

## Promoting Women in Crop Science

### *Launching the Global Women in Crop Science Directory and Website*

Julie Van Vlasselaer<sup>1</sup>, Stéphanie Swarbreck<sup>2</sup>, Laura Dixon<sup>3</sup>, Nele Verhulst<sup>1</sup>, Alison Bentley<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Texcoco, Mexico

<sup>2</sup>NIAB, Cambridge, United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup>University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

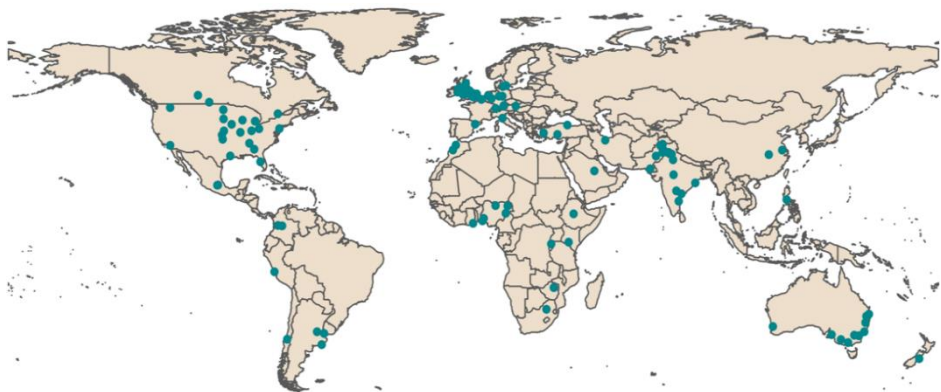
Contact: [a.bentley@cgiar.org](mailto:a.bentley@cgiar.org)

### Summary

Throughout 2022 we have been interacting with women in the global crop science community to identify tangible opportunities to provide greater support and visibility, and to build a stronger global community. This has included coffee mornings at conferences (e.g. Monogram 2022<sup>1</sup>), during regional meetings (e.g. CIMMYT Kenya meeting<sup>2</sup>), topical book reviews<sup>3</sup> and interviews<sup>4</sup>. One of the early recommendations<sup>1</sup> was to develop a directory providing a central resource of information about women working across the crop sciences globally. To address this, we created the Women in Crop Science Directory which is now available online as part of the new website: [www.womenincropscience.org](http://www.womenincropscience.org). The website provides a central resource for information and future training and networking opportunities. We have also created a resource page supporting upcoming Global Women in Crop Science coffee events.

### Global Women in Crop Science Directory

Initiated based on recommendations during the Monogram 2022 Women in Crop Science coffee morning<sup>1</sup>, the Directory (<https://womenincropscience.org/directory/>) aims to capture and share information about women working across the crop sciences globally. The Directory is open to all women working in the broad area of crop science and details can be added directly: <https://tinyurl.com/yhdefpmj>. The Directory captures basic biographical details including name, affiliation, position, contact information, social media details. It also includes information about the crop type/s studied and areas of research interest. We hope that the Directory will continue to grow, and that the community will be able to use the information to identify female crop scientists to speak at conferences or events, to contribute to projects, review committees and other panels, and to identify people with mutual interests working in similar (or indeed different) research fields. The Directory currently has 198 members from 36 countries (with public access confirmed for 121 members) as shown (right; map produced by Bethany Love, NIAB).



### **Women in Crop Science Website**

The Directory is also intended to be an interface for building and enhancing connections and networks and raising visibility. To enable this, we created the Women in Crop Science website ([www.womenincropscience.org](http://www.womenincropscience.org)) to host the Directory as well as other resources. The website includes the Directory information (in downloadable format) along with recent publications which are also available via the Zenodo Women in Crop Science community (<https://zenodo.org/communities/womenincropscience/>). It also includes information about the upcoming Global Women in Crop Science Coffee Morning events.

### **Global Women in Crop Science Coffee Mornings**

In order to further promote the global community, and to provide local networking activities there will be a series of global Women in Crop Science coffee events during the week of 5-9th September, 2022. Using the Directory, we have solicited interest in hosting events from 19 hosts in 10 countries. Hosts will organize activities in their local area with a free format, with ideas for events provided here: <https://womenincropscience.org/global-coffee-morning/>. We also encourage hosts to post pictures from their events using the #WiCS and #GlobalWiCScoffee hashtags and/or to share a short report using the Zenodo community (as above) or directly to [womenincropscience@gmail.com](mailto:womenincropscience@gmail.com).

### **Future developments**

We are open to ideas and inputs on future events and activities for the community. We are also keen to further expand the Directory, and to have more events to highlight females in the global crop science community and to provide tailored training and professional development activities. If you have ideas, suggestions or comments please send them to: [womenincropscience@gmail.com](mailto:womenincropscience@gmail.com)

### **References**

- <sup>1</sup>Dixon L, Swarbreck, S, Bentley A (2022) Celebrating & promoting progress towards gender equality in crop science - report from Monogram 2022. *Zenodo* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6511355>
- <sup>2</sup>Muindi P, Van Vlasselaer J, Bentley A (2022) Developing practical support for Women in Crop Science. *Zenodo* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6606887>
- <sup>3</sup>Bentley A, Verhulst N (2022) How can crop science cultivate more "Strong Female Leads". *Zenodo* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6045227>
- <sup>4</sup>Bentley A (2022) A Women in Crop Science Conversation with Sylvie Cloutier. *Zenodo* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6783021>