

## Interim Report on Grant No. BB/C510591/1. Integration and Co-ordination of UK Research on the Genomics, Genetics and Improvement of Small grain Cereals (SGC).

### Activities 1/01.06-31/12/06

The small grain cereals network was established to improve communication between researchers in order to improve the dissemination of new techniques, increase the sharing of resources and exploit synergies in research on wheat, barley and oats. In addition work on grasses has been included to reflect their close relationship to cultivated cereals. To promote its aims SGC runs a yearly workshop, publishes a newsletter and maintains a website and a mailing list. Short exchange visits by junior scientists and students are also supported.

#### Workshop in Norwich, 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006

The 2006 workshop was held in Norwich, hosted by John Snape and colleagues at the John Innes Centre. The total number of delegates was 111, including 21 from industry. Eight speakers were invited from outside the UK. The topics covered were association genetics & mapping, models to crops, trait analysis, genomics, breeder's perspectives and developing country perspectives in cereal genomics. A list of workshop attendees and the workshop programme are attached.

#### Summer meeting

Members of the steering group met at the Rothamsted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 to discuss the 2007 meeting, the establishment of the MONOGRAM programme and its interactions with SGC and the implications of *Brachypodium* genomics for small grain cereal improvement.

#### Newsletter

The 2006 newsletter was released in June and included an update on SGC activities, an introduction to the MONOGRAM cross-institute programme, an update on EU research networks, overviews of two EU FP6 Integrated projects (TRITIMED and BIOEXPLOIT) and a report on the Defra BRACCT workshop. A copy of the newsletter is attached.

#### Website

The website (<http://www.smallgraincereals.org>) aims to keep researchers up to date on meetings and resources within the field and provides in-depth coverage of the SGC workshops. It also features a detailed section on how to apply for participation in SGC funded activities. The site was updated in 2006 and now contains an extensive list of links to SGC resources, such as links to research, funding and umbrella organisations, general resources and links to databases and bioinformatics tools.

#### Mailing list:

In order to facilitate the dissemination and sharing of information within the UK small grain cereals community a mailing list was set up in April 2006 (<https://www.lists.bbsrc.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/sgc-network>). This list enables members to post messages to everyone registered with the list. So far 90 people have registered with the SGC mailing list.

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**Exchange visit:**

In June the SGC steering group approved a one week exchange visit. Sean Cotter, a PhD student of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Liverpool will receive training in transformation methods for barley in February 2007 at JIC in Norwich.

**Future of the SGC Network:**

The SGC Steering Group agreed that Dr. Tina Barsby, Manager of the MONOGRAM cross-institute programme, would assume responsibility for leading the network at the end of the current grant, enabling the closer co-ordination of SGC and MONOGRAM activities.

Peter Shewry (PI) and Elke Anzinger (administrator)  
Rothamsted Research  
Dec 20 2006

**Attachments:**

Newsletter

Workshop attendees

Workshop programme