

**Wheat Initiative**



**An International Research Initiative for  
Wheat Improvement**

**[www.wheatinitiative.org](http://www.wheatinitiative.org)**

*Hélène Lucas*

*International initiatives in the field of Food Security and Climate Change Workshop,  
ESOF 2012, Dublin*

# The Wheat Initiative

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- A mechanism to **identify synergies and nurture collaborations** via facilitated open communications between research and technology development programmes for **wheat improvement**.
- **Endorsed by the Agricultural Ministries from the G20** member states to improve food security and resolve the urgent challenge of sustainably providing enough safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing population, and **supported by research / funding organisations and research groups from many countries**

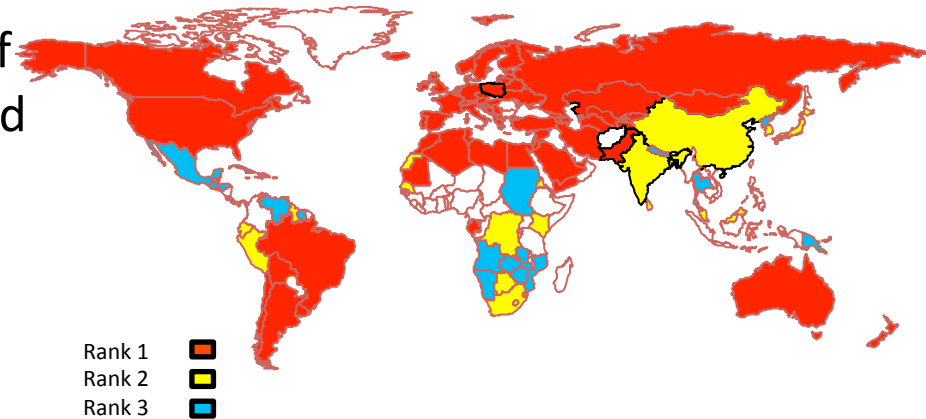
# Why wheat?

- The world's most important food crop
- Provides 20% of all calories and 20% of all protein in developing and developed countries

