as a top research priority](#)

Resource for members:

- Slides reflecting the status, as of August 2015, for both the physical maps and the reference sequencing projects. [Updated IWGSC chromosomes with flags](#)
- [Set of slides](#) for members to use in their presentations: general presentation of the IWGSC (membership, structure, vision, roadmap), major achievements, progress, sponsors. Updated August 2015

Presentations

- [Rogers presentation, Milan, 4 June 2015](#) Jane Rogers, IWGSC deputy director, presented a progress report for the IWGSC at the Wheat initiative Research Committee on 4 June 2015 in Milan, Italy.
- [Berthe presentation, ISF, Kraków, Poland, 27 May 2015](#) Grégoire Berthe, IWGSC Coordinating Committee member, presented the IWGSC, the Wheat Initiative and the Breedwheat project at the International Seed Federation World Seed Congress in Kraków, Poland on 25 May 2015.

Publications

- Press releases
 - 06/30: [Sequencing of Wheat Chromosome 5D Underway in Turkey](#)
 - 06/16: [New momentum for wheat genome project – Sequencing of wheat chromosome 4B to begin](#)
- Articles in magazines:
 - European Seed Magazine: [Wheat genome sequencing catching up](#)
 - International Innovation [Wheat for tomorrow's world](#)
- Infographics:
 - [Facts about wheat](#)
 - [Wheat in the EU 28](#)

And don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all at PAG 2016