



## Wheat for Food Security: Meeting the World's Demand

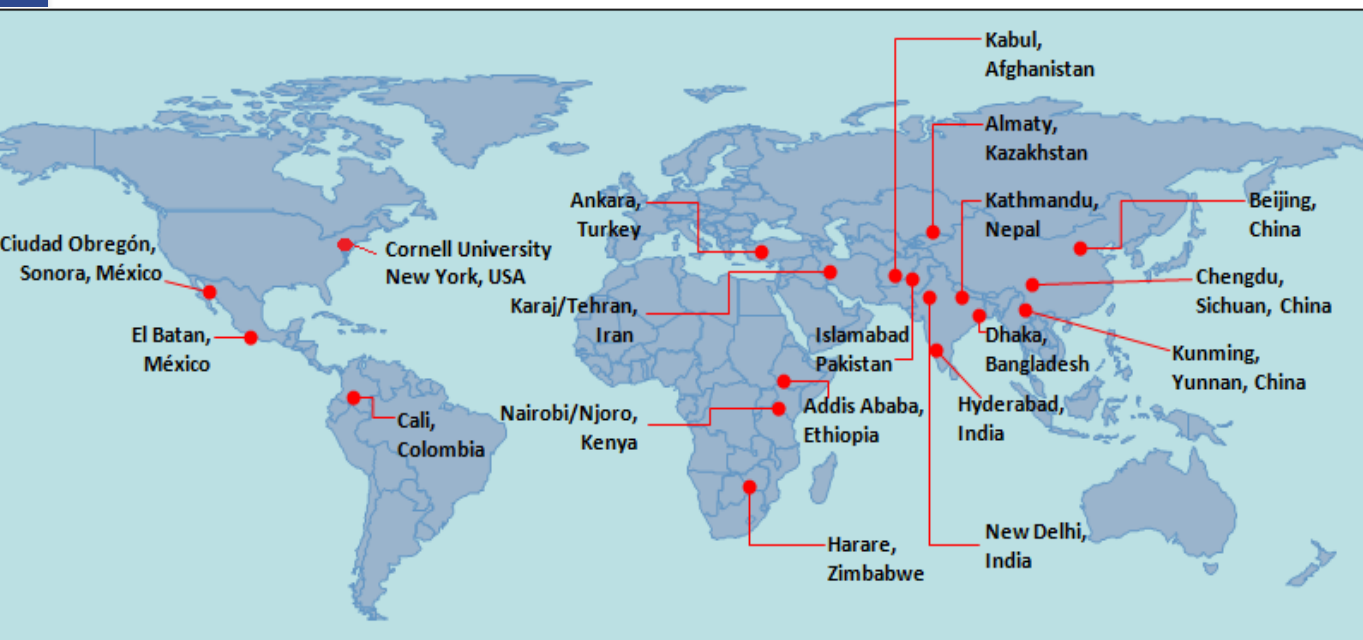
Hans-Joachim Braun

[H.J.Braun@cgiar.org](mailto:H.J.Braun@cgiar.org)



# CIMMYT

- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
- Initiator of the Green Revolution Main supplier of maize and wheat germplasm to a global network of co-operators
- One of 15 International Agricultural Research Centers with Headquarters in Mexico
- Employs around 220 Scientists and 900 support staff
- Annual budget 150 million US\$ (2016)



19 offices in 17 countries

Works with public and Private sector, ARI, NGOs and Farmer Associations



# Our Mission...

Sustainably increase the productivity of maize and wheat systems to ensure global food security and reduce poverty





# CIMMYT and University Goettingen

Prof. Matin Quaim, CIMMYT Board Member

Prof. Andreas von Tiedemann, Wheat Blast Research

Prof. Ismail Cakmak, CIMMYT Board Member, Zinc Research







*“In the next 50 years  
we will need to  
produce as much  
food as has been  
consumed over our  
entire human  
history.”*

Megan Clark  
CEO of the Commonwealth Scientific and  
Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)  
Australia



# **9 billion – the Greatest Challenge** **double food production by 2050**

**Nutritious, accessible, affordable and safe food**

**Diet changes with increasing income**

**9 billion people consume as much food as 12 billion would today (meat => maize / soy beans)**

**80% of future growth from lands already in use**

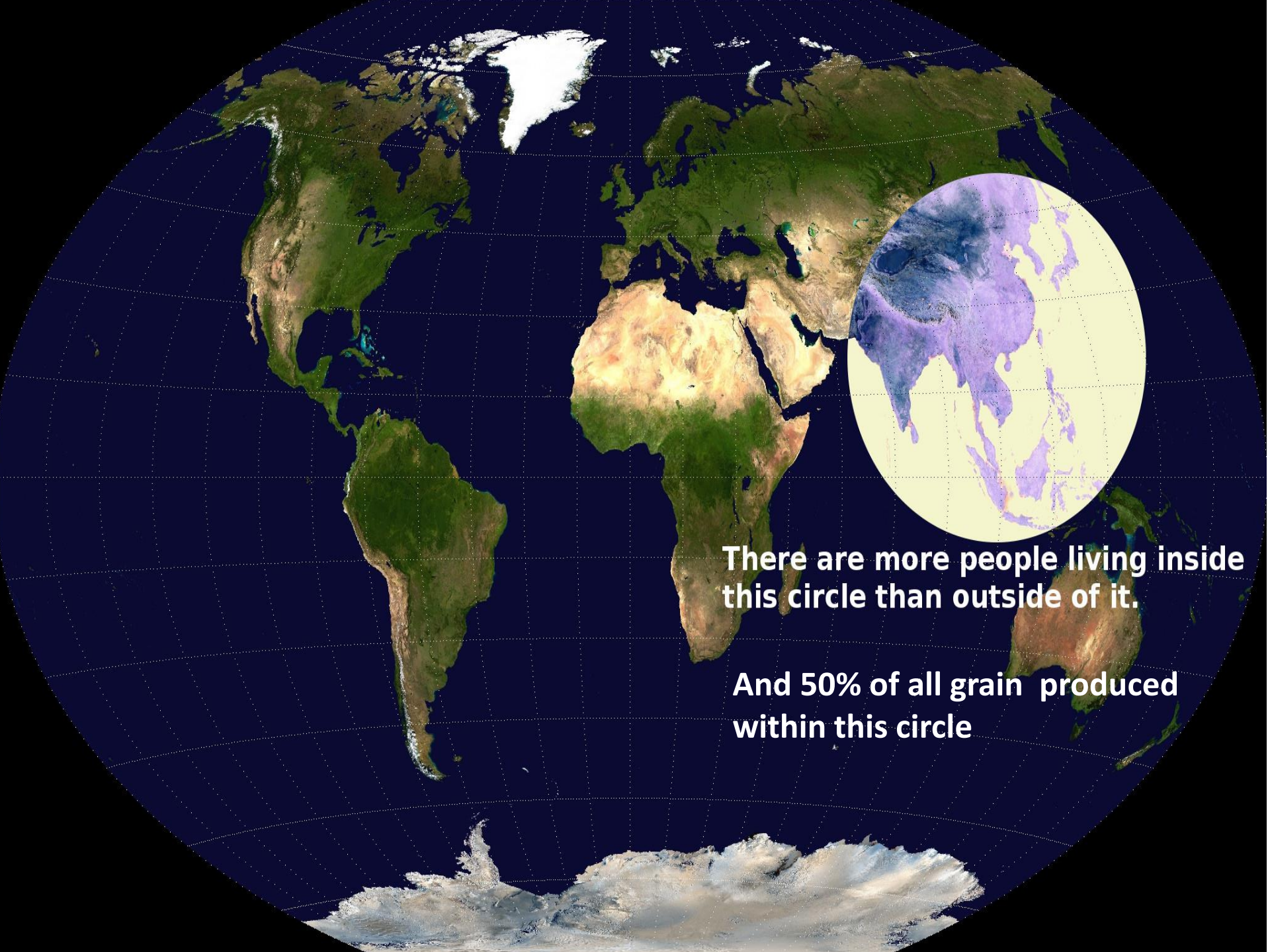
**Limited potential for land expansions**

