

Exploiting of plant genetic resources for resource-efficient and environmental friendly crop production

Rethinking plant breeding for a zero-pesticide agriculture

Bordeaux, May 14th 2024



Foto: Albrecht Serjling

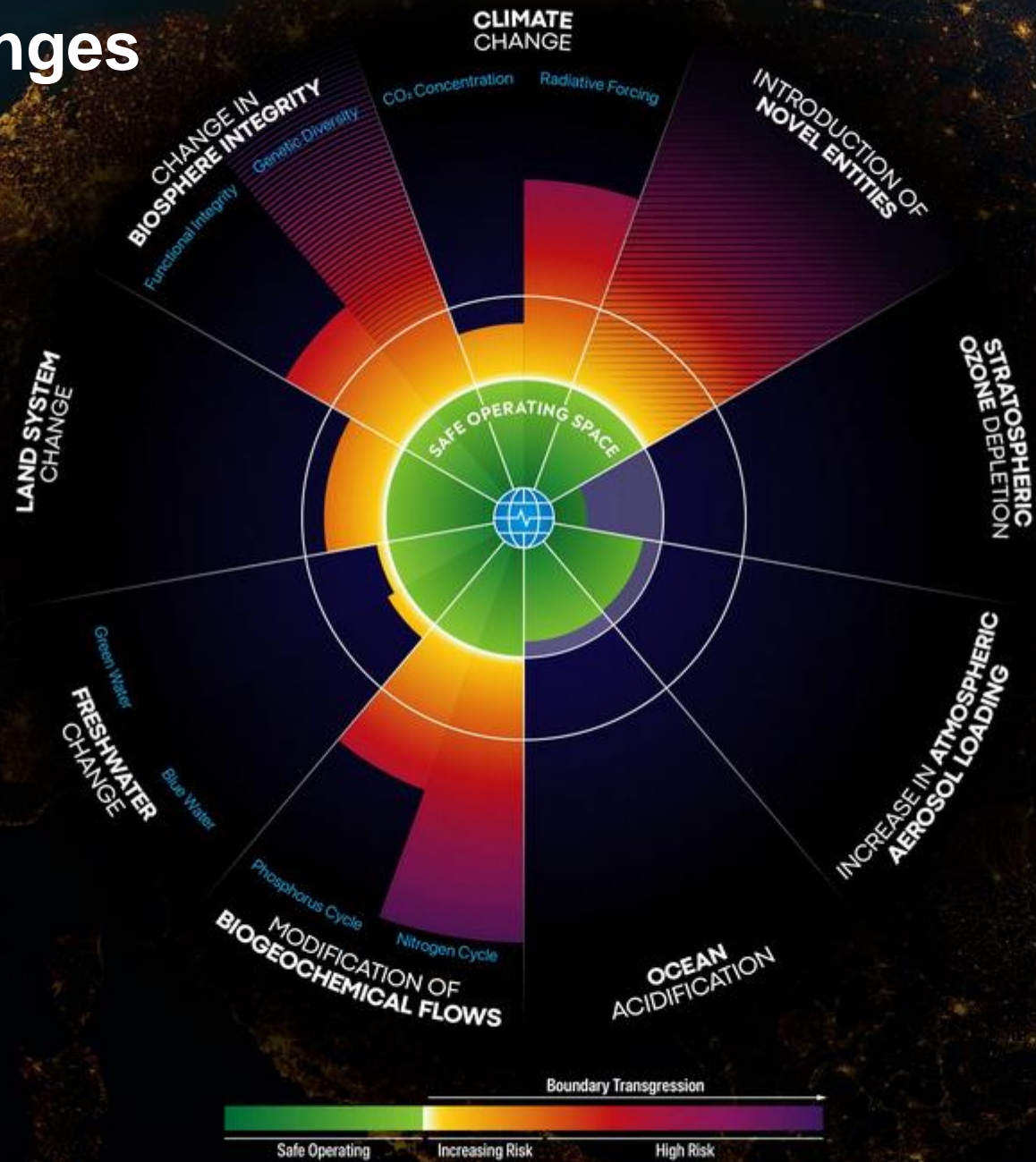


Foto: Lars Böge



Foto: Andreas Stahl

Our grand challenges



• Katherine Richardson et al., *Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries*. *Science Advances*. 9, eadh2458 (2023).

[DOI:10.1126/sciadv.adh2458](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458)

Our grand challenges



Necessity of high crop production

- Food security and food quality for a growing world population
- match the demand of further agricultural commodities
- secure crop productivity on limited arable land
- Secure income of local production (farmers income)

Crop Production

Limitations & Challenges of crop production

- Planetary boundaries (loss of biodiversity)
- Drought, heat and other weather extremes
- Reduction of CO₂ and volatile NO_x and NH₃ emissions
- Avoidance of Nitrate leaching in groundwater and waterways
- Reduction of agro-chemical inputs (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides)

Make use of genetic resources to produce more with less!!!

Requires:

- Higher nutrient use efficiency
- Higher water use efficiency
- Enhanced disease resistance
- Higher radiation use efficiency

The formula for breeding progress



Increase selection intensity

Genomic prediction in larger populations
Novel, automated selection methods

Enhance genetic diversity

Genome/pangenome resources
Haplotype-based crossing designs
Gene editing/biotechnology

$$\Delta G = (i * r * \delta G) / L_g$$

Improve selection accuracy

Knowledge-based phenotyping
Enhanced genomic prediction models
Physiological modelling, deep learning on
automated phenotype data

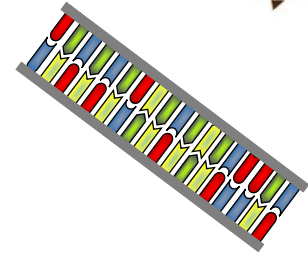
Accelerate breeding processes (L_g)

Novel genomic prediction methods
“Speed Breeding”, gene editing
Haplotype-based crossing designs

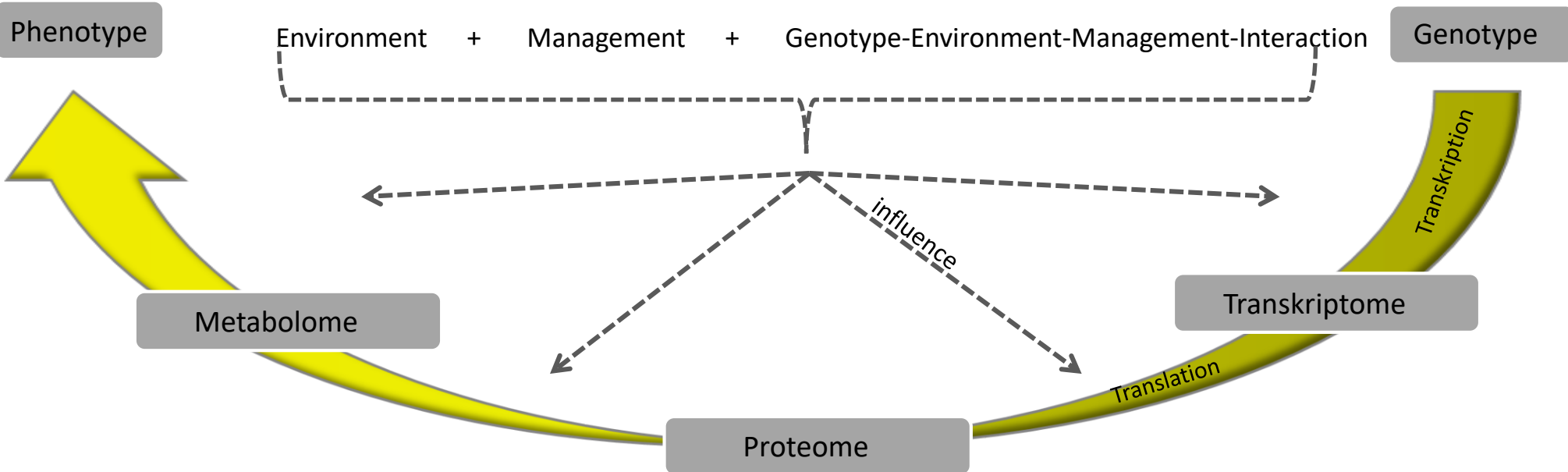
From Genotype to Phenotype



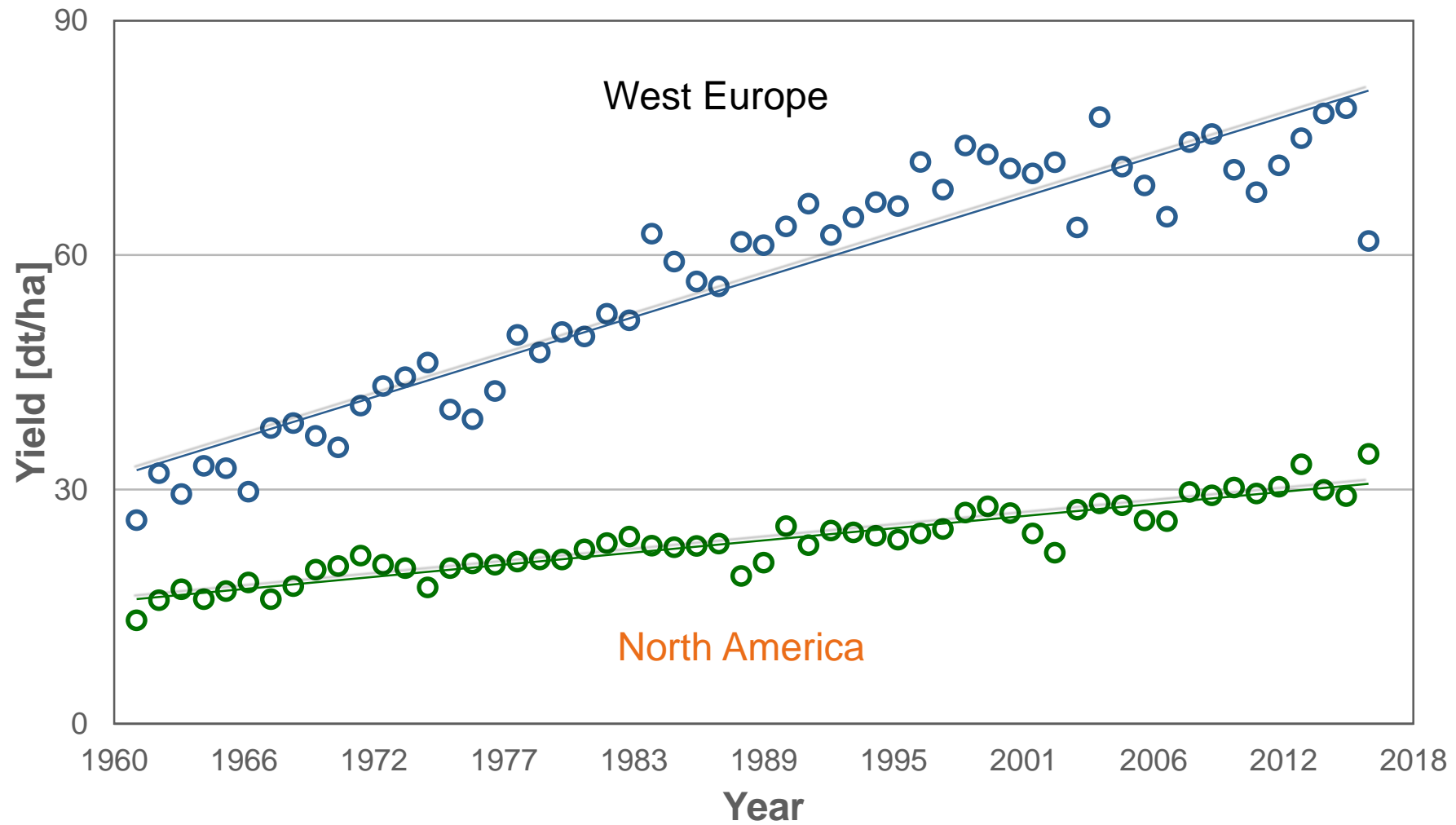
- Precipitation distribution
- Radiation
- Day length/temperature
- Soil parameters (chemical & physical)
- Nutrient availability (fertilisation)
- Disease pressure (plant protection)
- Management (timing, dosage, etc.)



$$P = E + M + G * E * M + G$$

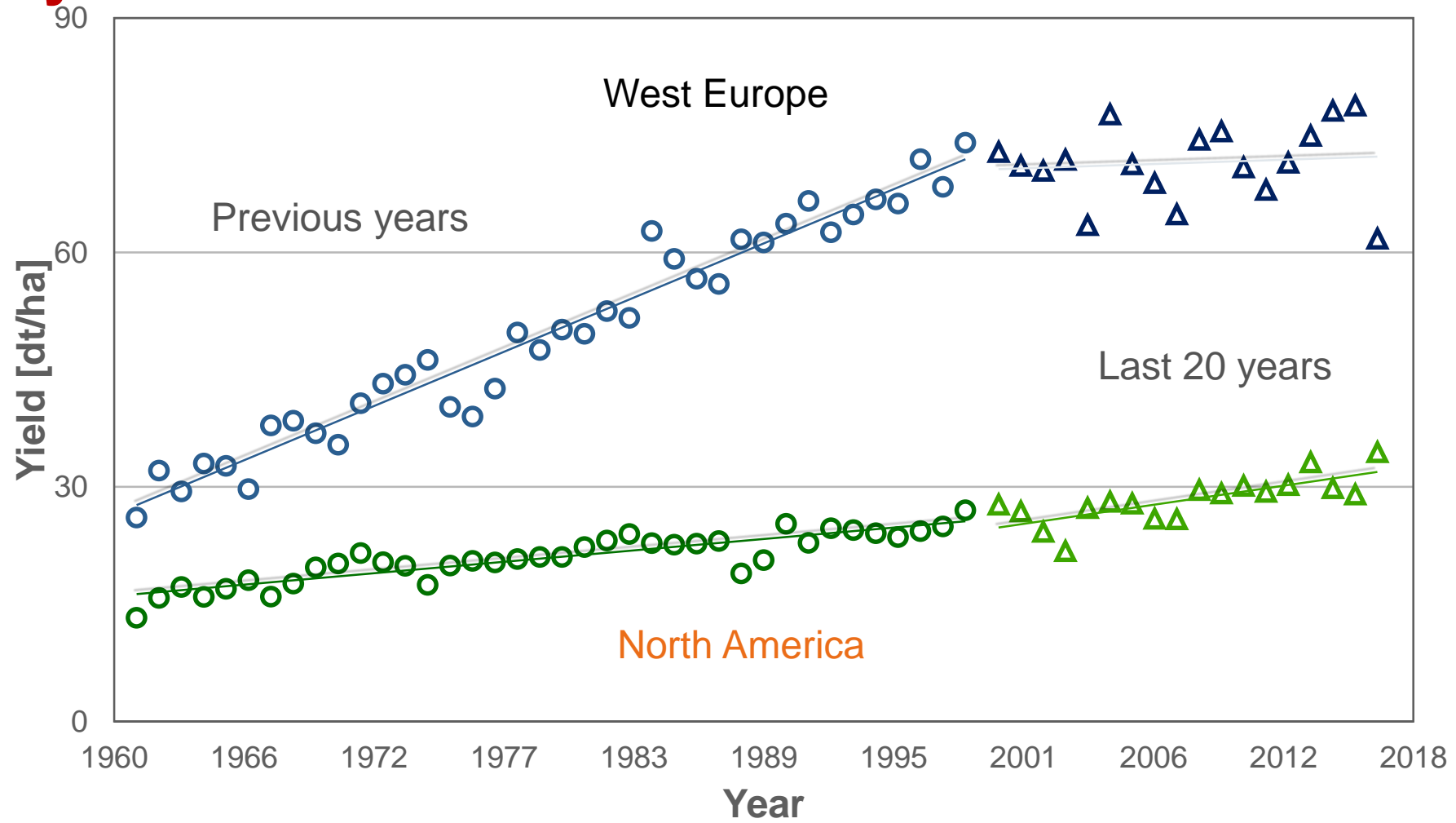


Wheat yields have been rising for 50 years



FAOstat

Wheat yields have been rising for 50 years ... or maybe not?!?!