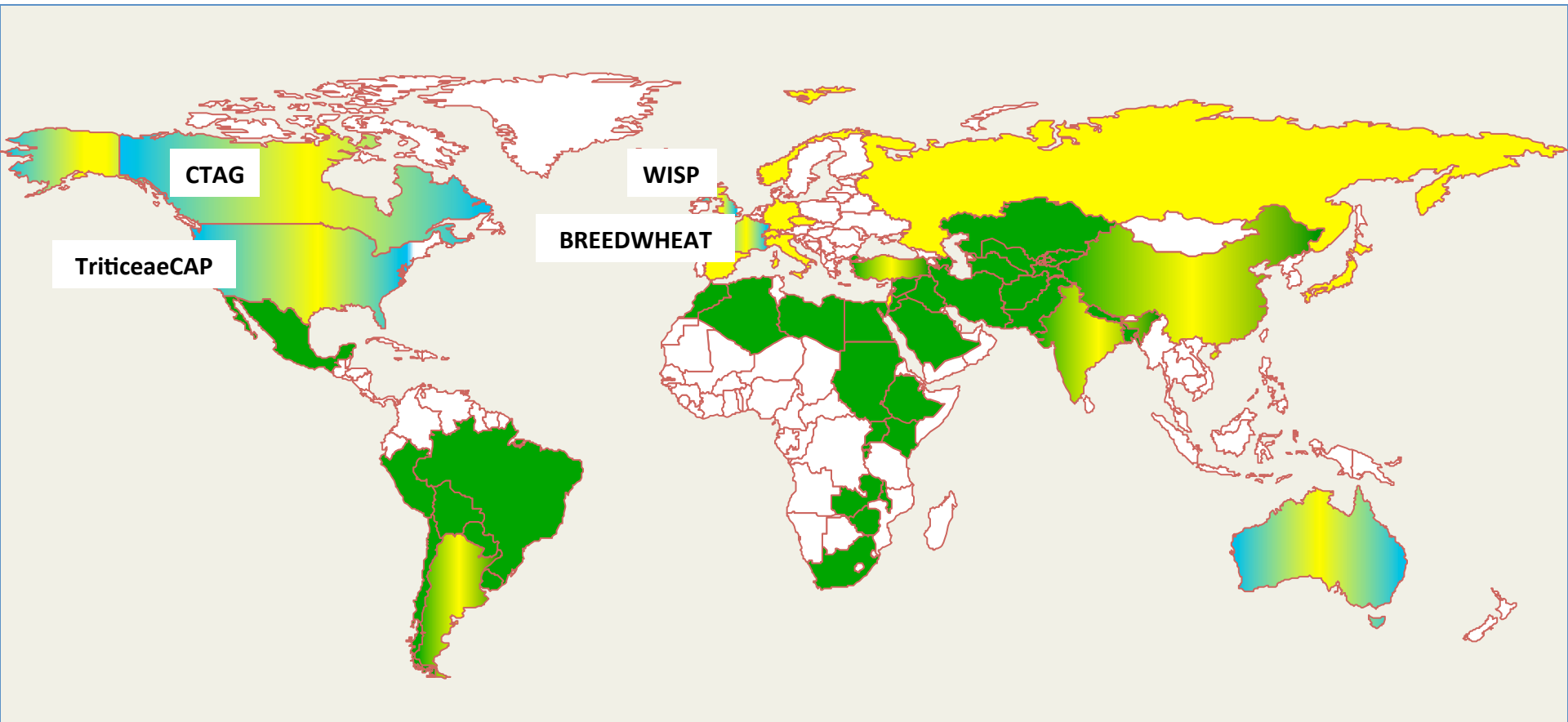
but

- Wheat production has not met demand in the last 10 yrs
- Demand will increase by 70% by 2050, while yields are stagnating
- Investment in wheat R&D is disproportionately low given the importance of the crop

Importance of Wheat as calorie source (2006-08)



# The Wheat Initiative: linking wheat research across the globe



 Large national wheat programmes

 IWGSC  


 WHEAT focus  
 

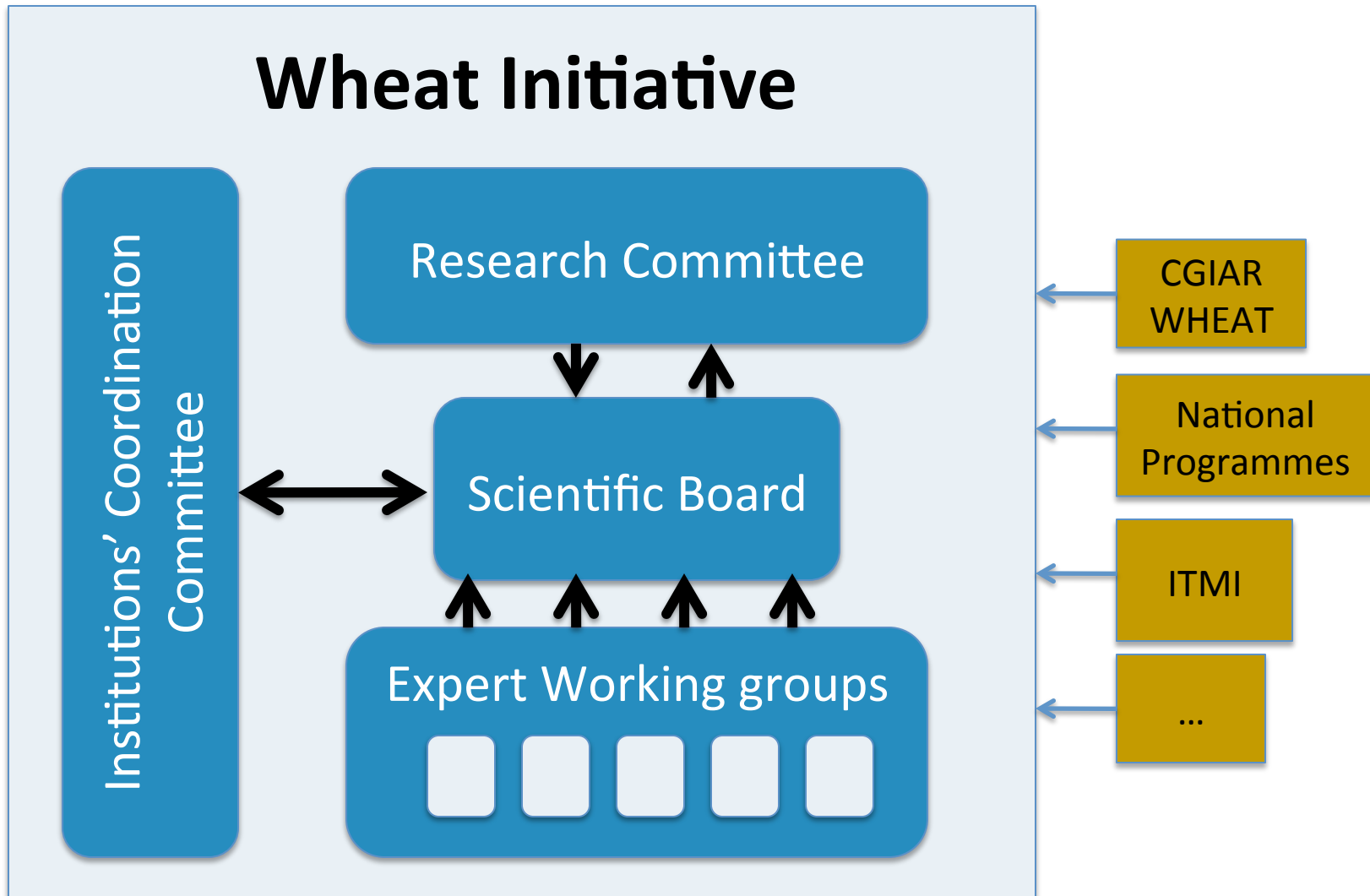
# Objective: coordinate world-wide wheat improvement research efforts.