**Most of production growth in countries where it is consumed**

**Irrigation expansion crucial to meeting food demand**





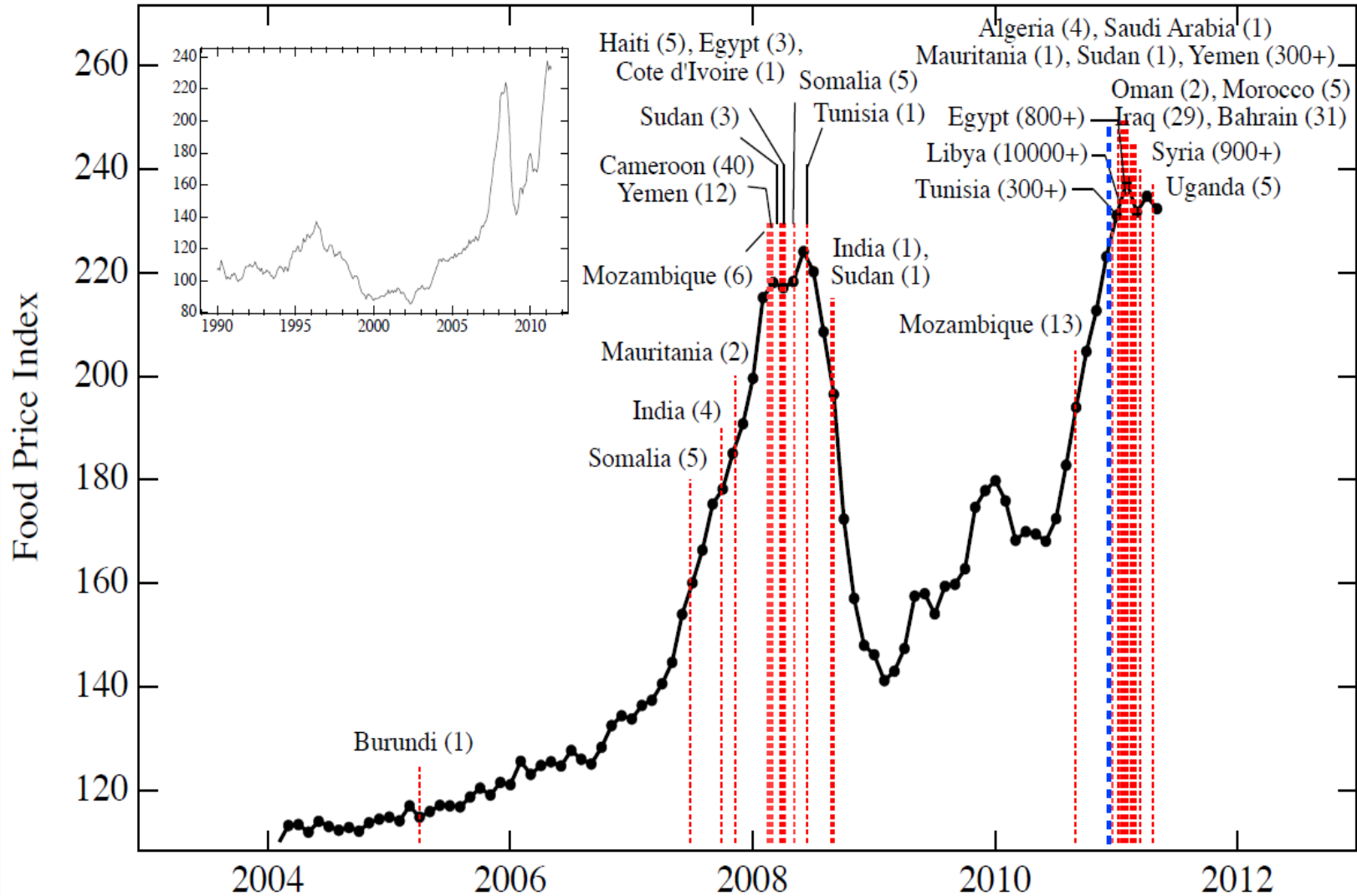


**There are more people living inside  
this circle than outside of it.**

**And 50% of all grain produced  
within this circle**



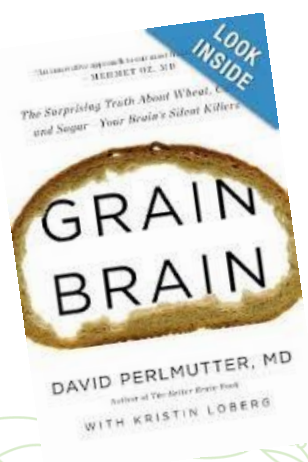
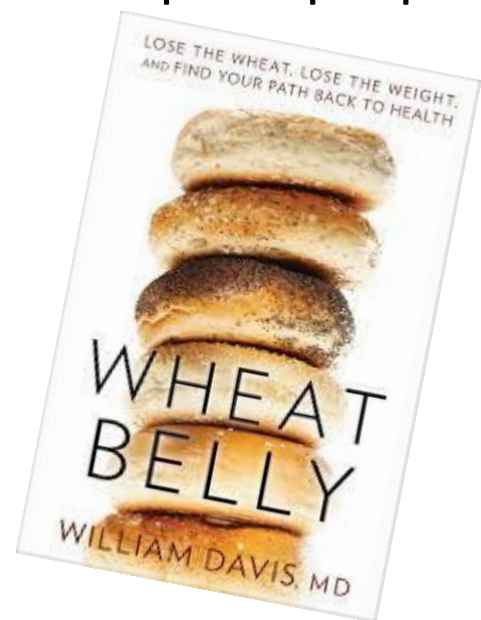
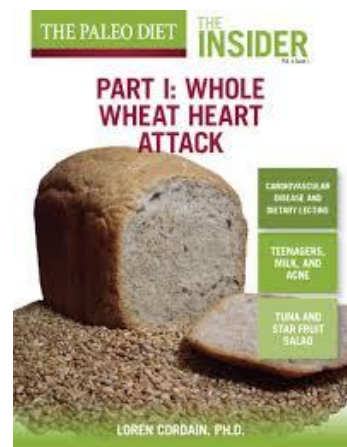
# Food Prices Raise – Governments Fall



Red dashed vertical lines correspond to beginning dates of “food riots” and protests associated with overall death toll reported in parentheses [26–55].  
[http://necsi.edu/research/social/food\\_crises.pdf](http://necsi.edu/research/social/food_crises.pdf)



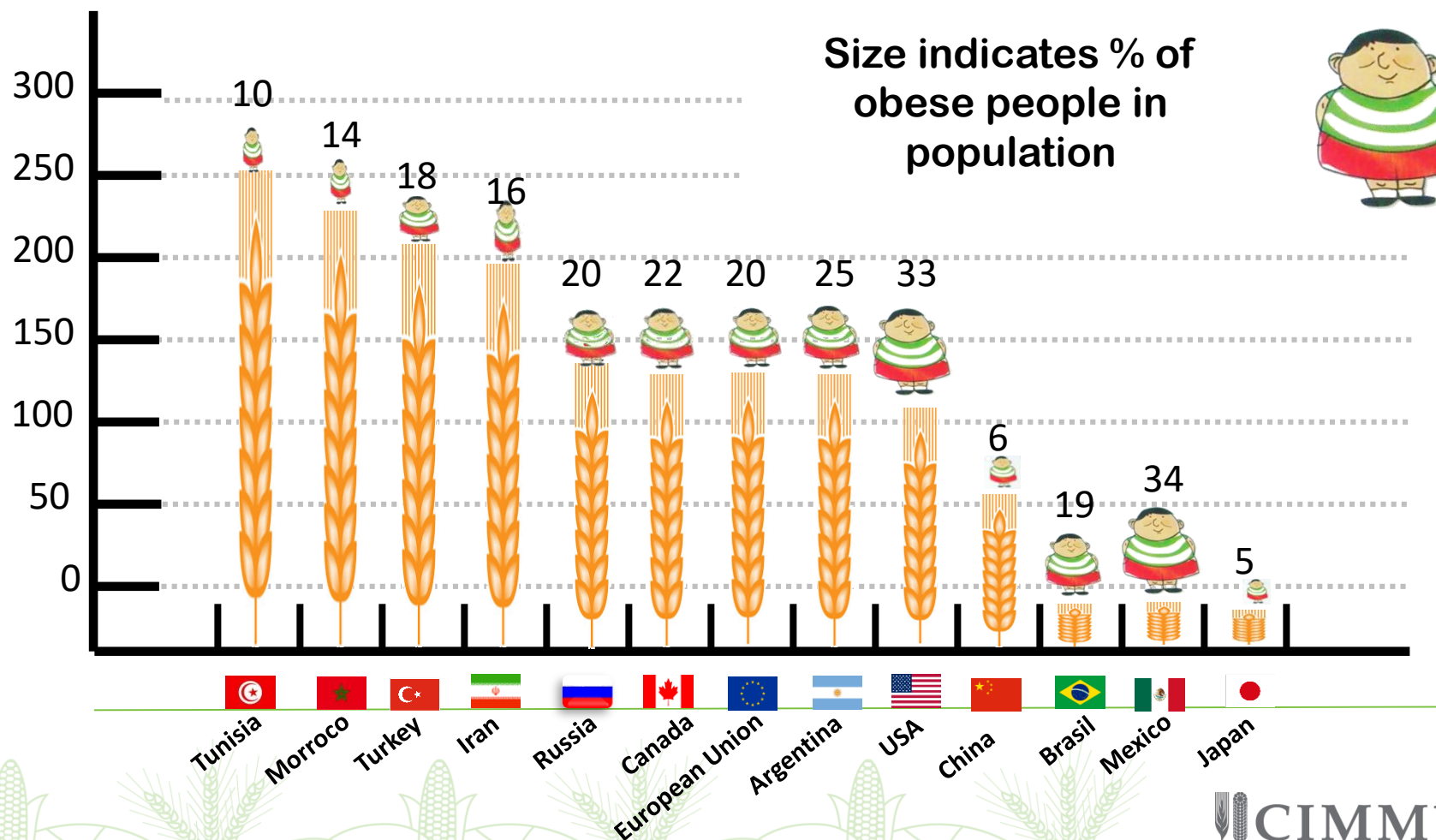
# Wheat – from the staple for global nutrition to the principal problem???





# + Wheat and Obesity

Wheat  
consumption  
kg / Capita



Estamations based in OMS, USDA and OCDE and Canimot



# Wheat a cornerstone for global food nutrition



- Globally, most important food crop and covers largest area of all crops
- Provides 20% of all calories and protein
- Staple for 1.2 billion people with less than 2 \$ / day
- Major source of fibre and Vitamin B, **Folsäure** - pregnancy
- Average Anti-oxydant activity greater than that of many fruits and vegetables

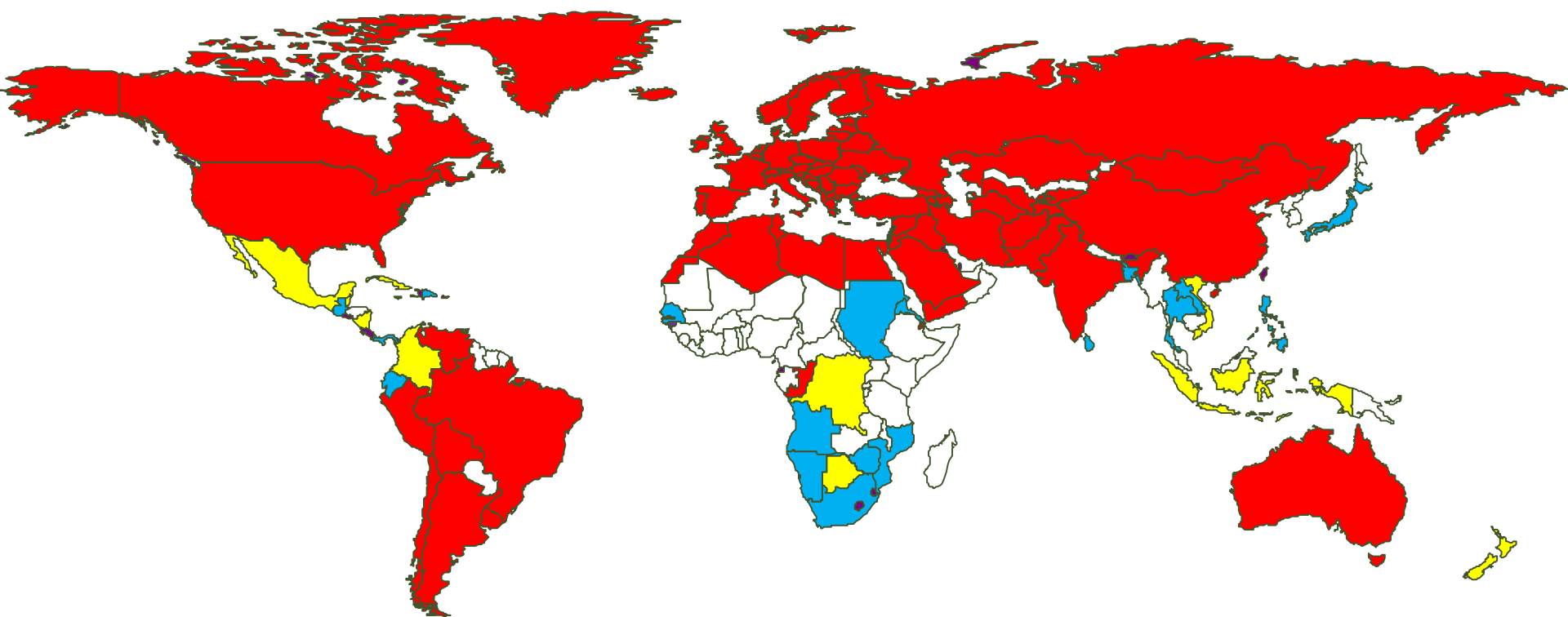
**Wheat is a natural  
vehicle for  
providing nutrients  
to a growing  
population**