FAOstat

Assessment of breeding progress in European Wheat

- 191 European wheat cultivars
- 6 Locations
- 2 Years
- 3 Treatments
- 2 Replications

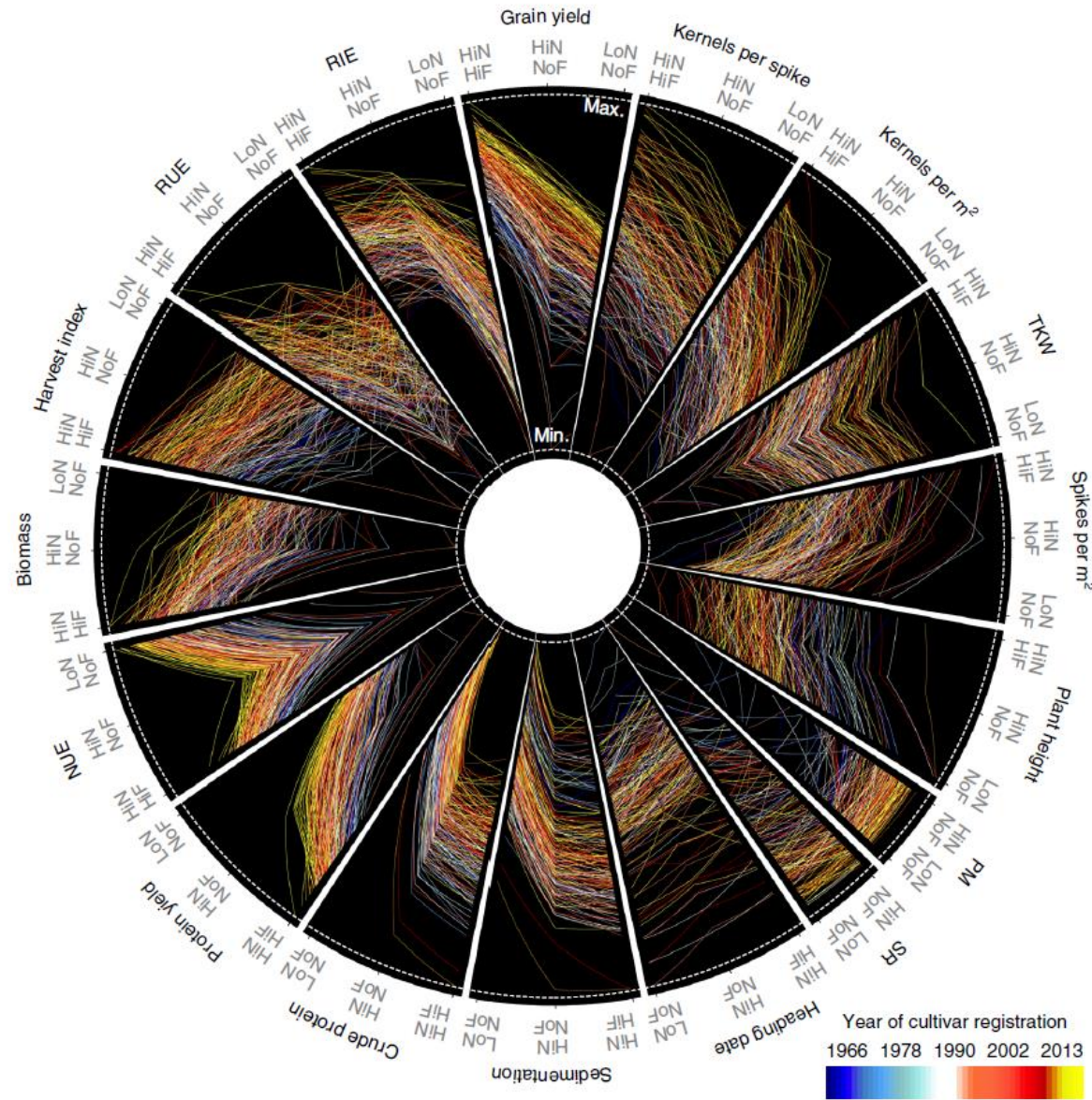
(local natural infection pressure)



Treatment		N-Fertilisation (incl. N _{min})	Insecticide & Fungicide
BS1	low-input	110 kg ha ⁻¹	No
BS2	semi-intensiv	220 kg ha ⁻¹	No
BS3	intensiv	220 kg ha ⁻¹	Yes

17.161 Field plots,
~250.000 phenotypic data points

50 years of breeding – a great success!

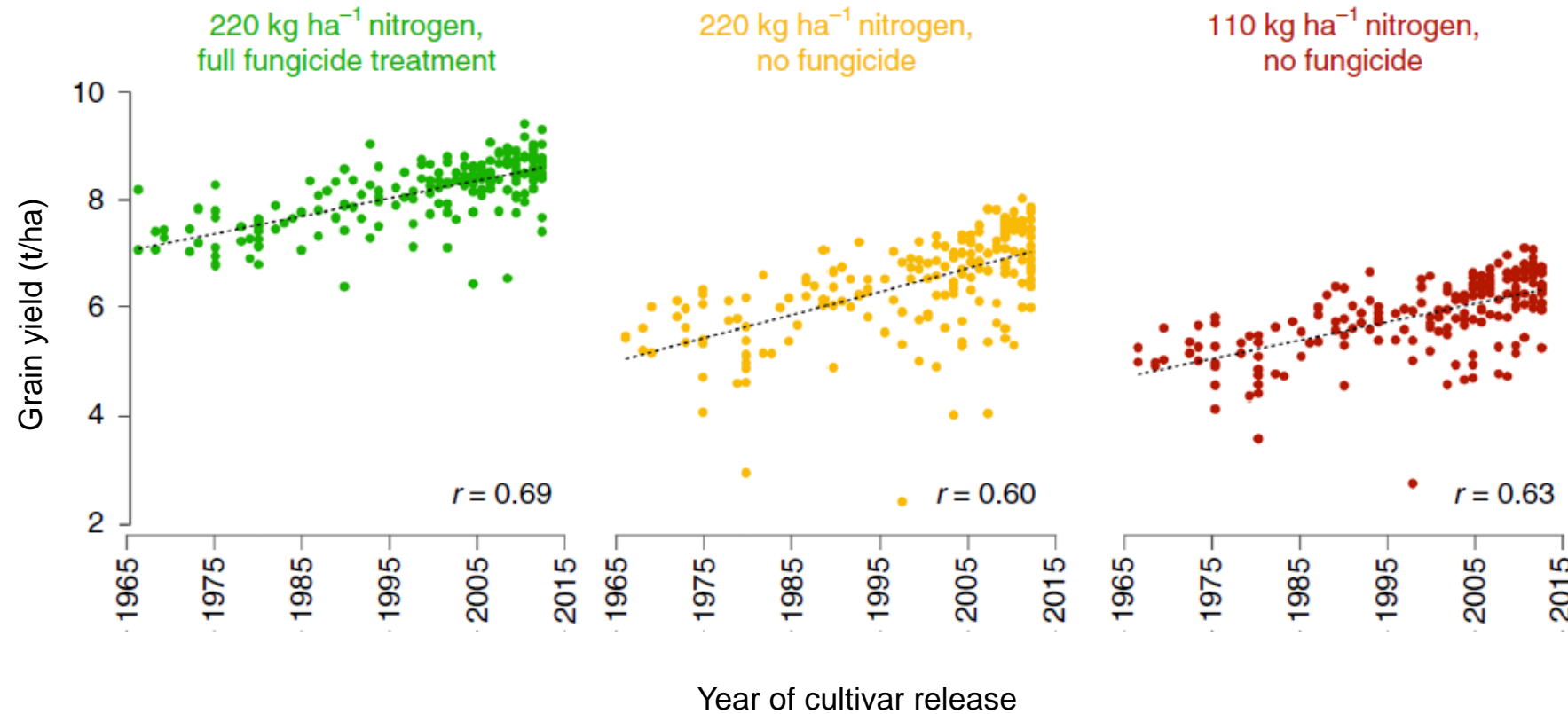


HiN = 220 kg N/ha
LoN = 110 kg N/ha

HiF = with fungicides
NoF = without fungicides

Breeding improves yield ...

... under contrasting chemical plant protection and N fertilisation



Evidence in the French study: Breeding improves yield under contrasting nitrogen input



Theor Appl Genet (2013) 126:3035–3048
DOI 10.1007/s00122-013-2191-9

ORIGINAL PAPER

A multi-environmental study of recent breeding progress on nitrogen use efficiency in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.)

Fabien Cormier · Sébastien Faure · Pierre Dubreuil · Emmanuel Heumez · Katia Beauchêne · Stéphane Lafarge · Sébastien Praud · Jacques Le Gouls

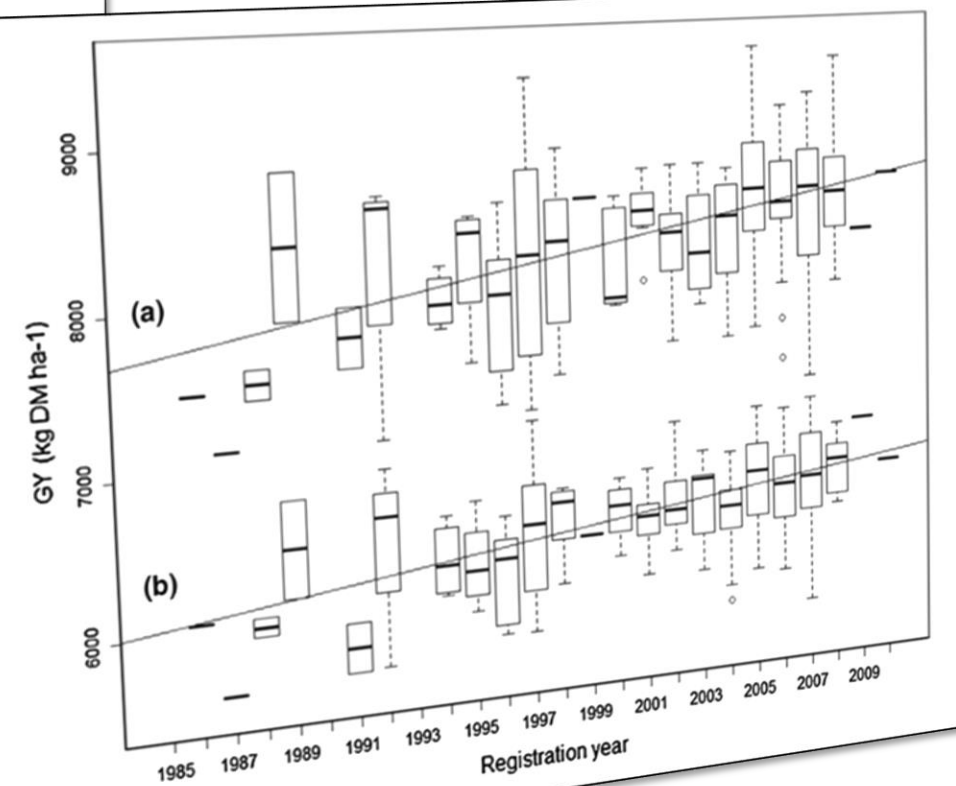
Received: 17 June 2013 / Accepted: 6 September 2013 / Published online: 21 September 2013
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Abstract

Key message By comparing 195 varieties in eight trials, this study assesses nitrogen use efficiency improvement in high and low nitrogen conditions in European winter wheat over the last 25 years.

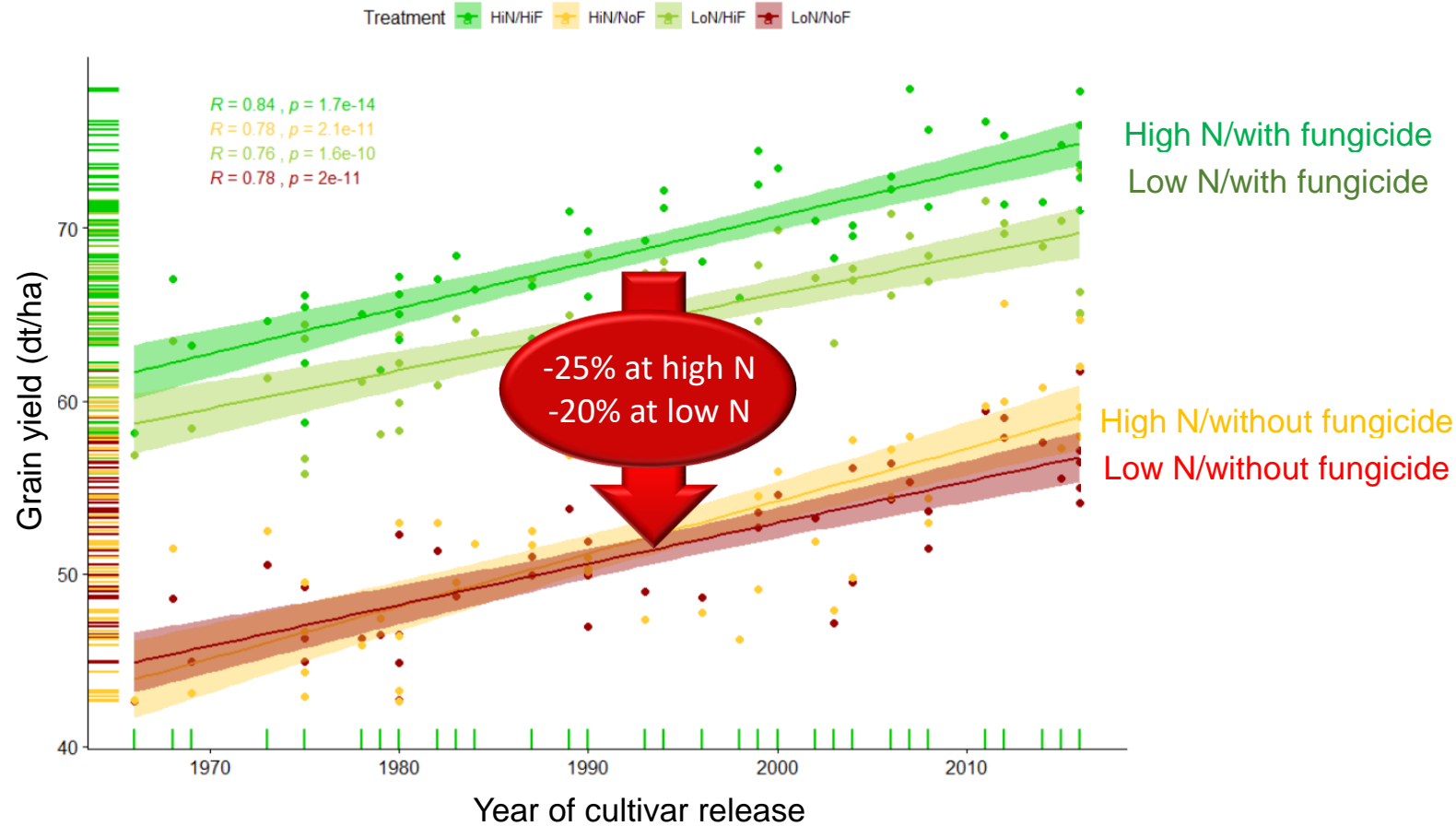
and plant height when needed. highly significant that no additive Genotype × N

Fig. 4 Boxplot of GY genetic values by year of release and by N treatment (LN low N level, HN high N level) for 195 wheat cultivars grown in four environments. Values are the best linear unbiased estimators of NUE corrected of quality and precocity effects. **a** at HN treatment, and **b** at LN treatment. **a** At HN, regression function is $GY = -69690 + YR \times (34.8 \pm 4.42)$, the complete model (with quality and precocity) adjusted r^2 is 66 % and YR effect $P < 0.001$. **b** At LN, regression function is $GY = -51302 + YR \times (25.64 \pm 6.22)$, the complete model (with quality and precocity) adjusted r^2 is 70 % and YR effect $P < 0.001$. G × N on GY is significant but YR effect on this interaction is not significant ($P > 0.05$)



Breeding improves yield ... but...