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- **Identify synergies and encourage collaborations**
  - To add value to existing wheat research capabilities and activities through building and strengthening collaborations, coordination of research and support for accessing research outcomes.
- **Facilitate open communication**
  - Enable exchange of germplasm, data, materials and ideas within the wheat research community
- **Support the development of publically available integrated databases and platforms**
  - Develop minimum data standards and protocols for consistent and comparable analyses
- **Identify and update priorities for wheat research**
  - Monitor progress of scientific activities
  - Communicate to funding agencies the needs of wheat research



# Governance framework



# In summary...

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## **The Wheat Initiative is:**

- A science-led initiative
- A way to bridge national and international programmes addressing grand challenges
- A mechanism for the wheat community to define and update research priorities
- A information platform for institutions to establish investment priorities
- Self-funded through members

## **The Wheat Initiative is not:**

- A competing program with national or international existing initiatives
- A funding entity

# Members (July 2012)

- Public research

Country	Representing institution	Research Committee	Institutions' Coordination Committee
Argentina	CONICET	Marcelo Helguera	Dr Roberto Salvarezza, President
Australia	GR&DC	Peter Langridge	M. John Harvey, Managing Director
Canada	AAFC	Curtis Pozniak	M. Stephen Morgan Jones, Director General, Science partnership
China	CAAS	Zhang Xueyong	
France	INRA	Catherine Feuillet	François Houllier, Deputy Director General
Germany	BMELV	Frank Ordon	Mrs Bettina Pello, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Italy	MiPAAF	Luigi Cativelli	Dr. Franca Melillo, Secretariat del Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali
Japan	JIRCAS	Masaru Iwanaga	Masaru Iwanaga, President
Spain	INIA	Concepcio Royo Calpe	
Turkey	GDAR	Emin Dönmez	Ali Osman Sari, Head of Field Crops Research Department
UK	BBSRC	Graham Moore	Steve Visscher, Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer
USA	USDA	Stephen Baenziger	David Marshall, Acting National Program Leader - Grain Crops
	CIMMYT	Hans Braun	Tom Lumpkin, Director General

- Private research

Country	Name	Research Committee
France	Florimond Desprez Veuve & Fils	Olivier Robert
Switzerland	Syngenta	David Nevill



# Contact

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[wheat.initiative@versailles.inra.fr](mailto:wheat.initiative@versailles.inra.fr)