# Importance of Wheat as Protein Source from Plants

1st 2nd 3rd



Source: FAO 2012





## Countries where wheat provides more than 1/3 of daily calories

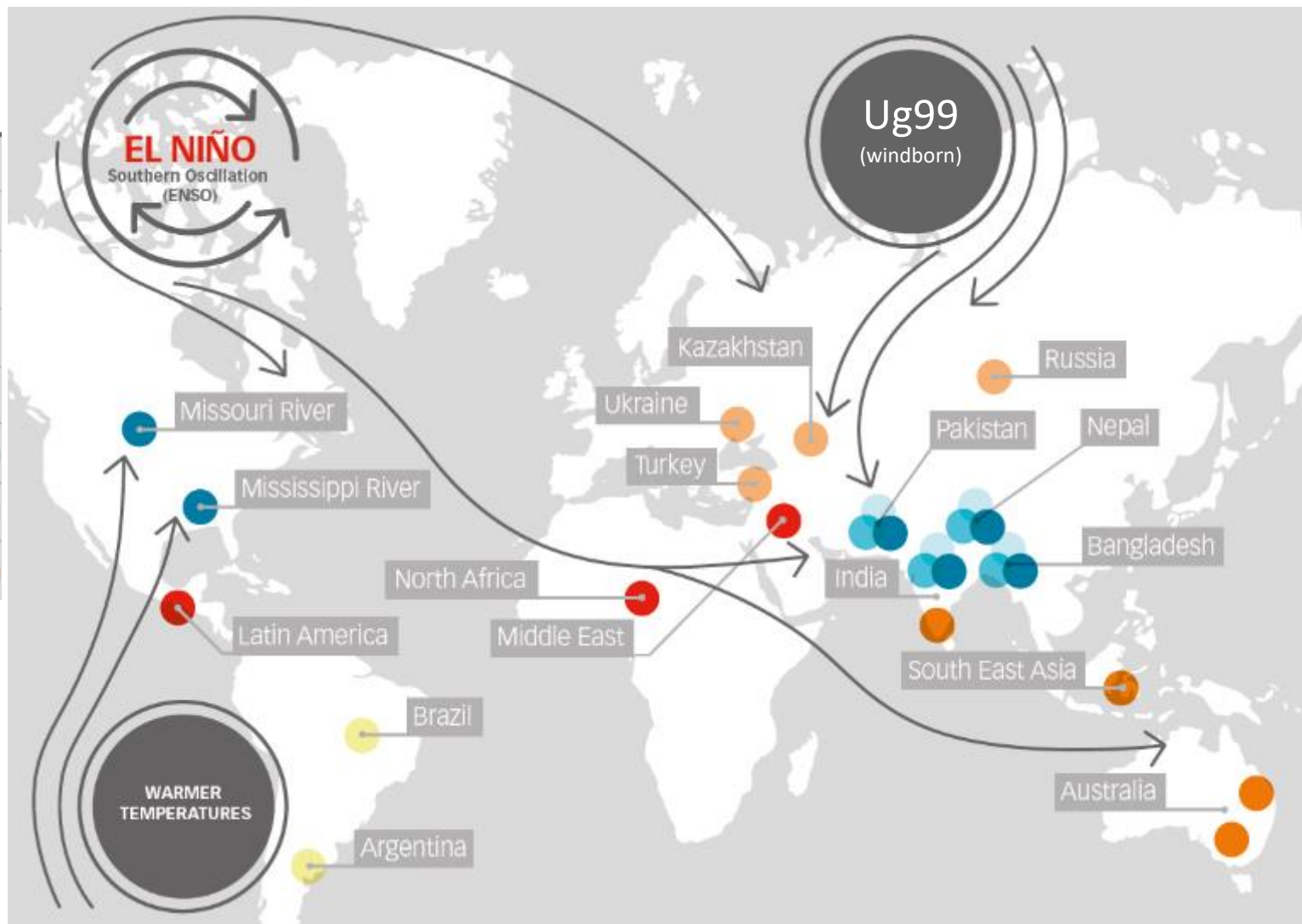


Source: FAO, 2010



# The scenario

Key	
Flooding	Dark Blue Circle
Food Riots	Red Circle
Crop Epidemic	Yellow Circle
Farms Suffer	Orange Circle
Torrential Rainfall	Light Blue Circle
Landslides	Light Blue Circle
Severe Drought	Orange Circle





# Impacts

## Global production losses

Wheat

7%

Maize

10%

Soybean

11%

Rice

7%

Price  
increases

x4

x5

## Human cost



Humanitarian crisis



Food riots



Stock market losses

10% in EU

5% in US



An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural field, likely a wheat breeding station. The field is divided into numerous rectangular plots, each containing rows of young green wheat plants. A dirt road or path runs through the middle of the field, with a few small vehicles visible. The background shows a flat landscape under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The text "Wheat Improvement at CIMMYT" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Wheat Improvement at CIMMYT



# International Wheat Improvement Network

*Data collected worldwide, used in centralized program*

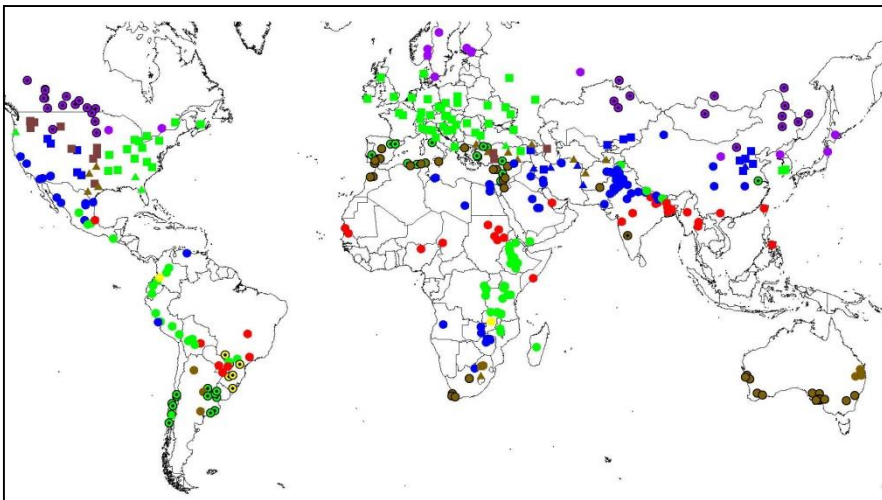
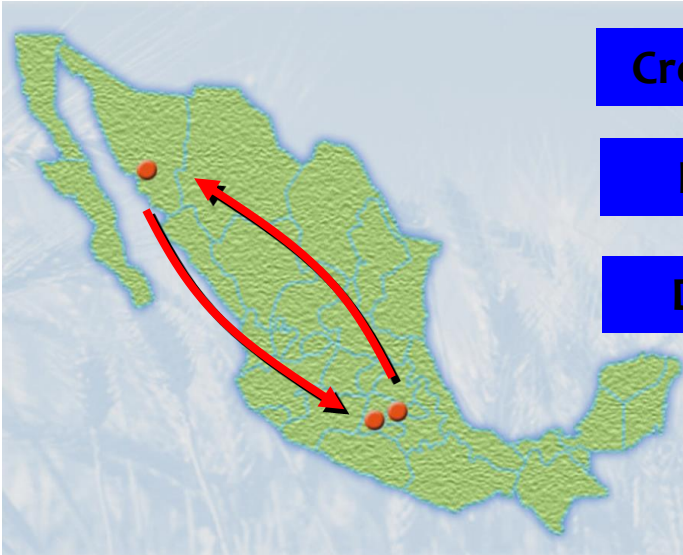
Crossing