Validation experiment in 2016/17 & 2017/18 confirmed the findings



Source: Benjamin Wittkop, JLU

Key messages

- 1) Omitting the fungicide leads to substantial yield losses
- 2) Breeding enhanced grain yield in all treatment combinations

Test under controlled infection conditions



Field tests

220+8 cultivars 2x2 treatments (N, PP), 2 replications
Inoculation with *P. striiformis*, *P. triticina*, *F. culmorum*
natural with *B. graminis tritici*
3 growing seasons 2014-2017
Σ 5344 plots

Seedling tests

228 cultivars, 3 replications
Separate inoculation with
4 *P. striiformis* isolates
5 *P. triticina* isolates
Σ 6156 pots

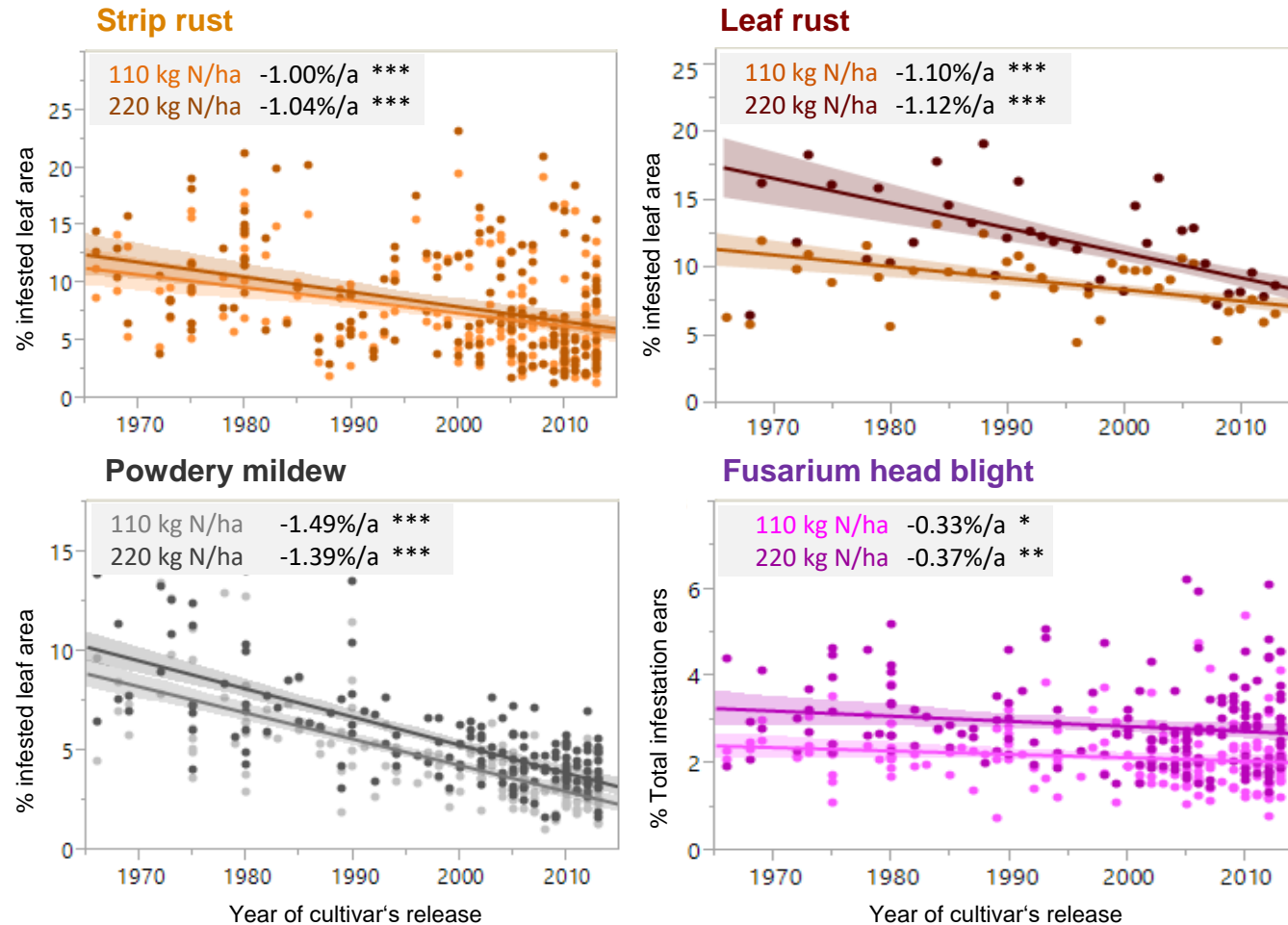
Statistical Analyses

AUDPC and average ordinate (AO),
growth stages, grain yield and yield components
ANOVA, contrast and correlation analyses, GWAS

Infection type, % infected leaf area, rel. susceptibility

ANOVA, correlations, GWAS

Breeding progress in field resistance of European winter wheat



*** p<0.001
 ** p<0.01
 * p<0.05
 ns not significant

Note: Strong resistance enhancement against YR, LR, PM - rather slight against FHB

Increase stronger at higher N

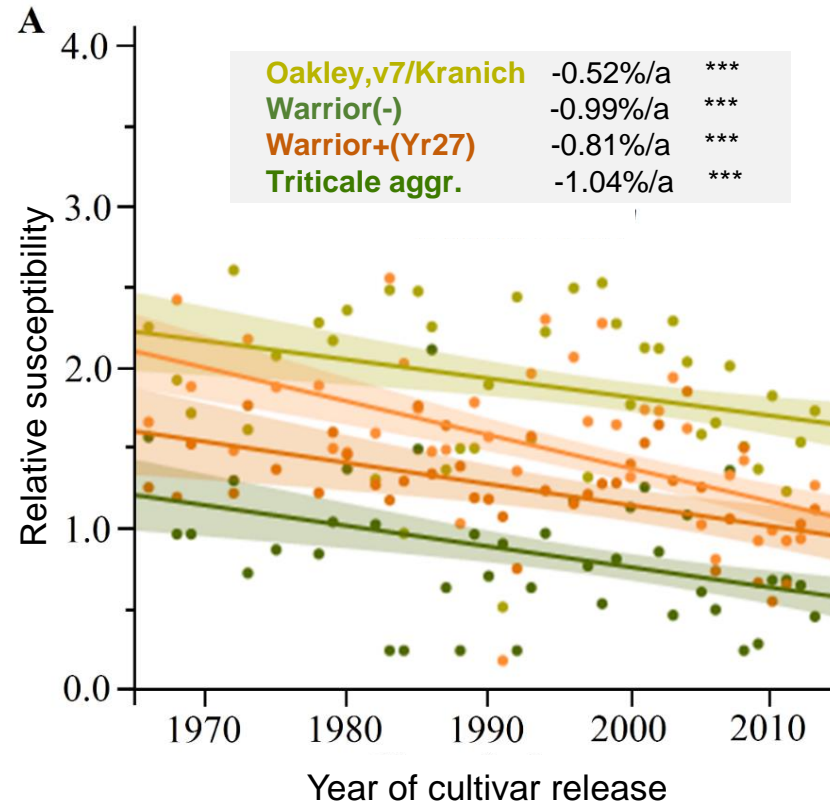
Resistance progress with no indication of slowing down!

Pathogen evolution ≈ 50 % of improvement against biotroph pathogens lost

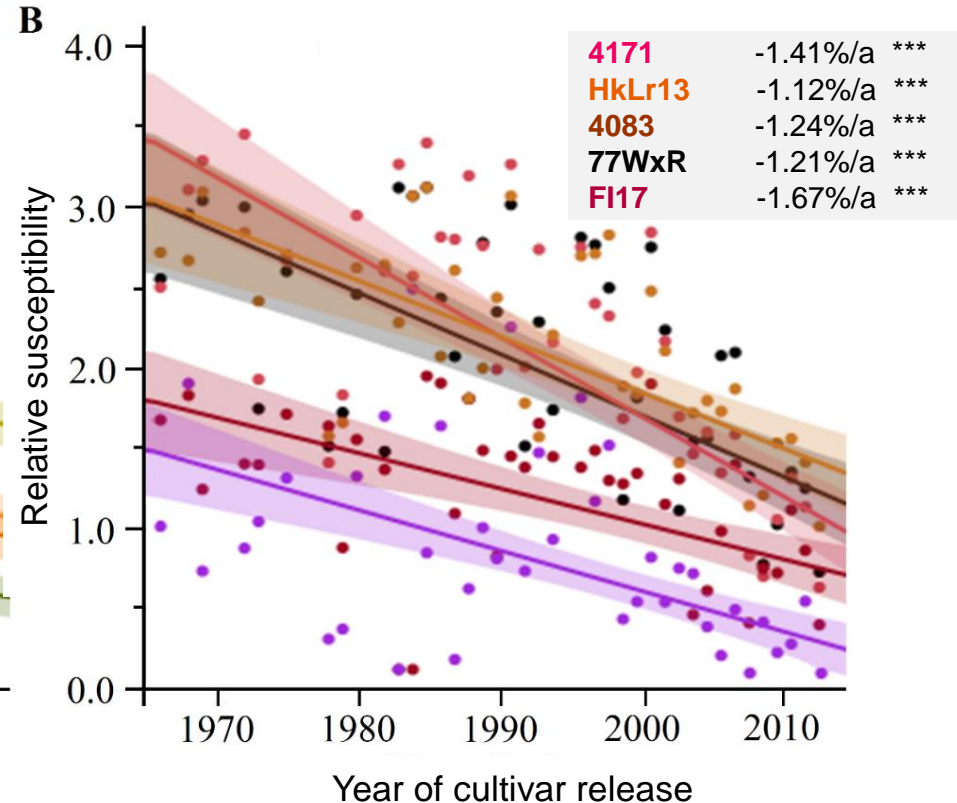
Breeding improved seedling resistance against several isolates



Stripe rust isolates



Leaf rust isolates

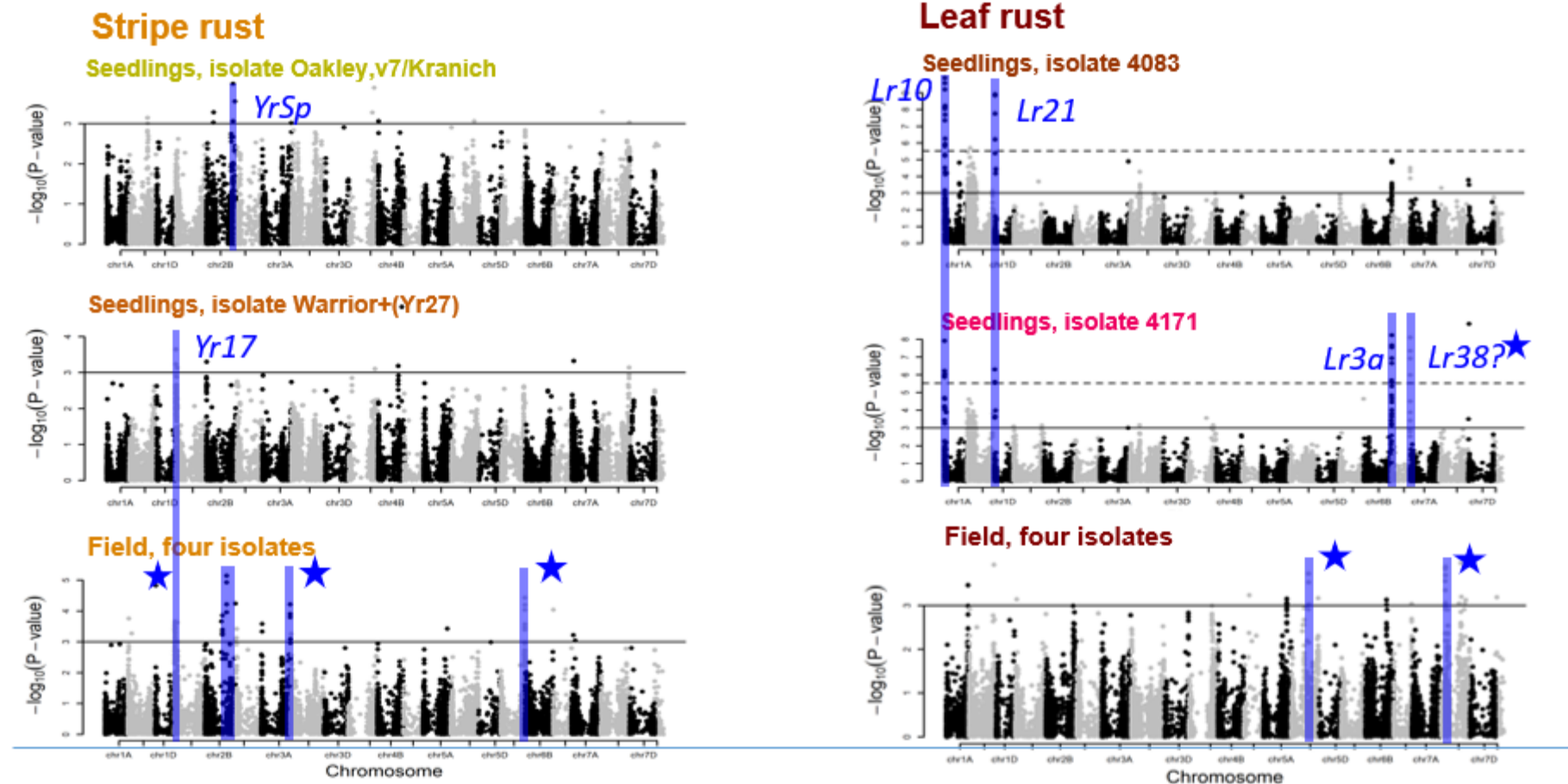


Note: Increase in race-specific seedling resistance against all rust isolates tested with similar trends
 → defeated R genes contribute to quantitative resistance or accumulation of QDR

Identified QTLs for resistance against stripe and leaf rust



based on GWAS results (16853 polymorphic SNP, MAF0.05), GENABEL (R)



Field resistance with additional or separate QTL (APR genes★), only partly overlap with seedlings resistance

Breeding increases yields in long term



Use of plant genetic resources for plant breeding is of vital importance in the light of climate change, consumer protection, protection of natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity), along with safeguarding a highly productive and environmentally friendly plant production.

RESEARCH

Genetic Gain Over 30 Years of Spring Wheat Breeding in Brazil

Leomar Guilherme Woyann, Ricardo Lima de Castro, Eduardo

ABSTRACT
Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the important crops in the world. Brazil is the largest importer of this cereal, and

Theor Appl Genet (2017) 130:223–245
DOI 10.1007/s00122-016-2810-3

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Breeding progress, environmental variation and correlation of winter wheat yield and quality traits in German official variety trials and on-farm during 1983–2014

Friedrich Laidig¹ · Hans-Peter Piepho² · Dirk Rentel¹ · Thor Uwe Meyer¹ · Alexandra Huesken³

Received: 30 May 2016 / Accepted: 8 October 2016 / Published online: 27 © The Author(s) 2016. This article is published with open access at Springer

Abstract

CrossMark

Theoretical and Applied Genetics (2021) 134:1613–1623
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00122-020-03729-3>

REVIEW

Crop adaptation to climate change as a consequence of long-term breeding

Rod J. Snowdon¹ · Benjamin Wittkop

Received: 19 August 2020 / Accepted: 11 November © The Author(s) 2020

Abstract
Major global crops in high-yielding, temperate

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect
Field Crops Research
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fcr

ELSEVIER

Genetic improvement in density and nitrogen stress over 38 years of commercial maize hybrid release

Keru Chen^{a,*}, James J. Camberato^a, Mitchell R. Tuinstra^a, Sarath Matthijs Tollenaar^b, Tony J. Vyn^{a,*}

^a Agronomy Department, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 47907, USA, USA
^b AgMaize Modeling Project, The Climate Corporation, Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham, NC, 27709, USA

ARTICLE INFO
Article history:
Received 2 April 2016

ABSTRACT
Research attention to improving source and sink yield, investment in source research has

nature plants

Breeding improves wheat productivity under contrasting agrochemical input levels

Kai P. Voss-Fels^{1,2,11}, Andreas Stahl^{1,11}, Benjamin Wittkop^{1,11}, Carolin Lichthardt³, Sabrina Nagler⁴, Till Rose⁴, Tsu-Wei Chen³, Holger Zetzsche⁵, Sylvia Seddig⁶, Mirza Majid Baig⁷, Agim Ballvora⁷, Matthias Frisch⁸, Elizabeth Ross², Ben J. Hayes², Matthew J. Hayden⁹, Frank Ordon⁵, Jens Leon^{7,10}, Henning Kage⁴, Wolfgang Friedt^{3*} and Rod J. Snowdon^{1*}

ARTICLES
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41477-019-0445-5>

Evaluation in multi-location field trials



European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources

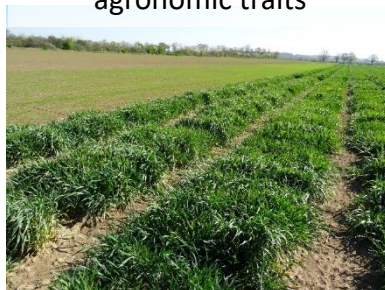
Trials with up to 200 wheat genotypes annually at up to 30 locations across Europe



multiplication



First selection by testing agronomic traits



Start of the evaluation with Winter types 2020/2021

Standardized evaluation methods and documentation

Rhynchosporium secalis _ SB

spring barley Rhynchosporium Blattflecken scald

Testdesign: micro plots

The screening for resistance is achieved by field experiments in micro plots or hill plots without replications. For the common diseases standard comparators are included. Inoculation, data collection and data processing are carried out as described below.