Evaluation in Mexico and hot spot sites worldwide

Distribution of improved germplasm through IWIN

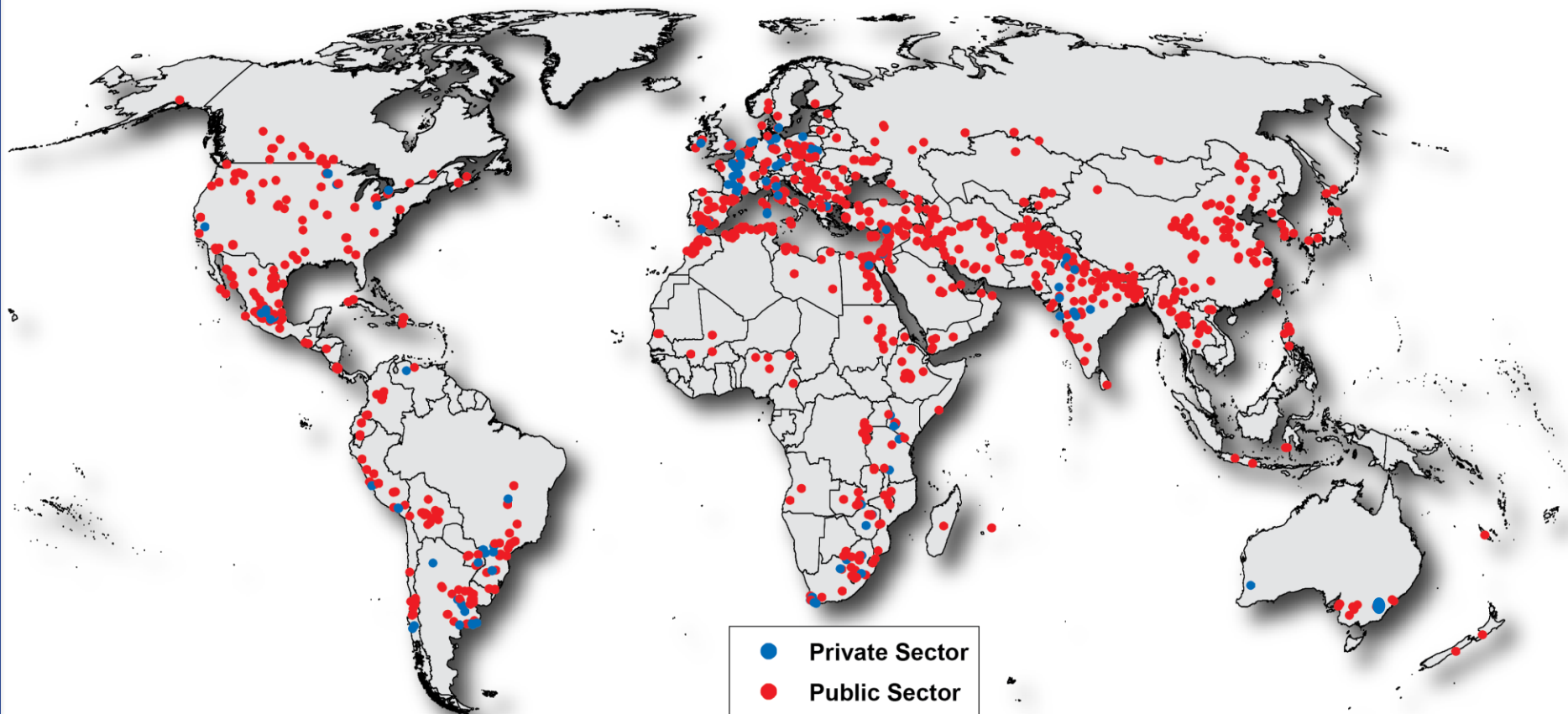
Collection and interpretation of multi-location data

Ca 50% of varieties released worldwide are IWIN related



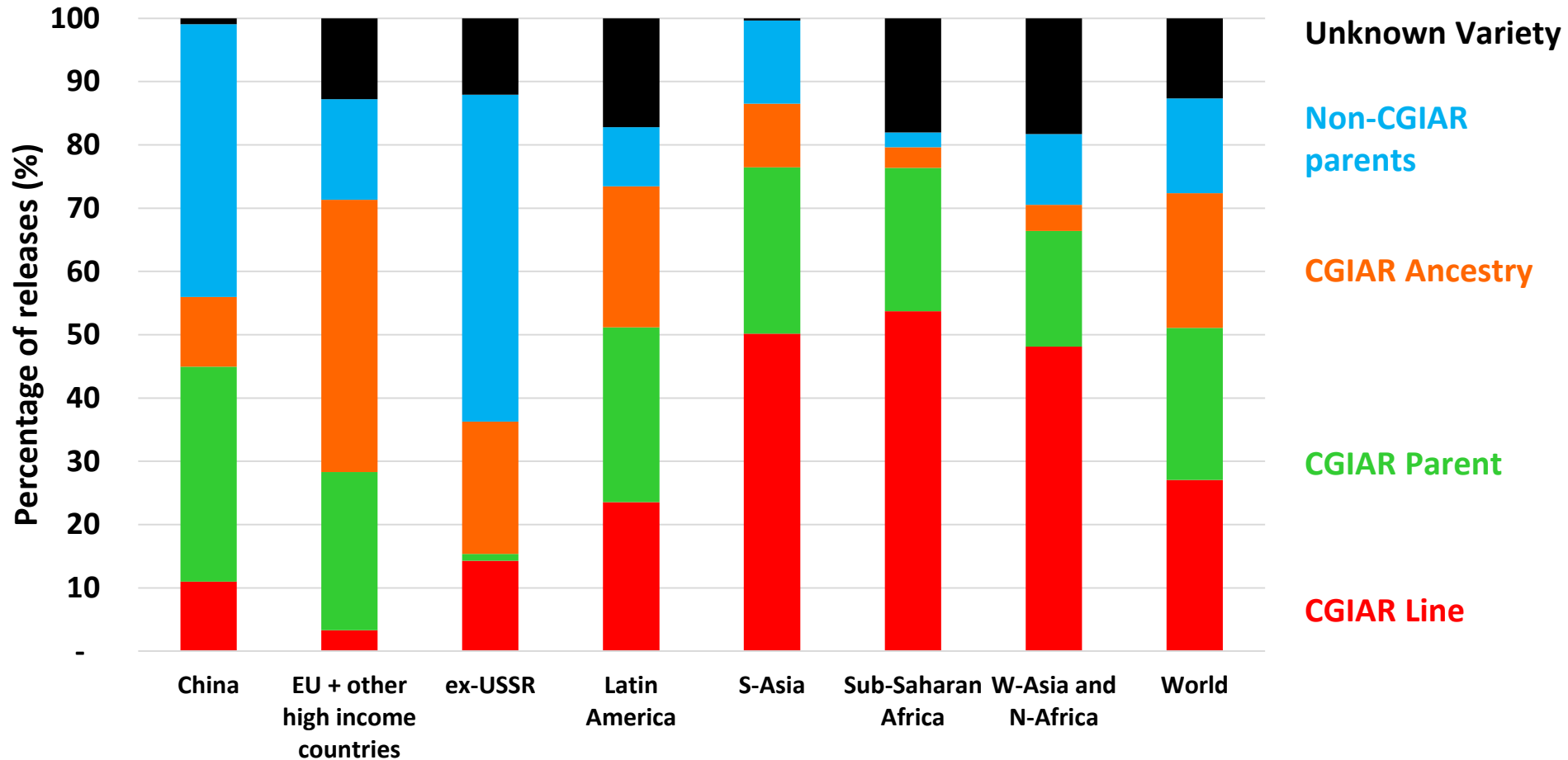


# Private and Public sector cooperators in IWIN





# Spring bread wheat releases 1994-2014





# Bread Wheat Breeding Priorities

## Core traits

- High and stable yield potential
- Durable resistance to Rusts- Stem (Ug99), Stripe and Leaf
- Water use efficiency/Drought tolerance
- Heat tolerance
- Appropriate end-use quality
- Enhanced Zn and Fe content for nutrition (South Asia)

## Key diseases in specific mega-environments

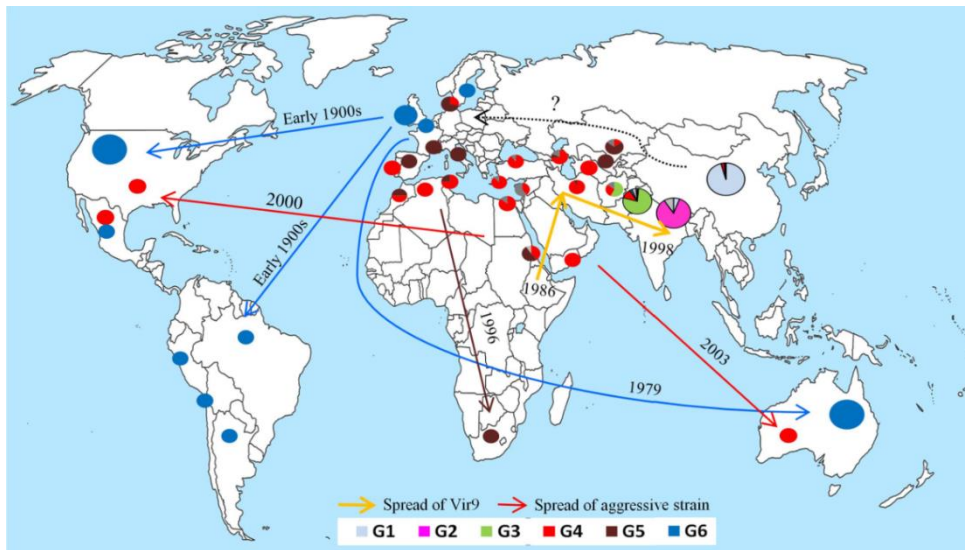
- ▶ Durable resistance to diseases and pests
  - ◆ Septoria leaf blight (ME2)
  - ◆ Spot Blotch (ME5)
  - ◆ Tan Spot (ME4)
  - ◆ Fusarium – head scab and myco-toxins (ME2/4/5)
  - ◆ Karnal bunt (ME1)
  - ◆ Root rots and nematodes (ME4)

**Packaging multiple traits together is essential under climate change scenario to benefit wheat farmers**





# Spread of aggressive *Puccinia striiformis* (yellow rust) races Pst1/Pst2 adapted to higher temperature



- Early infection initiation
- Faster disease build up
- Disease progression even when temperatures are warmer
- New areas of adaptation
- Faster evolution for new virulences
- Reduced effectiveness of resistance
- East Africa origin of this race group

(Walter et al. 2016. Ecology & Evolution)

**Countries with red dots with confirmed presence of Pst1/Pst2 race group**

Source: Ali et al. (2014) PLoS Pathog 10(1): e1003903. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003903





# Slow Rusting Adult Plant Resistance and Pleiotropic Effects



**Stem rust**  
(Obregon, Mexico)



**Leaf rust**



**Leaf & Stripe rust**  
(Cobbitty, Australia)



**Powdery mildew**  
(Vollebakk, Norway)

*Lr34* [Syn. = *Yr18*=*Sr57*=*Pm38*=*Ltn1*=*Sb1*=*Bdv1*] cloned\*

*Lr46* [Syn.= *Yr29*=*Sr58*=*Pm39*=*Ltn2*=*Ts?*]