Inoculation: **standard method:** natural infection **alternative:** At EC-stage 37 – 39 a suspension of conidia (4.000 to 6.000 conidia/ml) with detergent (0,05% Tween 20) is applied to the plants, which are then protected overnight (10 to 12 h) with a plastic sheet to maintain optimal infection conditions (100 % RH).

Rating **rating date:** At heading (BBCH 37) Repeated estimations of infested leaf area are carried out weekly over the complete disease period. Three estimations at weekly intervals might be the minimum

rating trait 1. Symptom expression as percentage of infested leaf area

alternatively: Symptom expression as score

additional traits: 2. Date 3. Developmental Stage (average/plot – min and max)

Standards: resistant: Westminster susceptible: Lenka

Puccinia hordei-WB

Puccinia hordei - leaf rust winter barley

Testdesign: micro plots

The screening for resistance is achieved by field experiments in micro plots or hill plots without replications. For the common diseases standard comparators are included. Inoculation, data collection and data processing are carried out as described below.

Inoculation: **standard method:** natural occurrence **artificially:** A suspension of spores in oil (Isopar M from Solitrol) is sprayed with a micro sprayer over the spreader rows (80-100 mg spores in 30 ml oil for 100m) on a cloudy day and high atmospheric humidity at beginning of May (BBCH 29-30)at temperatures from 10° to 15°C. The plant leaves need to be dry.

inoculation stage: BBCH 25-29

Rating **rating date:** BBCH 53-55

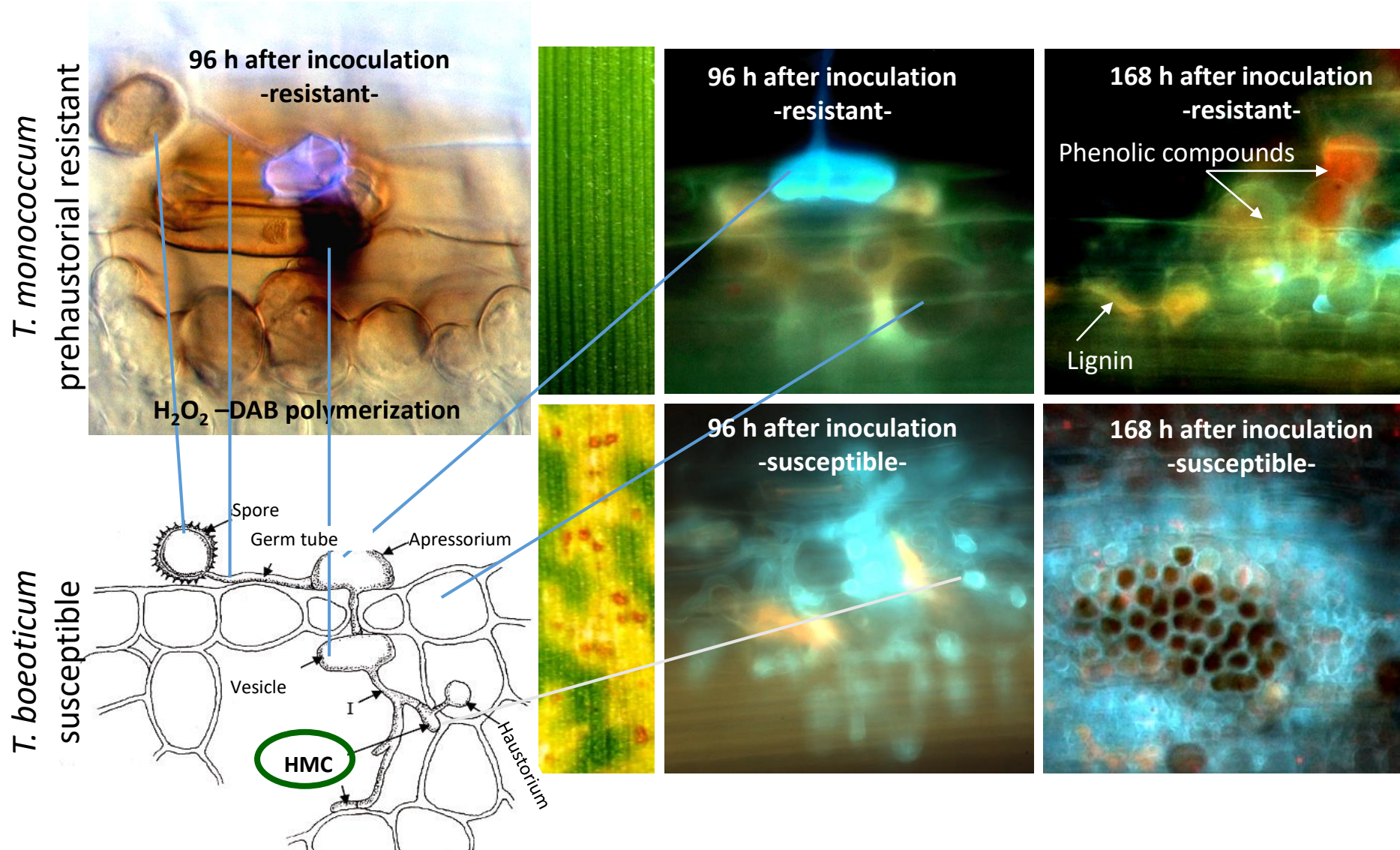
parameter to assess: 1. Symptom expression as percentage of infested leaf area

alternatively: Symptom expression as score

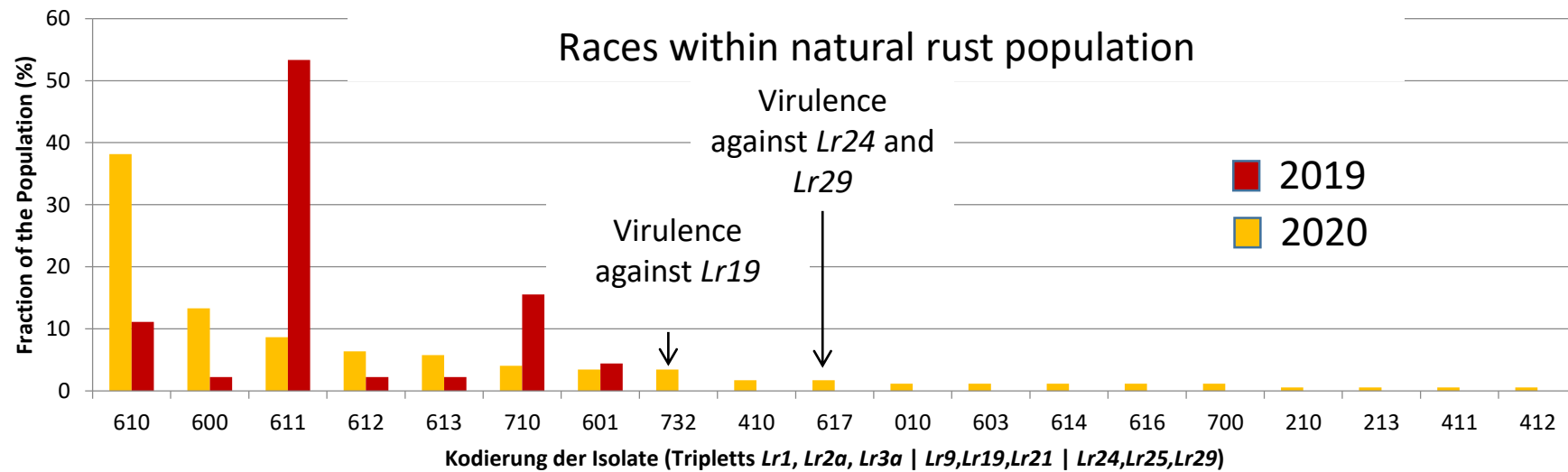
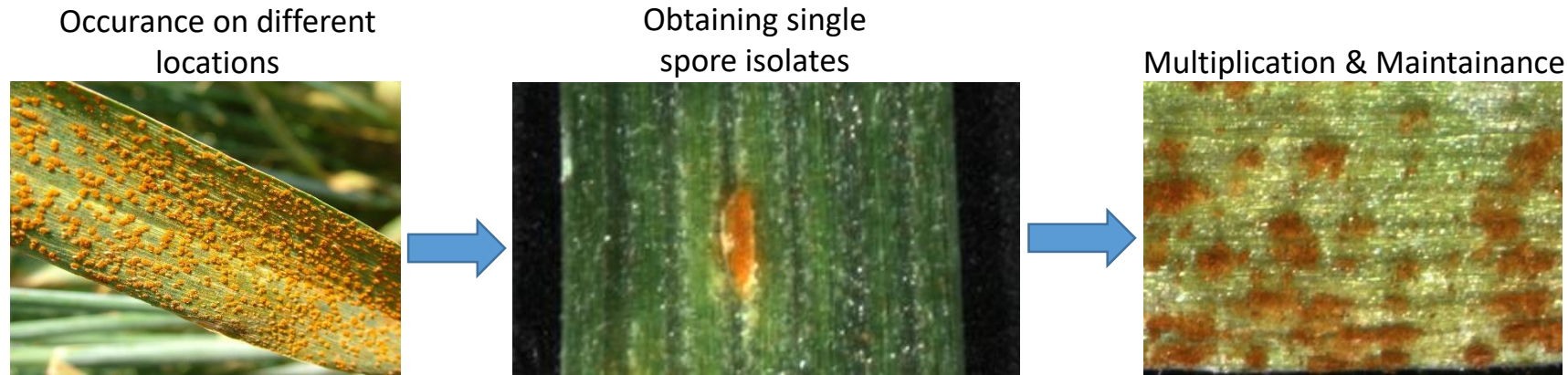
additional traits: 2. Date 3. Developmental stage average/plot – min - max

resistant standard variety: Merlot **susceptible standard variety:** Candesse

Characterization of resistance mechanisms in genetic resources of wheat



Evaluation of the efficacy of resistance genes by near-isogenic lines



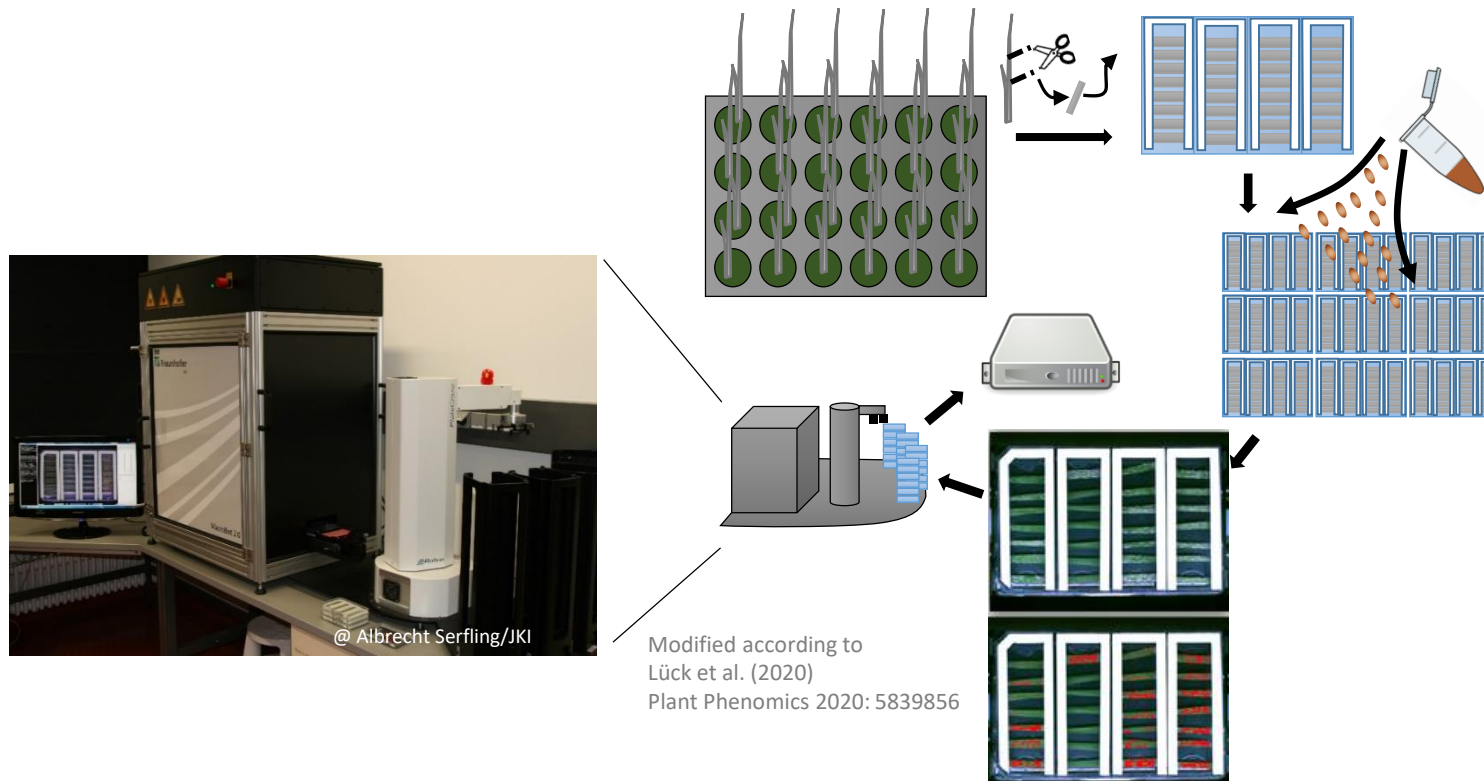
Use of breeds with previously unknown virulences.

Aggressive breeds (strong sporulation, symptom expression, leaf damage)

➔ How effective is resistance to such races?

Digital phenotyping of stripe and leaf rust infection

Semi-automated phenotyping as a high-throughput method, allows larger sample numbers, increased accuracy, and more replicates to be collected in a short time.



In the "GeneBank2.0" project approximately 9,700 winter wheat and 9,500 spring wheat accessions of the IPK genebank are screened using detached leaf assays for effective sources of resistance to stripe and leaf rust.



Ulrike Beukert
Anne-Kathrin Pfrieme
Albrecht Serfling



Jochen Reif
Albert Schulthess



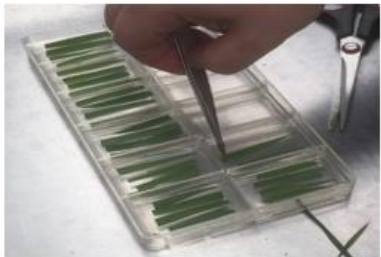
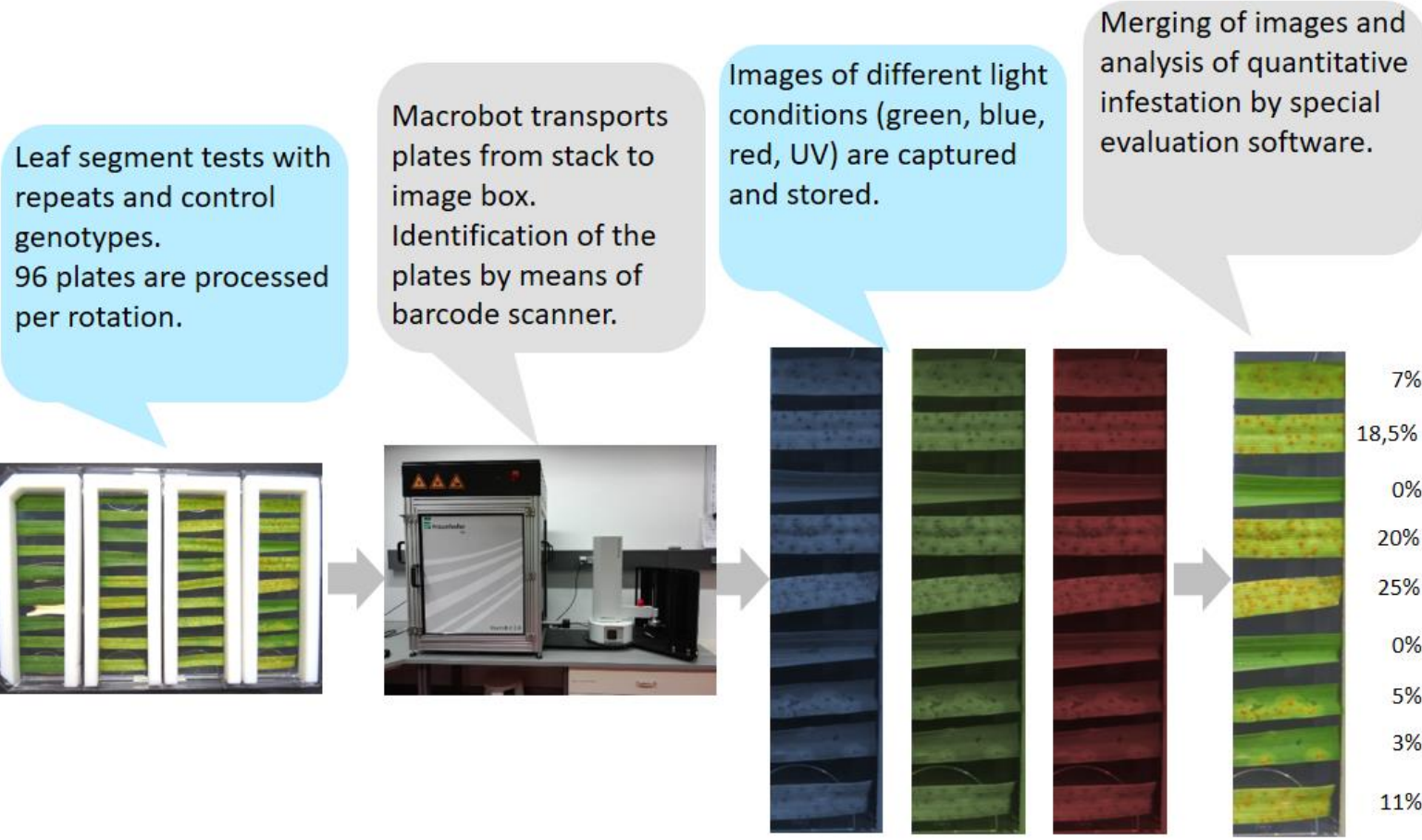
Digital phenotyping of stripe and leaf rust infection



Ulrike Beukert
Anne-Kathrin Pfrieme
Albrecht Serfling



Jochen Reif
Albert Schulthess



@ Albrecht Serfling/JKI

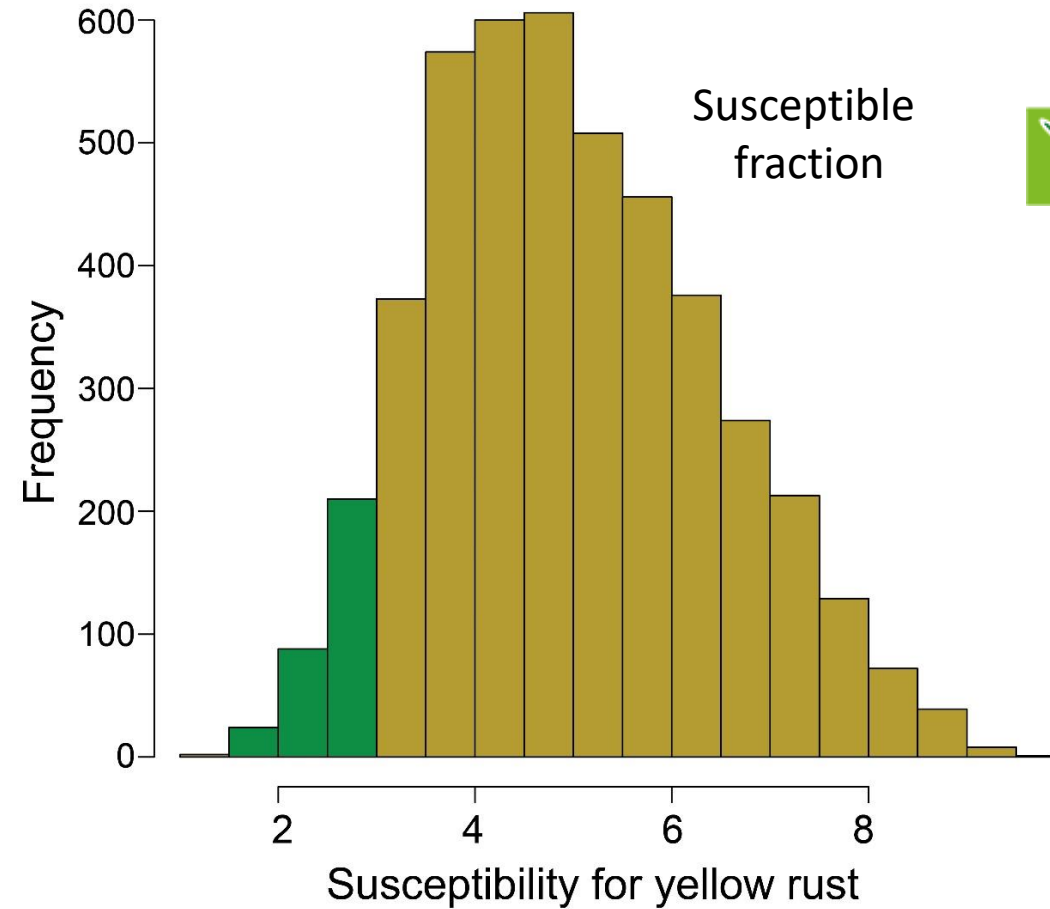
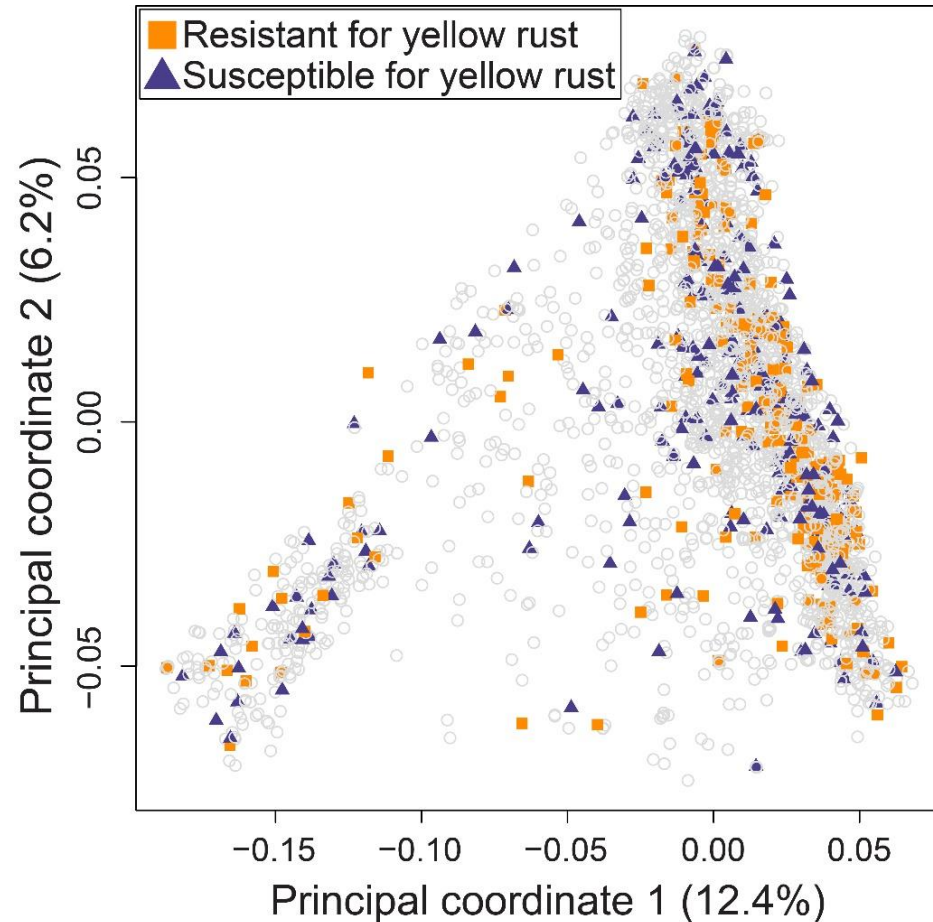
Digital phenotyping enables screening of very large genotype collections



Ulrike Beukert
Anne-Kathrin Pfrieme
Albrecht Serfling

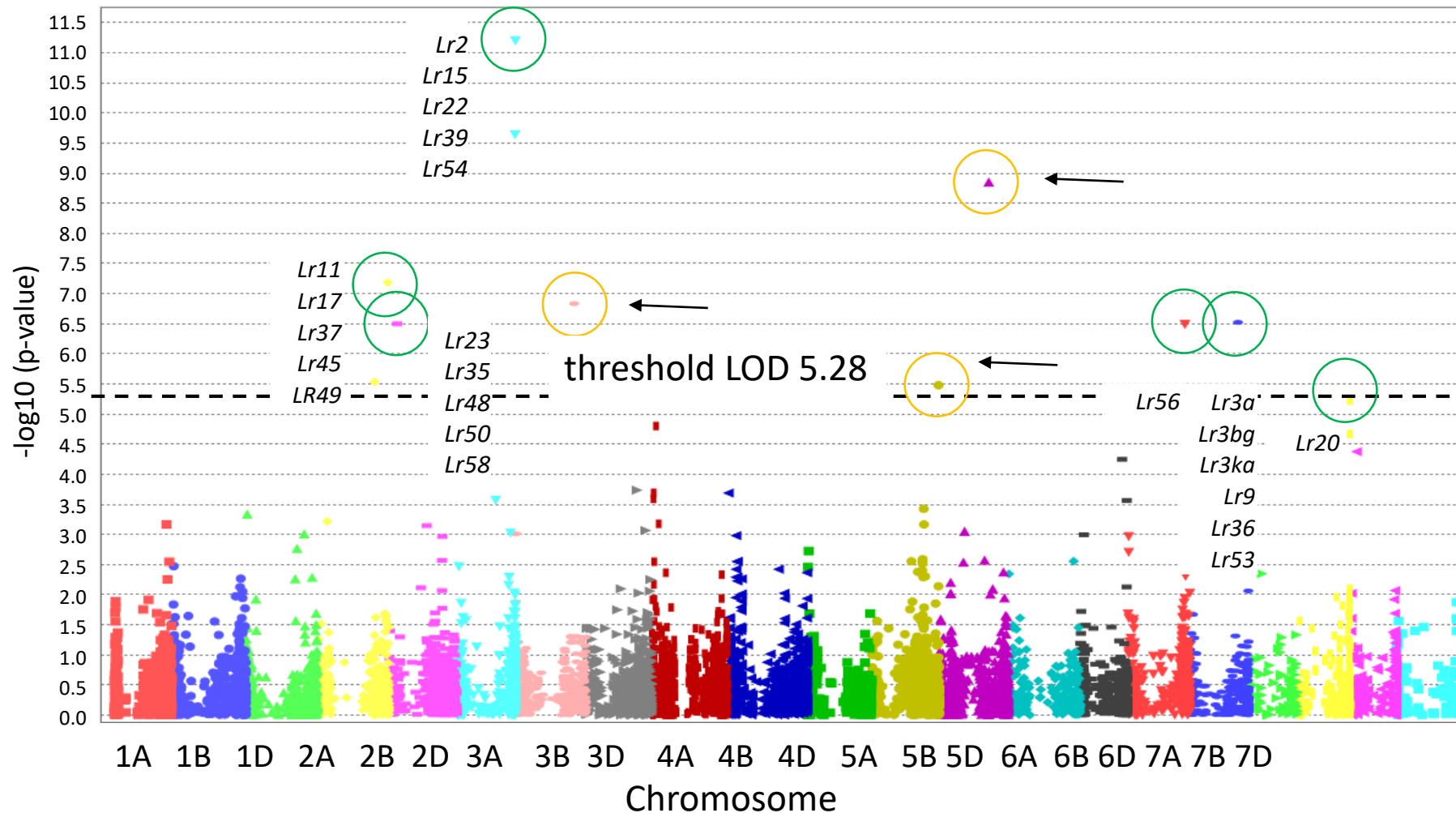


Jochen Reif
Albert Schulthess



Identification of unknown resistance loci

GWAS of more than 1000 wheat genetic resources from the ECPGR evaluation program



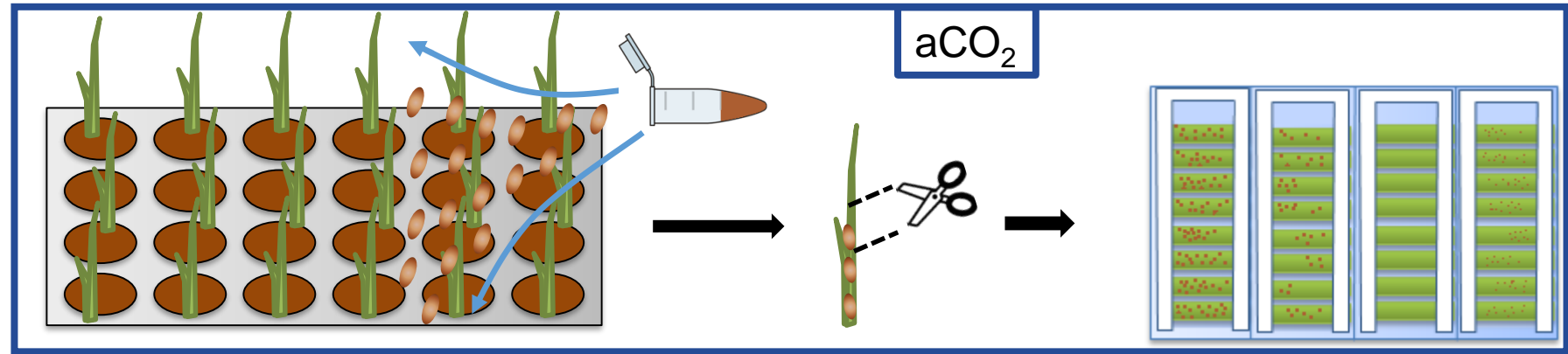
Ulrike Beukert
Anne-Kathrin Pfrieme
Albrecht Serfling