*Lr67* [Syn.= *Yr46*=*Sr55*=*Pm46*=*Ltn3*] cloned\*

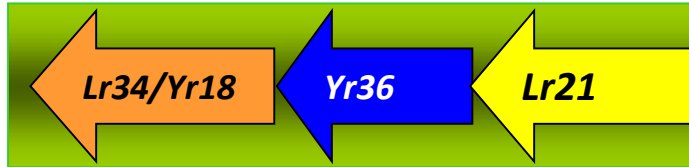
*Sr2* / [Syn.= *Yr30*=*Lr27*=*Pm*]

- \* novel resistance mechanism - pleiotropic genes encode hexose transporter

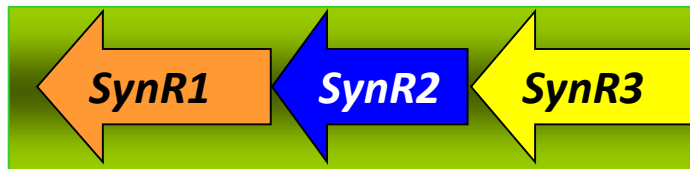


## Future: GM intervention to achieve resistance durability

**Gene Cassettes- multiple resistance genes inherited as a single unit**  
*simplifying breeding and enhancing resistance durability*



Natural gene cassette  
(currently developed)



Synthetic gene cassette  
(future possibility)

### ■ Natural gene cassettes currently in the pipeline at CSIRO

*Lr34/Yr18/Sr57 + Lr67/Yr46/Sr55 + Lr21 + Yr36*

### ■ Scientific/Commercialisation Challenges

- Cloning many resistance genes for diversity
- Technology for insertion of large DNA “packages”
- Synthetic R genes?
- Cisgenic vs Transgenic crops



# Wheat blast caused by *Magnaporthe oryzae*: A reality and new challenge for wheat research

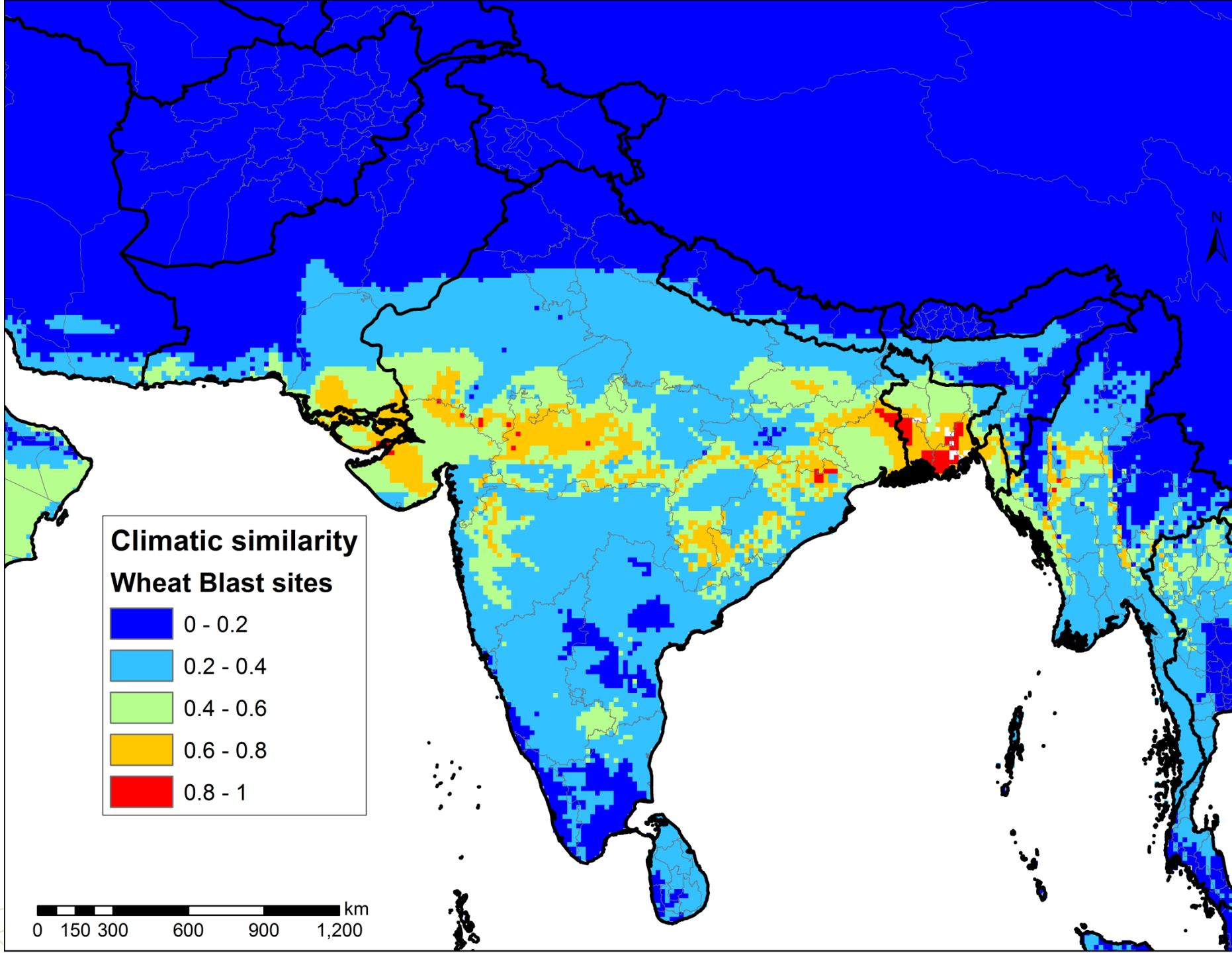
Etienne Duveiller<sup>1</sup>, David Hodson<sup>2</sup> and Andreas von Tiedemann<sup>3</sup>

International Wheat Conference, St Petersburg 2010

Preliminary maps show that climatic areas favorable for wheat blast exist on other continents, if the presence of inoculum coincides with susceptible cultivars. Regions where the disease may occur include parts of East Africa (Ethiopia) and South Asia (Bangladesh, eastern India).











Source: Dr Malik, Bangaldesh







PHOTO: STAR

A blast disease affected wheat seed production field under Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation in Meherpur is getting burnt as the authorities decided to destroy the plants to prevent use of seriously defective seeds and spread of the disease further. Following detection of the disease by a team of experts from Wheat Research Centre in Dinajpur, a large number of farmers in Meherpur have also started burning their wheat fields as preparation to cultivate paddy or jute there in the next season.



# Wheat Blast

- Seedborne disease
- Disease develops very fast – less than a week from first symptoms to major losses
- Most cultivars susceptible – resistance from *Trit. ventricosa*
- Fungicides partially effective under medium to low disease pressure.
- Pathogen has developed resistance against some fungicides
- Wheat growing areas at risk with similar climate as in Brazil and Bolivia - South Asia, South China, African low lands
- Global Wheat Blast Consortium has been formed





# Agriculture and Water and Heat





# NewScientist

25 February 2006

It takes **20,000 litres** of water  
to grow 1 kilo of coffee,  
**11,000 litres** of water to



make a quarter pounder,  
and **5000 litres** of water to  
make 1 kilo of cheese



**No wonder the Earth  
is running dry...**

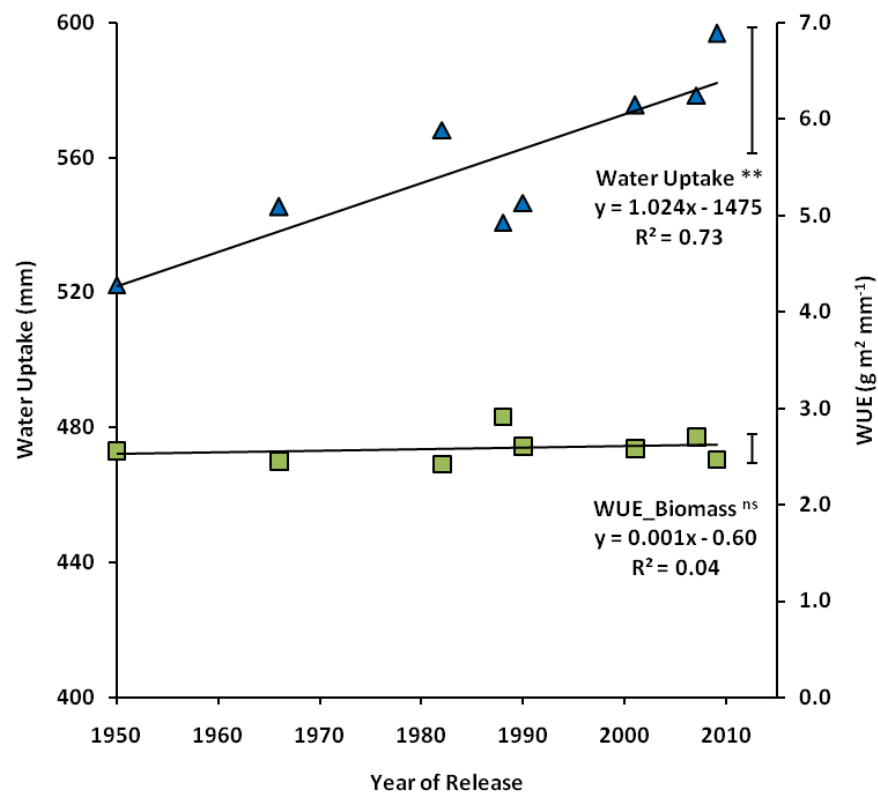
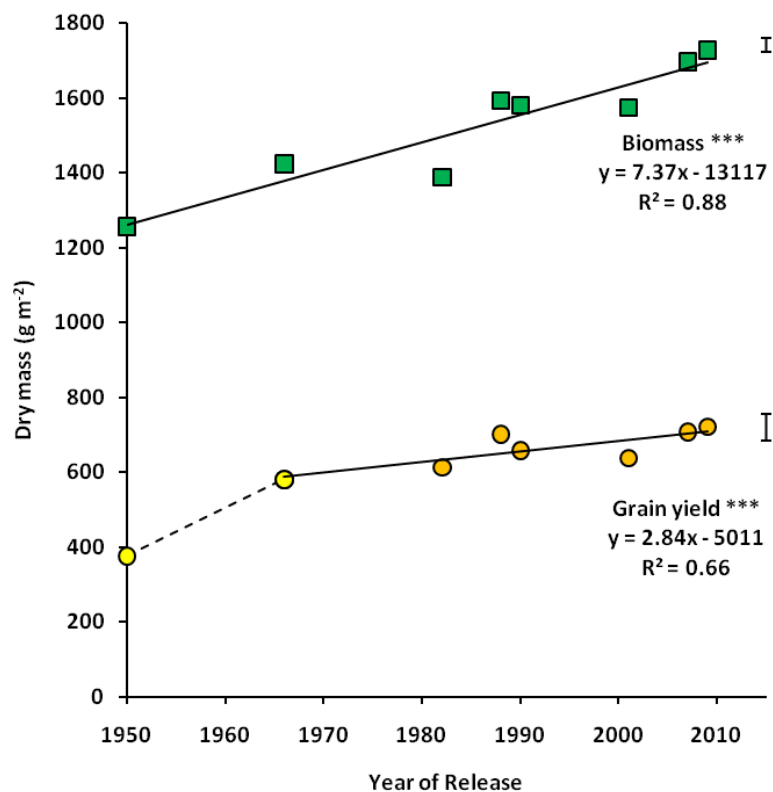




# Increased deep water extraction of modern wheat cultivars drives biomass production.

Yield and biomass significantly increase with year of release since 1950.

Productivity driven by increased water harvest. Efficiency of crop water use unchanged.



Pask, AJD and MP Reynolds. 2013. Breeding for yield potential has increased deep water extraction capacity in irrigated wheat. Crop Science, vol. 53.



# Traits with potential for improving wheat performance

Trait	Ease of screening	Heritability	Chromosomal location of genes
Phenology	Simple	High	2A, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5D, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B
Early vigour	Simple	High	2D, 4B, 4D, 5A
Leaf rolling	Simple	High	Unknown
Restricted-tillering	Simple	High	1A
Canopy temperature	Simple	Moderate	1B, 2B, 3B, 4A
Coleoptile length	Simple	Moderate	2B, 2D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5D, 6B
Glaucousness	Simple	Moderate	2B, 2D
Photosynthetic capacity	Simple	Moderate	1B, 1D, 2D, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5B, 6B, 7A, 7B
Carbon isotope discrimination (leaf)	Difficult	High	1B, 1D, 2D, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5A, 7A, 7B
Carbon isotope discrimination (grain)	Difficult	High	1D, 2A, 2D, 4B, 4D, 6D, 7B
Harvest index	Difficult	High	2B, 2D, 4B, 4D
Osmotic adjustment	Difficult	Moderate	7A
Staygreen	Difficult	Moderate	2B, 2D
Stem carbohydrates	Difficult	Moderate	1A, 2B, 2D, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6B, 7A, 7B
Root biomass	Difficult	Low	1B
Stomatal conductance	Difficult	Low	1B, 2A, 2B, 2D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 7A, 7B

Adapted from Reynolds, Manes, Rebetzke, (2012)



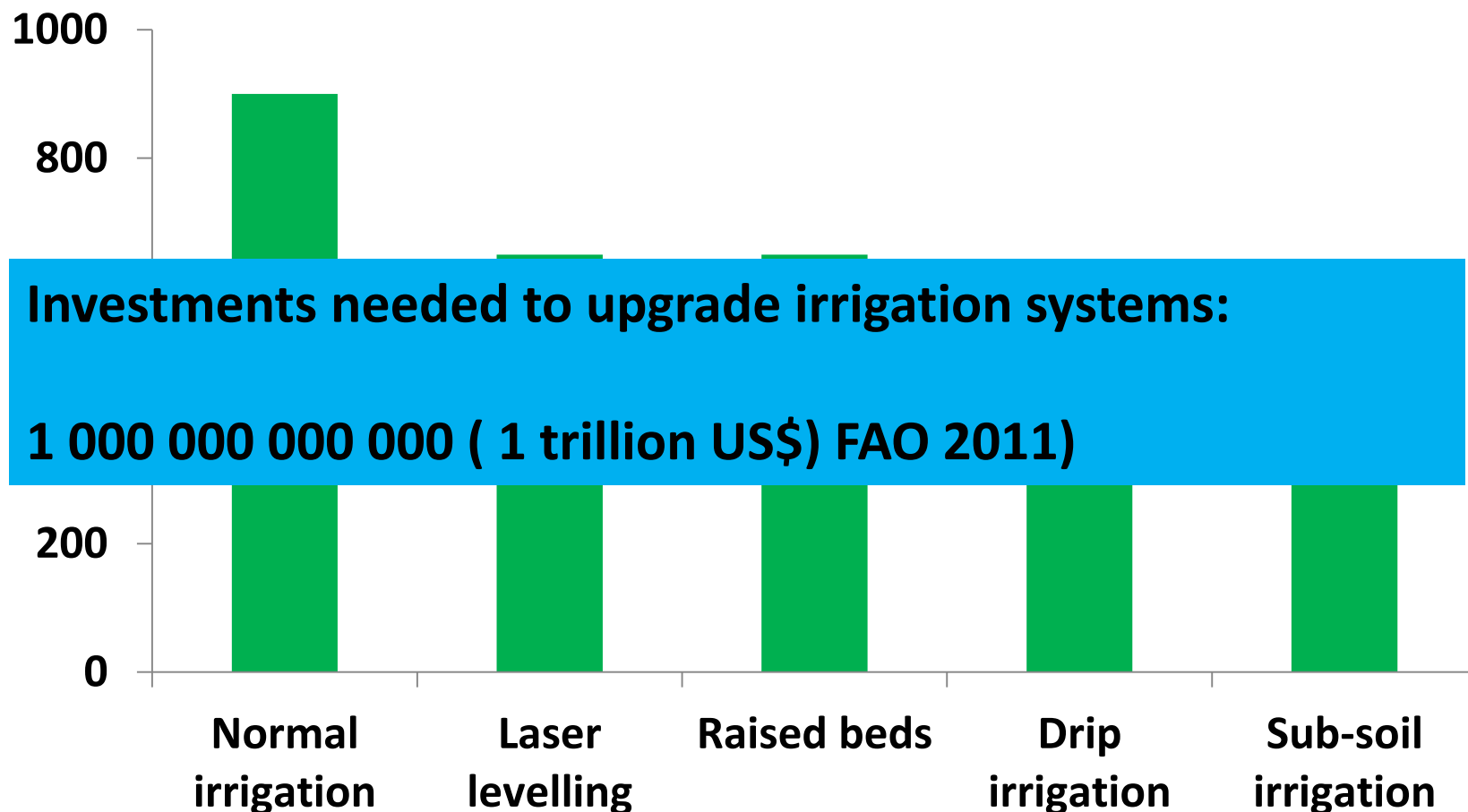
# Airborne Remote Sensing

# Yield, Biomass

Trial		Yield (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Biomass (g/m <sup>2</sup> )
CIMCOG_H_1	NDVI UAV	0.77	0.79
	NDVI GROUND	0.63	0.58
CIMCOG_H_2	NDVI UAV	0.79	0.72
	NDVI GROUND	0.74	0.64
SEED_SEL	NDVI UAV	0.67	-
	NDVI GROUND	0.43	-
DIVERSITY SET	NDVI UAV	0.64	0.76
	NDVI GROUND	0.63	0.66
FIGS	NDVI UAV	0.60	0.69
	NDVI GROUND	0.58	0.66



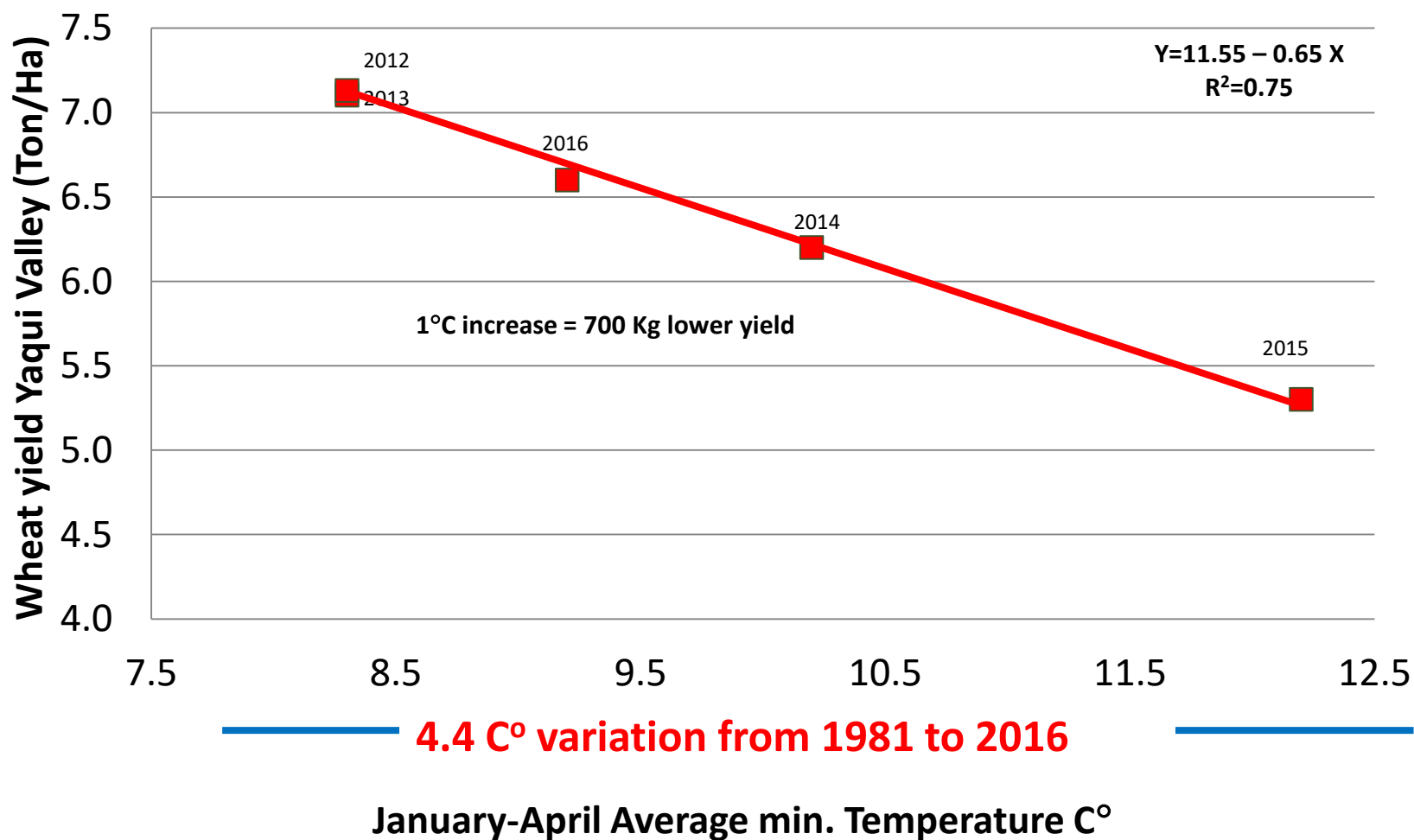
# Water (liter) needed to produce 1 kg wheat with various irrigation systems