Jochen Reif
Albert Schulthess

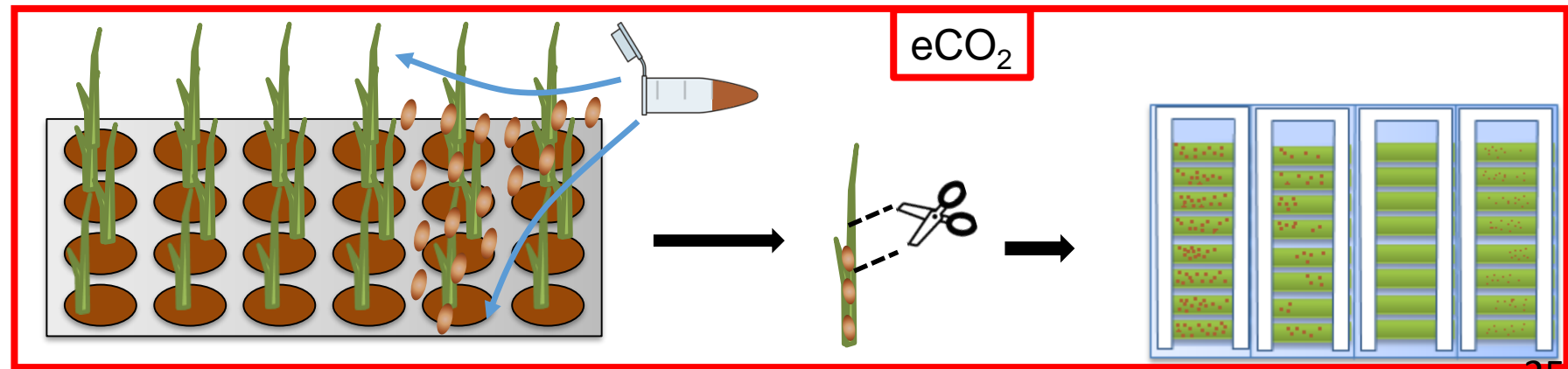


Quantification of the effect of elevated CO₂ on rust resistance



inoculation of the plants with leaf rust
by air-blowing of uredospores

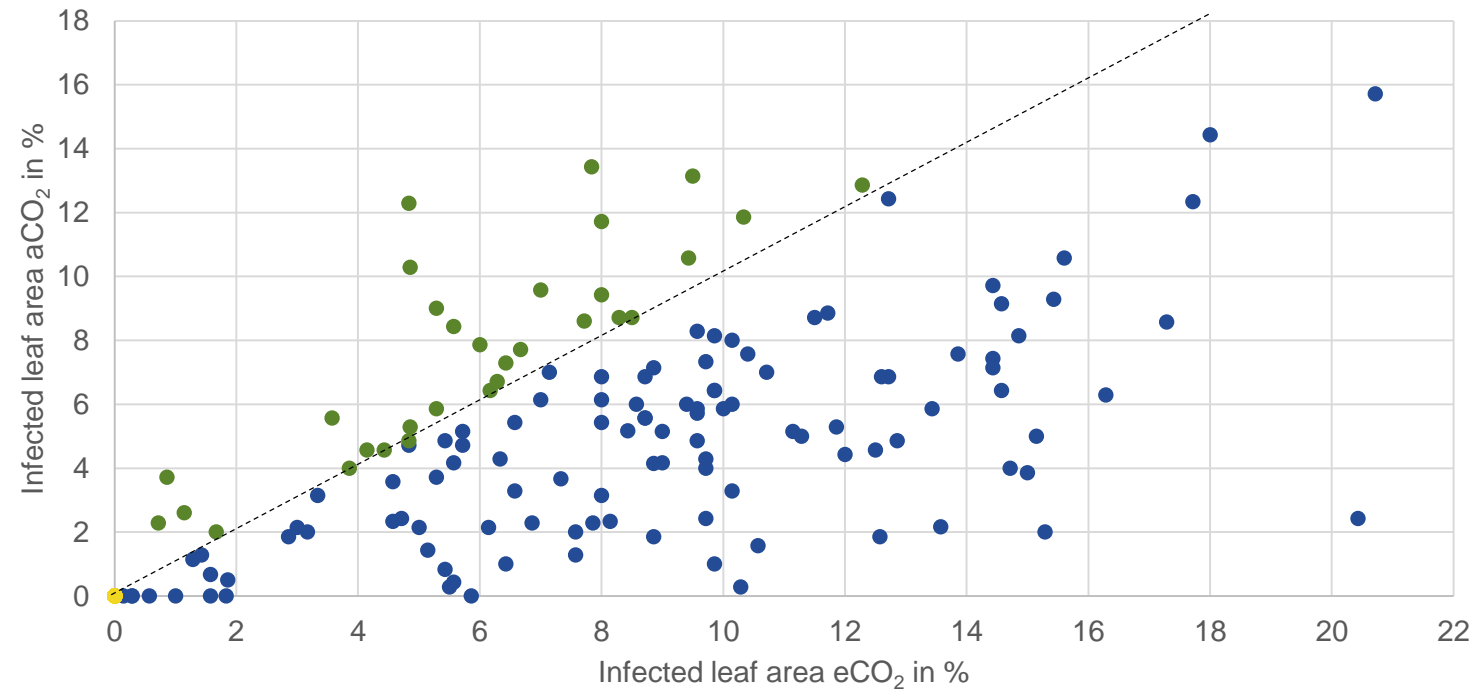
cutting and transferring of leaf segments to a
standard 4-wells micotiter plate



Quantification of the effect of elevated CO₂ on rust resistance



infected leaf area aCO₂ vs. eCO₂



109 varieties ● (50.9%) showed an increased susceptibility under eCO₂
74 varieties ● (36.6%) showed no susceptibility under both CO₂ conditions
31 varieties ● (14.4%) showed a higher susceptibility under aCO₂

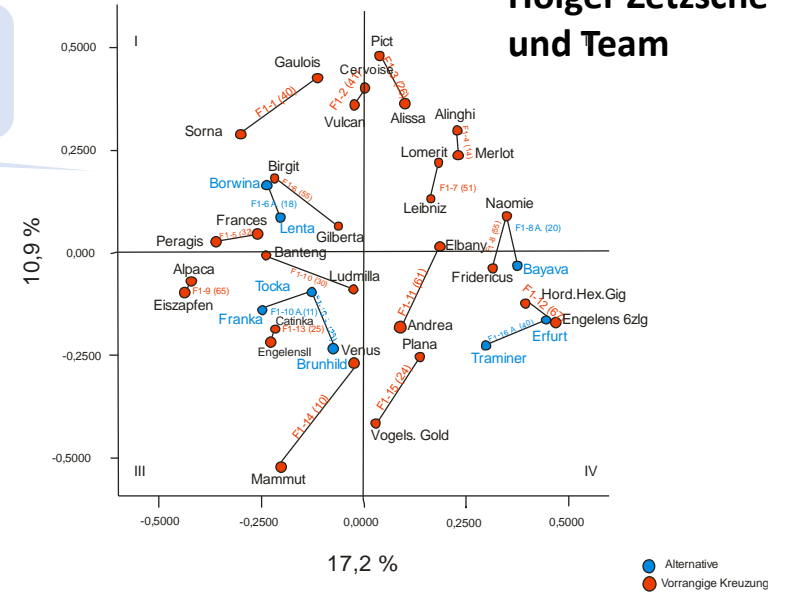
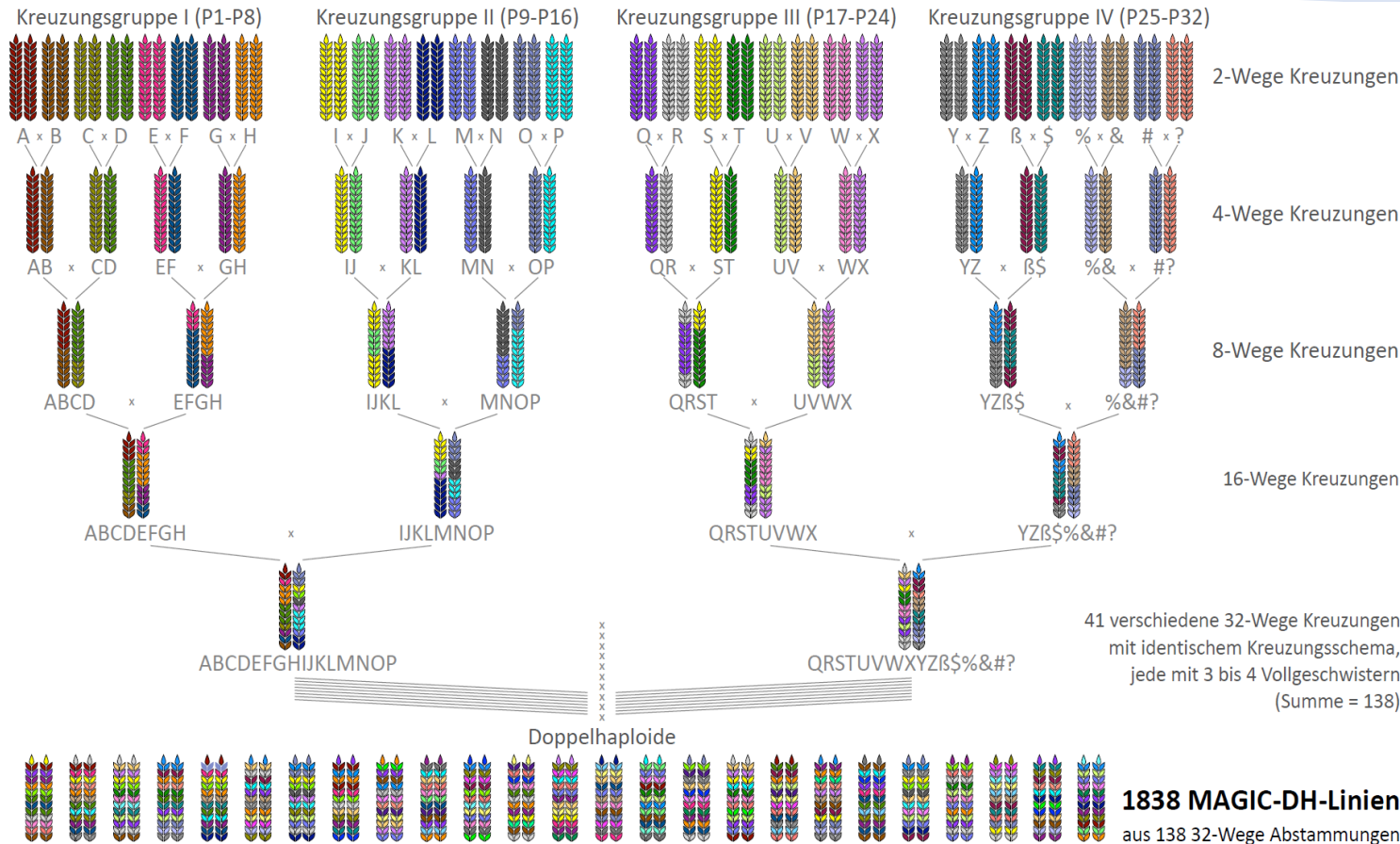
Utilization of genetic diversity: 32-parent winter barley MAGIC population

Multiparent advanced generation intercross (MAGIC)



Holger Zetzsche
und Team

32 parents with significant differences in leaf rust, powdery mildew net blotch etc.
Breeding history and genetic diversity of barley in central Europe (1933-2007)



ca. 1200 Parzellen am Trockenstressstandort der JLU in Groß Gerau

Research to increase smut and bunt Resistance in wheat and barley



Aim: Identification of previously not used sources of resistance from genetic resources. To this end, >800 accessions from the IPK gene bank are inoculated and tested



Source: Claire Ferreira & Danny Denks



Source: Danny Denks



Claire Ferreira
Albrecht Serfling



UNIKASSEL
VERSITÄT



Use of digital phenotyping...

...in disease resistance research



Source: Albrecht Serfling



Source: Albrecht Serfling



Source: Andreas Stahl

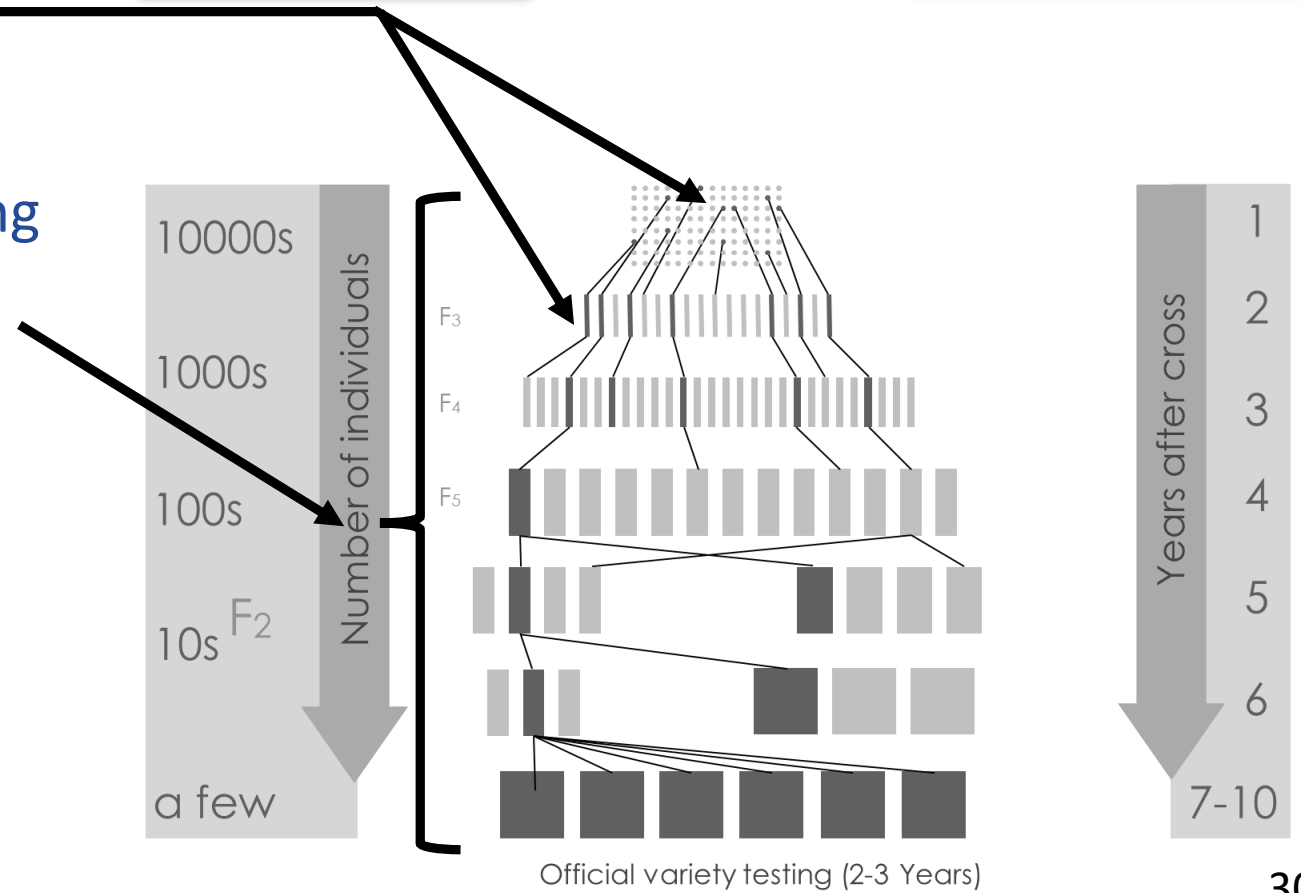
Breeding is a long-term process

Digital methods can speed it up!

Digital phenotyping...

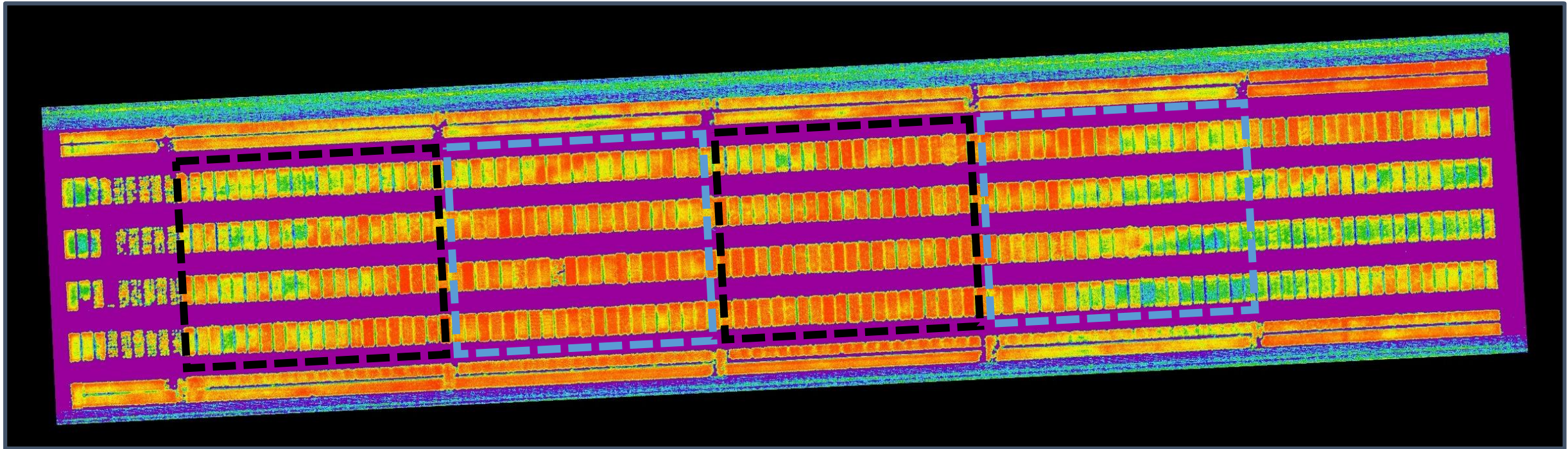
1) ... for disease resistance research

2) ... in non-destructive field phenotyping



Field Overview with RGB and Vegetation Indexes

Heike Lehnert
Sebastian Warnemünde



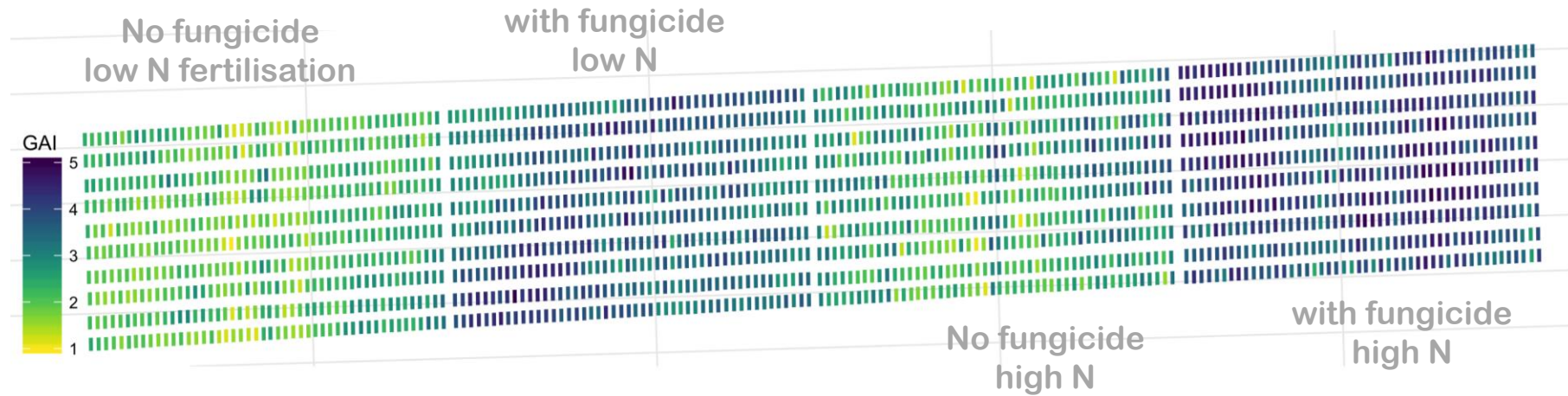
Repetition 1
drill sowing

Repetition 1
equal sowing

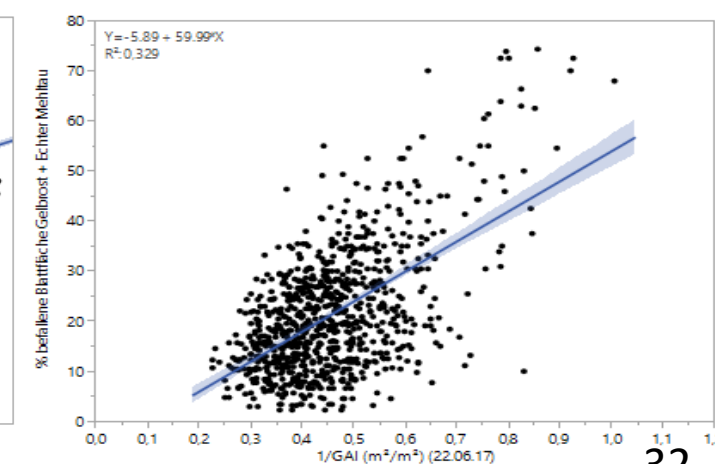
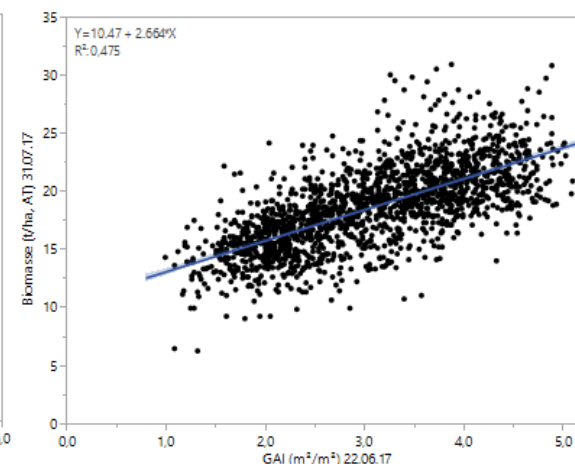
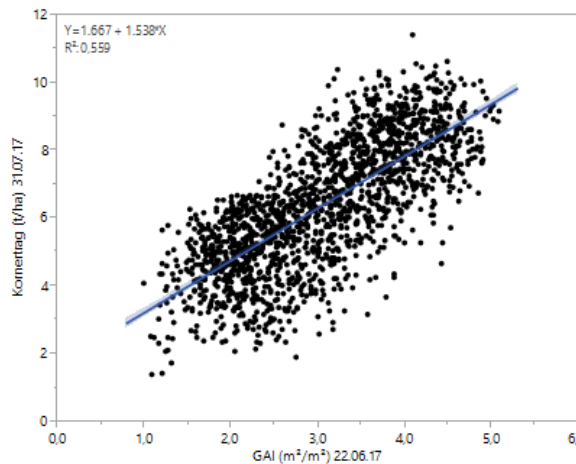
Repetition 2
drill sowing

Repetition 2
equal sowing

Digital field phenotyping

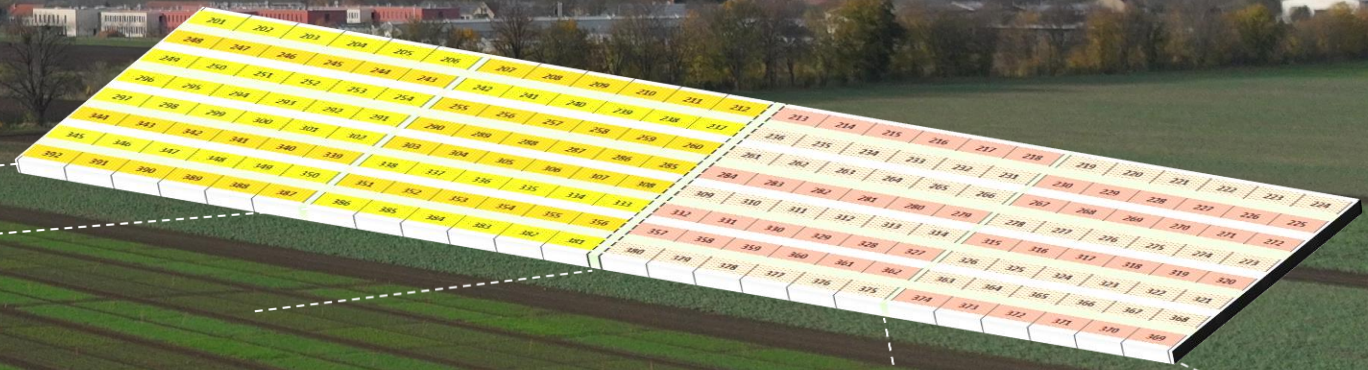


- Recording of different wavelengths after heading
- Calculation GAI (T. Rose, Uni Kiel)
- Correlation of plot mean values
- with yield, biomass and yellow rust+mildew.



FAIR-Fields-Project

Interdisciplinary investigation of interactions within the framework of a multidimensional experimental approach



Factorial of different cultivation parameters

(48 Factor combinations)

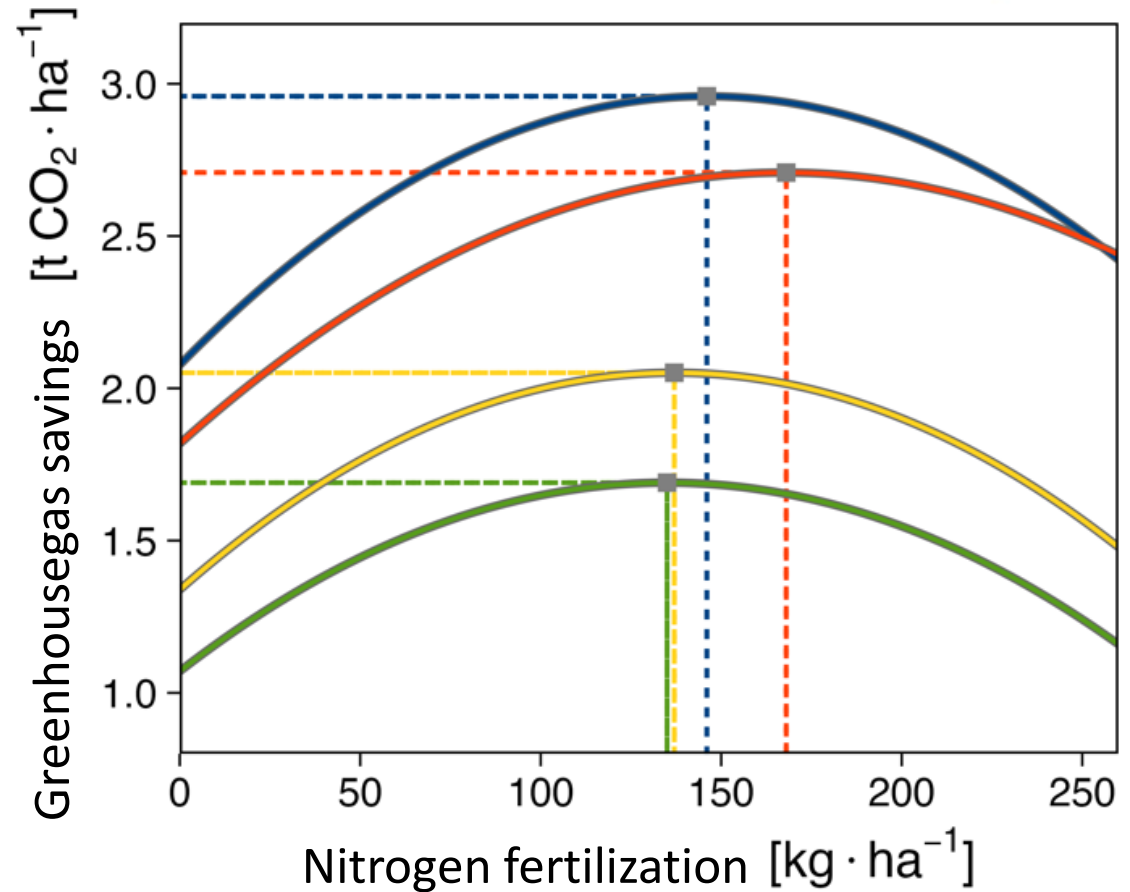
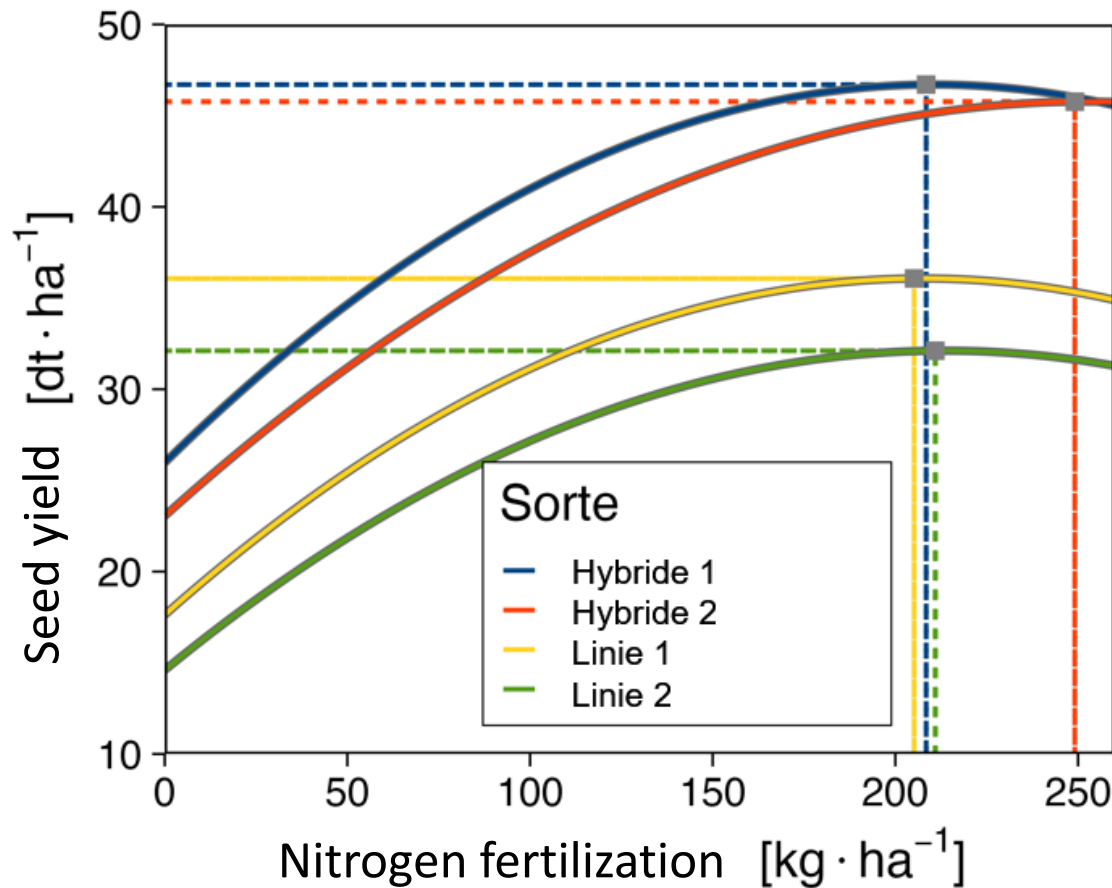
- **Preceding crop** (Faba beans vs. corn)
- **Wheat genotypes** (contrasting resistance levels)
- **Date of sowing** (early vs. late)
- **Plat protection intensity** (with fungicide and herbicide vs. without)



Quelle: Sebastian Warnemünde

Yield response to nitrogen fertilization

(here winter oilseed rape)



Breeding driven enhancement of NUE



doi:10.1111/pbr.12371

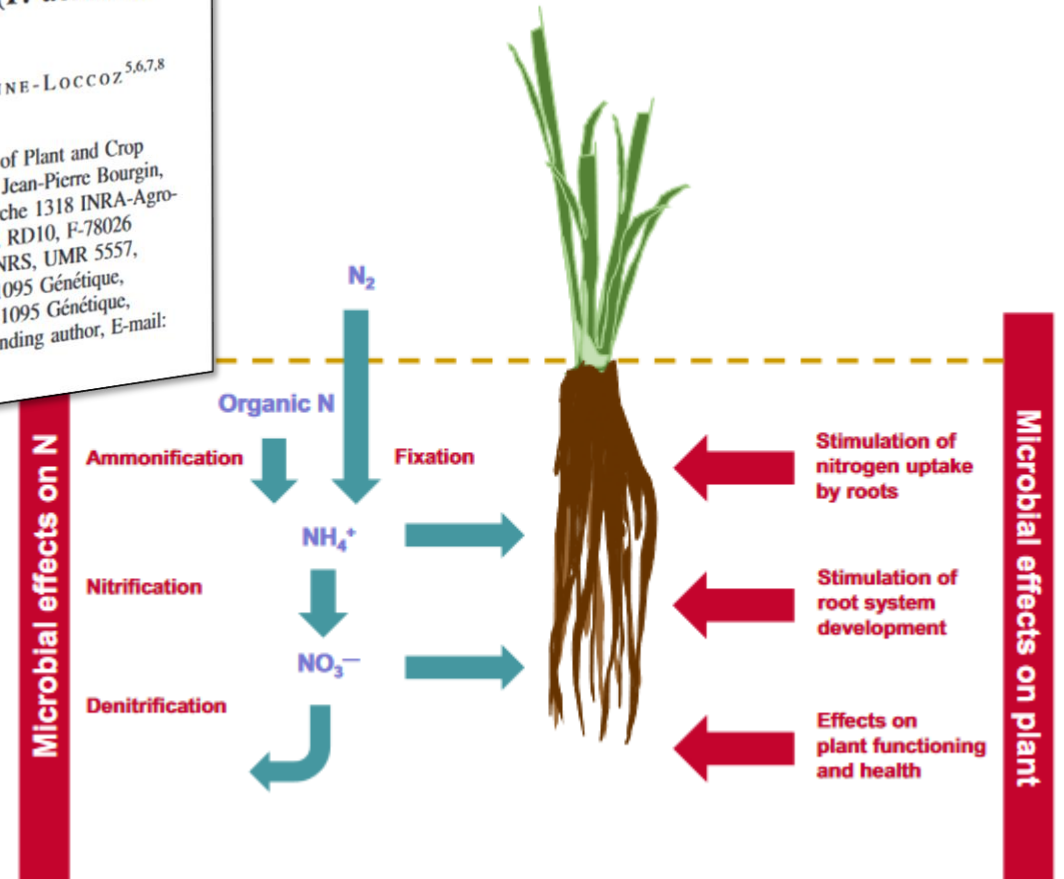
Plant Breeding, 135, 255–278 (2016)
© 2016 Blackwell Verlag GmbH

Plant Breeding

Review
Breeding for increased nitrogen-use efficiency: a review for wheat (*T. aestivum* L.)