Source: Compiled by H.J. Braun from various sources



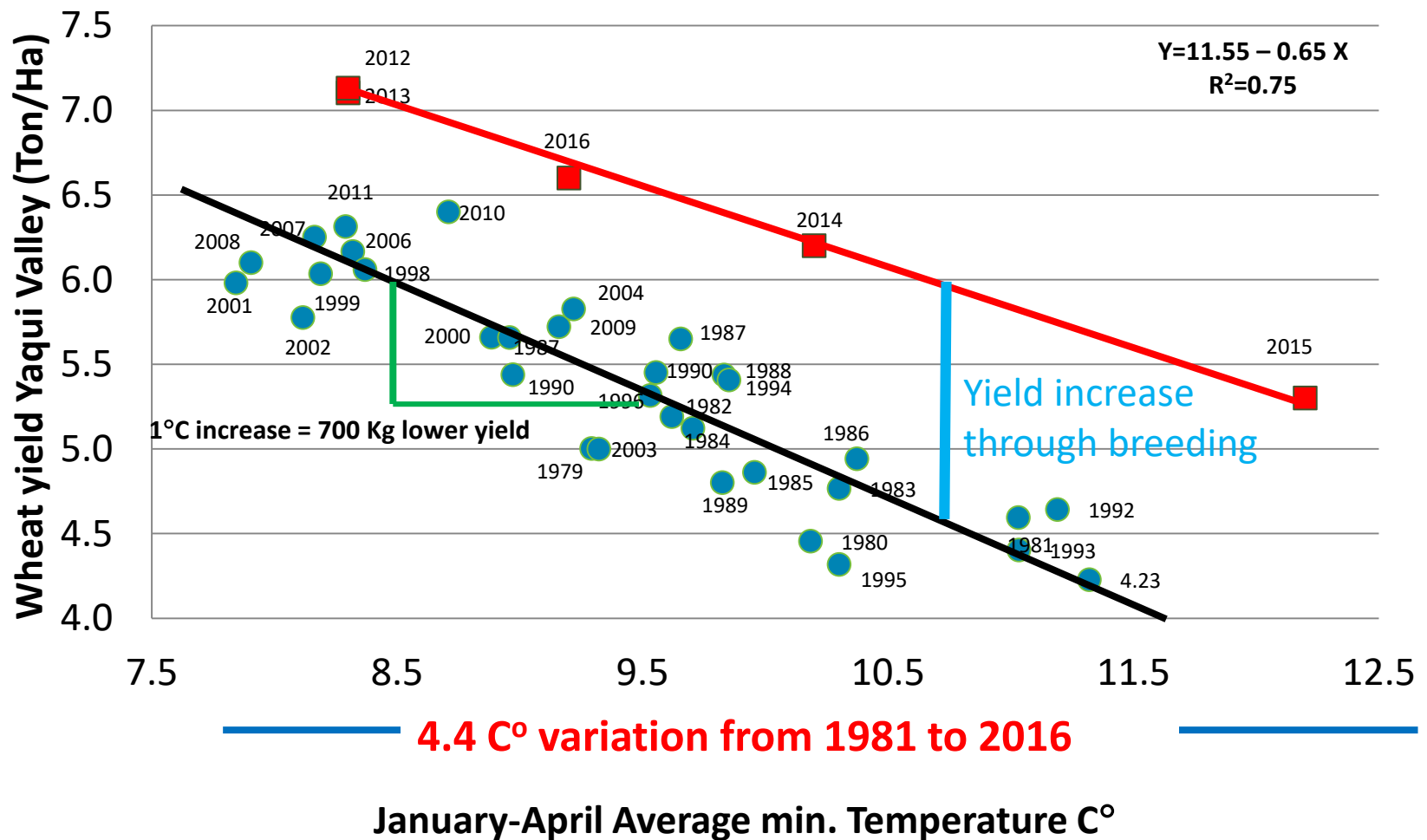
## Response of wheat to increasing night temperature



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



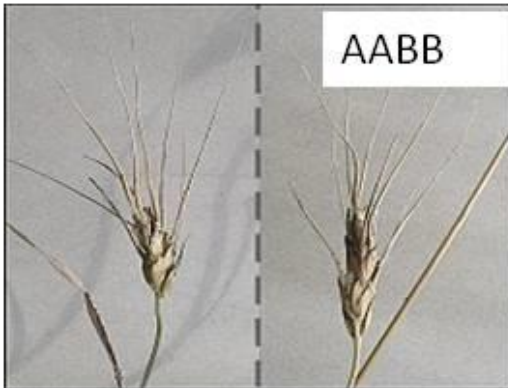
# Adapting to Climate Change: Heat Tolerant Wheats prove their Value in Farmers' Fields in Mexico



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



# Wheat Genetic Resources





**70,000  
Wheat Genetic  
Resources Screened  
Under Drought and  
Heat, Sonora, Mexico,  
2011-2013**



**CIMMYT Genebank holds  
140 000 Wheat and wheat relative  
accessions  
28 000 Maize Accessions**





# CIMMYT's Synthetic Wheat Program



*T. durum*  
**AABB**

**X**



*T. tauschii*  
**DD**

**=**



*Hexaploid synthetic*  
**AABBDD**

Introgression of new DD genomes has brought in traits such as yield and resistance to FHS, Septoria, Spot Blotch, Rusts, Hessian Fly, Russian Wheat Aphid and drought tolerance.





# Synthetic hexaploid wheats

Variation found for a large range of traits

- Rusts
- Septoria tritici
- Fusarium Head Blight
- Spot Blotch
- Drought tolerance
- Grain quality
- Hessian Fly
- Sunn Pest
- Russina Wheat Apid
- Soil Borne Diseases
- Water logging
- New ppd alleles
- Used in breeding at CIMMYT and distributed globally  
=> then noticed increased yield potential; CIMMYT NIAB

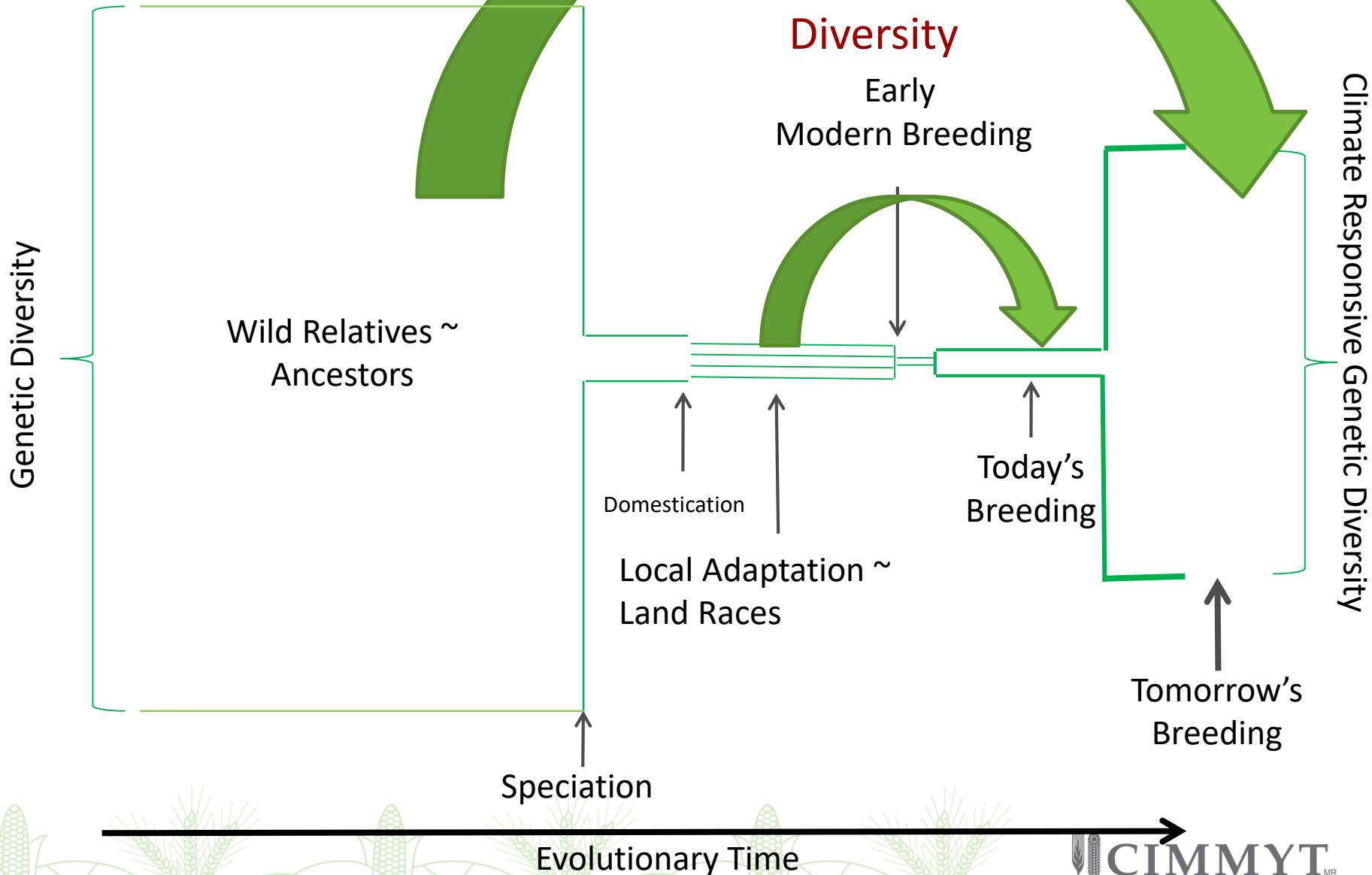
8 synthetic derived varieties released in China, Spain and Ecuador