FABIEN CORMIER¹, JOHN FOULKES², BERTRAND HIREL³, DAVID GOUACHE⁴, YVAN MOËNNE-LOCCOZ^{5,6,7,8} and JACQUES LE GOUIS^{7,8}

¹Biogemma, Centre de Recherche de Chappes, Route d'Ennezat CS90126, 63720 Chappes, France; ²Division of Plant and Crop Sciences, The University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough LE12 5RD, UK; ³Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Centre de Versailles-Grignon, Unité Mixte de Recherche (CNRS) 3559, RD10, F-78026 Versailles Cedex, France; ⁴Arvalis Institut du Végétal, Station Expérimentale, 91720, Boigneville, France; ⁵CNRS, UMR 5557, Ecologie Microbienne, 69622 Villeurbanne, France; ⁶Université Lyon 1, 69003 Lyon, France; ⁷INRA, UMR 1095 Génétique, Diversité et Ecophysiologie des Céréales, 5 Chemin de Beaulieu, F-63-039 Clermont-Ferrand, France; ⁸UMR 1095 Génétique, Diversité et Ecophysiologie des Céréales, Université Blaise Pascal, F-63177 Aubière Cedex, France; Corresponding author, E-mail: jacques.legouis@clermont.inra.fr



Breeding driven enhancement of NUE



Agron. Sustain. Dev. (2016) 36: 38
DOI 10.1007/s13593-016-0371-0

REVIEW ARTICLE

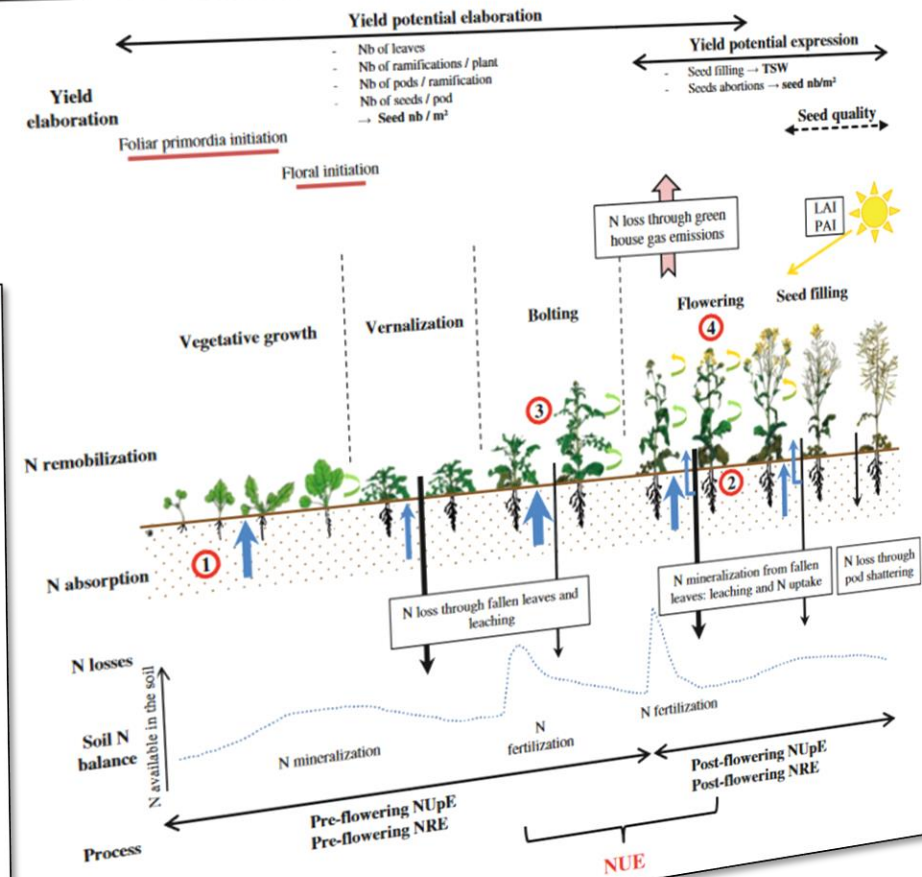
Nitrogen use efficiency in rapeseed. A review

Anne-Sophie Bouchet¹ · Anne Laperche² · Christine Bissuel-Belaygue² ·
Rod Snowdon³ · Nathalie Nesi¹ · Andreas Stahl³



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Agron. Sustain. Dev. (2016) 36: 38



Agron. Sustain. Dev. (2016) 36: 38

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Fig. 6 Comparison of root morphology at harvest between winter oilseed rape genotypes grown under semicontrolled conditions with low N input. Cultivar "Expert" showing few lateral roots (a). Cultivar "Groß Lüsewitzer" with intense lateral root network (b). Both pictures were taken on the day of seed harvest and represent the roots from nine container-grown plants grown with low N-fertilization levels (75 kg N ha⁻¹ as an equivalent) (A. Stahl and R. Snowdon, unpublished data)



Thinking beyond current systems

Priming as a new resistance strategy

Systemic resistance in cereals by bacteria



Christiane Seiler
Behnaz Soleimani
Andrea Matros
Gwendolin Wehner



Dwarf rust
Puccinia hordei
in Barley

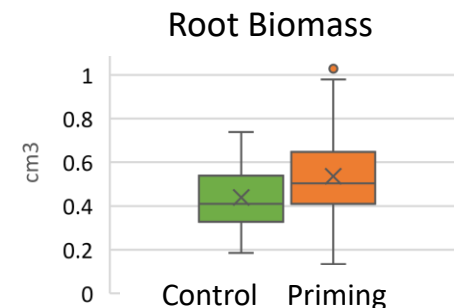
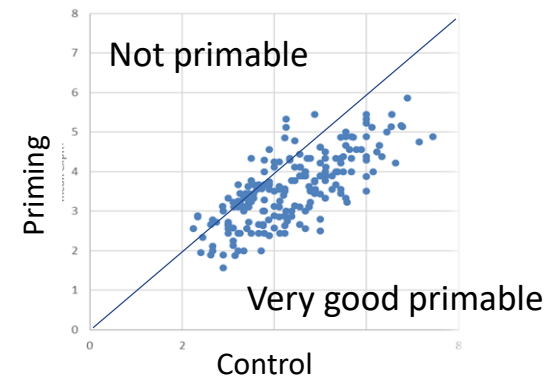
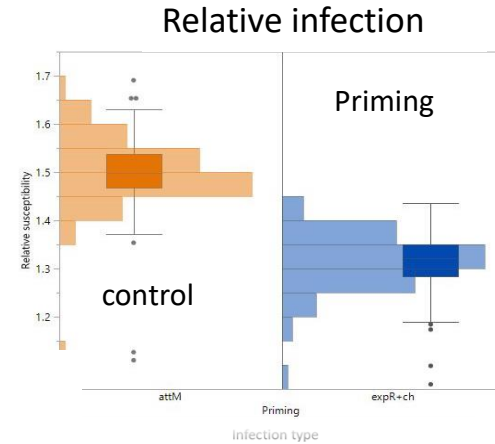
Net blotches
Pyrenophora teres
in Barley

Priming of 200 genotypes with
Ensifer meliloti

Brown rust
Puccinia Triticina
in Wheat

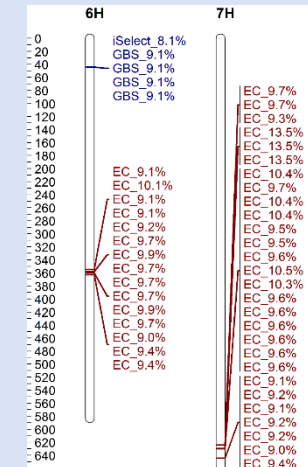
AHL induced systemic Resistance

AHL = N-Acyl-Homoserin-Lacton



Identifikation of molecular marker (GWAS)

Development of molecular marker for priming efficiency



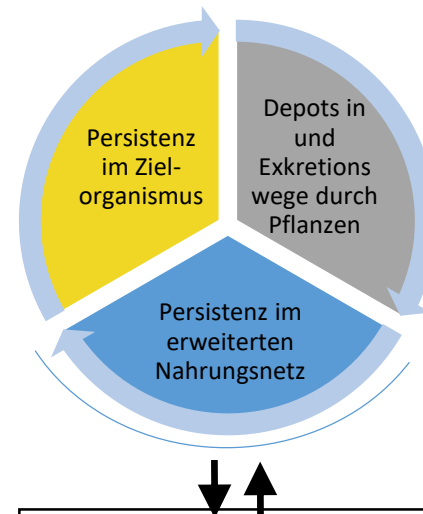
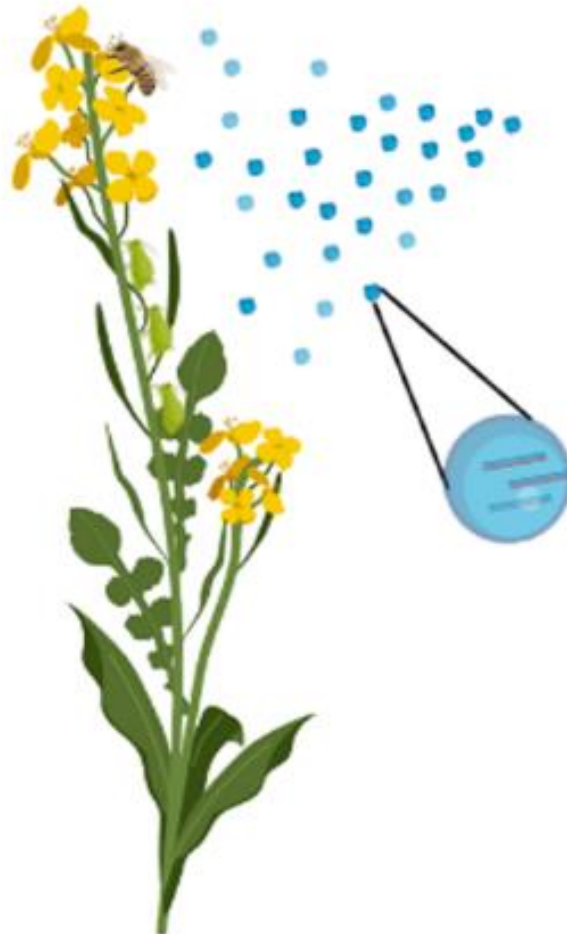
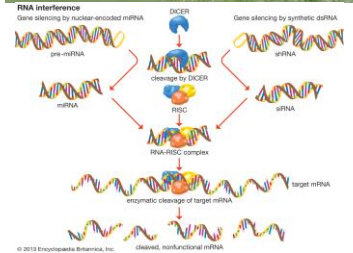
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

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SprayRNA (Spray induced gene silencing)

Promising & highly flexible approach for the control of insect pests and pathogens



Focus Group RNAi
Composition of the focus group from scientists of the JKI institutes with competence in the field of RNAi.
Expansion to include possible external scientists and BVL.

Investigation:

- Expression of the RNAi effect at different temperatures.possible routes of exposure of dsRNA and siRNA after spray application (e.g. via nectaries as well as a possible transmission along the food chain.)
- Bundling of expertise through formation of a "Focus Group RNAi",Networking within the JKI

Projects on minor crops

Accelerating Crop Genetic Gain



Sorghum

Insect-friendly, multi-use cereal crop with excellent drought and heat tolerance (*but poor cold adaptation*)

Faba bean

Insect-pollinated, nitrogen-fixing pulse crop (*but poor yield stability due to low drought and heat tolerance*)

Winter lentil - new project for mixed crop cultivation



Christoph Germeier



Lentillon de Champagne, winterharte Champagnerlinse mit Winterhartweizen als Stützfrucht. ©Frauke Germer, JKI, 18.04.2024



Dornburger Speiselinse, alte Thüringer Sorte mit recht guter Winterhärte, mit Winterhartweizen als Stützfrucht. ©Christoph Germeier, JKI, 21.04.2024



Kafkas, türkische Winterlinsensorte, mit Winterhartweizen als Stützfrucht. ©Christoph Germeier, JKI, 21.04.2024



Blockanlage: 5 Wiederholungen, (z.T. ¹⁵N-Anreicherung mit Guano in Streifen zur Bestimmung von N-Fixierung und Transfer über Isotopenmassenspektrometrie)

Outlook & Summary



- Breeding contributes significantly to securing high yield potential and counteracts yield-limiting factors (temperature and drought stress, diseases, etc.).
- Breeding usually takes many years - but can be accelerated and fine-tuned.
- Therefore, digital tools help to better understand plant characteristics and physiological determinants.
- Together with genetic information, breeders can act faster than before and accelerate breeding progress.

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Projektträger Jülich
Forschungszentrum Jülich



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aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



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All members of the Institute RS
... and all cooperation partners

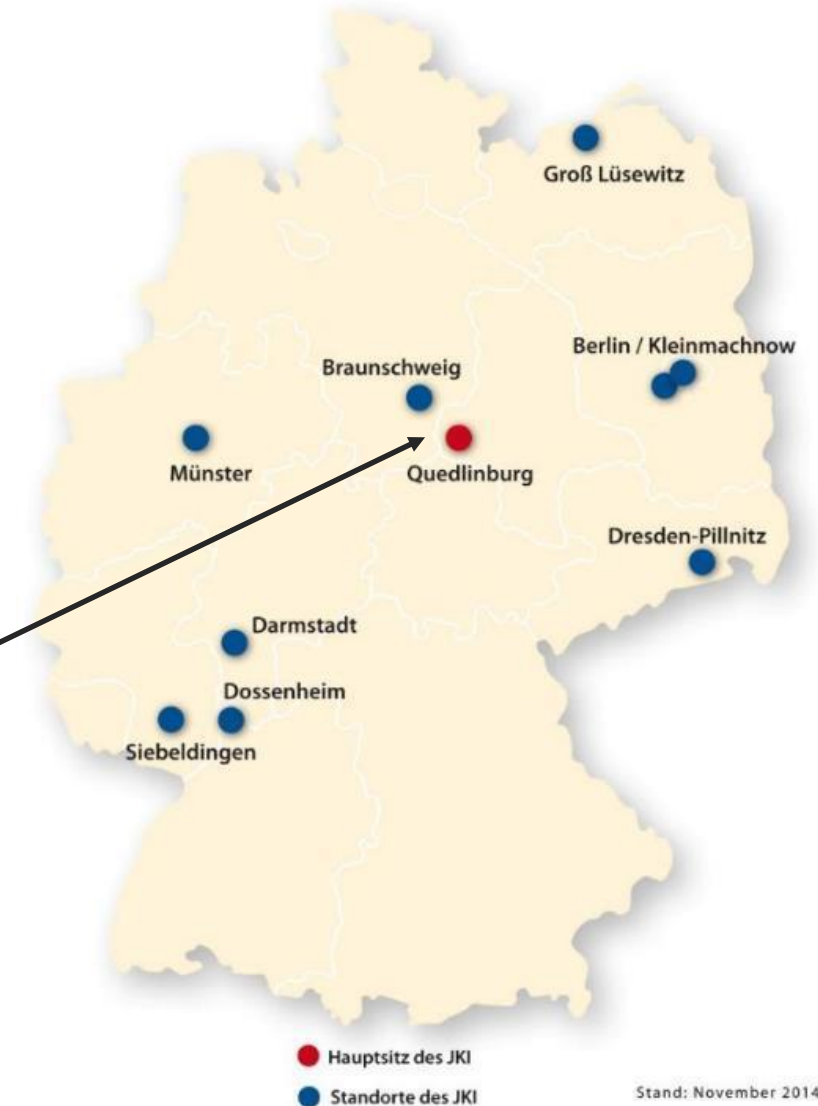
Research at Julius Kühn-Institute



Resistance research viruses, fungi, insects a. bacteria



Stress tolerance heat, frost, drought a. nutrient deficiency



**Merci beaucoup pour
votre attention**