Little genetic analysis initially





# Exploiting Genetic Diversity







Yield Potential





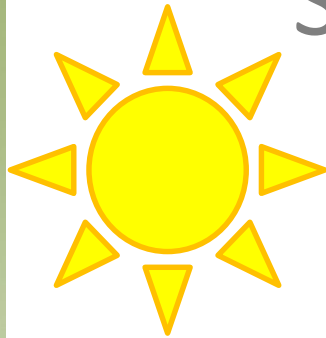
# Raising Wheat Productivity by 70% by 2050

- **Sharing germplasm and knowledge** 50?? Rasmussen, 1996
- **Agro-ecological attainable yield gap** 75% Bruinsman 2009
- **Agronomy – yield gap** 50% Fischer et al, 2014
- **Weeds/ Diseases / Pests** 28% Oerke 2006
- **Post Harvest Losses in LDC** 20% ?? Limited info
- **Breeding / Physiology** 50% Reynolds et al, 2010
- **Transgenics / Cisgenics** ??





# Spike Photosynthesis...



**Light Intercepted A+7 (%)**  
**2 year data, 30 gen, 3 reps**

SPIKE

FLAG LEAF

L2

OTHER  
LEAVES

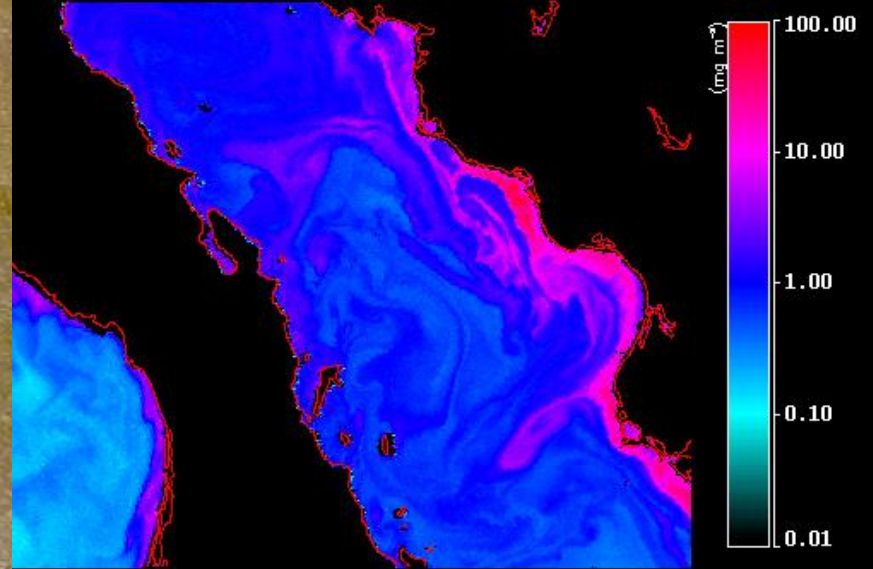
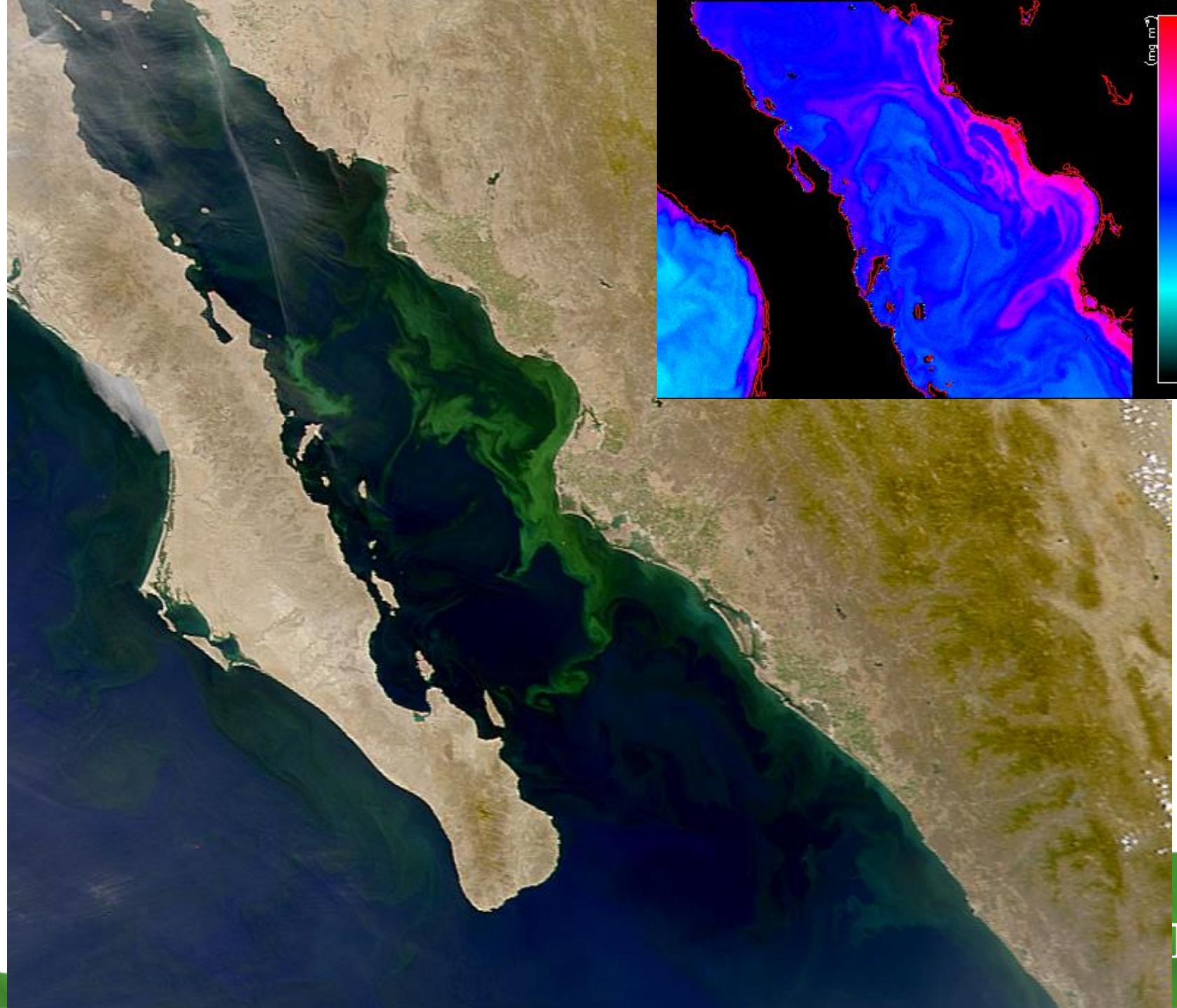
22 – 41 % (28 %)

17 – 40 % (28 %)

7 – 33 % (25 %)

4 – 34 % (10 %)







# Increase N-use efficiency

- Wheat uses more N than any other crop(19%) (IFA, 2007)
- China, India and Pakistan apply 50% of all N used for wheat (IFA, 2007)
- NUE in LDC only 1/3 i.e. 2 of 3 kg N applied do not end up in plants but in water or air





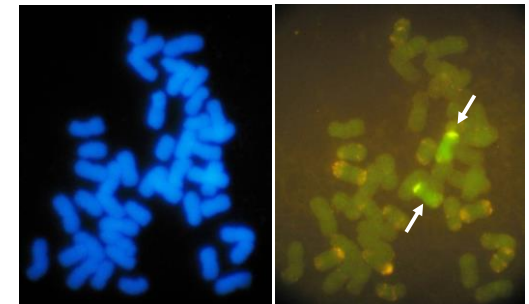
# BNI from *L. racemosus*

Roots produce exudates that inhibit nitrification (90% remains in stable  $\text{NH}_4$  form after 60 days)

*L. racemosus* chromosomes have been transferred to wheat (CS) and are now transferred to elite lines

- Bioassay by Dr Subbarao at JIRCAS Tsukuba found addition of Lr#n expressed BNI at about 80% of *L. racemosus* level

Stock	racemosus chromosome	Homol gp in wheat	BNI <sup>a</sup>
L. racemosus			31.55
Chinese Spring			6.39
DALr#n	Lr#n	3 and 7	24.57
DALr#J	Lr#J	7	13.47
DALr#I	Lr#I	5	13.02
DALr#k	Lr#k	6	5.5
DALr#F	Lr#F	4	4.12
DALr#H	Lr#H	3	3.65



A

B

Two Lr#n *L. racemosus* chromosomes in wheat detected by florescence *in situ* hybridization with probe of *L. racemosus* genomic DNA (green color)







# Soil loss, an unfolding global disaster

- **30% of the world's arable land lost to erosion or pollution in the last 40 years.**
- **Erosion rates from ploughed fields averages 10-100 times greater than rates of soil formation.**
- **It takes about 100 years to form 0.5cm of topsoil under normal agricultural conditions.**





**To a hungry person,  
God appears in the form of Bread**

**Mahadma Gandhi**





# CIMMYT Academy



[www.cimmyt.org](http://www.cimmyt.org)  
[H.J.Braun@cgiar.org](mailto:H.J.Braun@cgiar.org)



igracias!

তোমাকে ধন্যবাদ

شكرا

kiitos

takk

danke

감사합니다

धन्यवाद

na-ekele unu

با تشکر از شما

merci

teşekkür ederim

obrigado

dank u

thank you

asante sana

ありがとう

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спасибо

谢谢

ขอขอบคุณคุณ

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