Forty years ago, 144 scientists from 22 countries met in Bari, Italy, to discuss for the first time advances in Genetics and Breeding of Durum Wheat, then considered a minor crop. Organised by Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza from the University of Bari under the auspices of Eucarpia, the meeting included six invited lectures and 43 presentations which highlighted the crop’s problems in the different cultivation areas and research progress in genetics and cytogenetics, genetic resources, male-sterility, breeding for yield, diseases and pest resistance, nutritional and technological quality.

Since Bari, scientists have met in several conferences/symposia and regional networks have been organised under the auspices of different regional and international organisations. These meetings, their proceedings and scientific reviews and papers produced a comprehensive compilation of durum wheat knowledge for scientists, from the species’ origins in the Fertile Crescent to its current role as one of the most important cereals in human consumption. The latest of such international meetings took place in Bologna in 2008 under the name “From seed to pasta” and highlighted the latest research findings in the areas of crop distribution, taxonomy, genetics, physiology, breeding for general and specific adaptation. Emphasis on the use of modern scientific tools in molecular biology, cytogenetics, genomics, statistics, bioinformatics and others in strategic and applied research was made.

However, whereas options and interest for its utilisation are increasing, the scientific community needs to recognise that factors challenging durum wheat production and its global sustainability remain unresolved and require continued mobilization. Durum Wheat is a main staple food crop in some marginal areas where it is critical to food security and income generation for resources limited farmers. Traditional diseases, pests and environmental stresses continue to heavily limit crop production and to downgrage the commercial and utilisation value of its harvested grain. Climate change will not only worsen these constraints but is also pushing durum wheat cultivation toward higher latitude areas, where it will experience unfamiliar pests, diseases, weeds and different soil types. The range of products made from durum wheat is widening and their consumption increasing in regions where it is not cultivated and/or its products were not part of traditional consumption, pushing us to reconsider the key characteristics needed to obtain suitable processing quality. At the same time, advances in science are providing better research options and breeding strategies that can be used in developing varieties able to provide a sustainable production under these scenarios of more constraining environments and changing consumption trends.

In this context, the Italian National Academy of Sciences, known as The Forty in partnership with several national and international organisations, is organising a four-days International symposium on the theme “Genetics and Breeding of Durum Wheat: Forty years later“ to be held in May 27-
30, 2013 in Rome, Italy. Dedicated to and in honour of the late President of the Italian National Academy of Sciences, Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, this meeting will provide an opportunity for the international durum wheat researchers community to gather and share results of research activities and progress made in the area of durum wheat genetics and breeding and discuss ways forward in addressing local, regional and international challenges to the sustainability of durum wheat production.
Tentative Programme

Tuesday, May 27, 2013
Opening session
Session 1: Origin and evolution
Session 2: Genetic resources: safeguard and enhancement

Wednesday May 28, 2013
Session 3: Structural and Functional genetics
Session 4: Genetics and breeding for yield and sustainability

Thursday May 29, 2013
Session 5: Genetics and breeding for diseases and pest resistance
Visit to experimental field
Banquet

Friday May 30, 2013
Session 6: Genetics and breeding for nutritional and technological quality
Session 7: Traditional and molecular breeding
Closing session

Important dates

- Preliminary registration: March 1 - May 31, 2012
- Early Bird Registration and Abstract Submission: June 1 - October 31, 2012
- Registration and Abstract Submission: October 31 - December 31, 2012
- Registration and Papers Submission: January 1 - March 31, 2013
- Symposium Dates: Rome (Italy) May 27-30, 2013
International Symposium
GENETICS AND BREEDING OF DURUM WHEAT
May 27-30, 2013, Rome Italy

International Scientific Committee

A. Boerner Eucarpia
L. Cattivelli CRA-GPG, Italy
G. Charmet France
J. Clarke Canada
M. Feldman Israel
B. S. Gill USA
A. Graner Germany
D. Habash UK
R. R. Hanchinal India
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P. Langridge Australia
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M. Morgante IGA, Italy
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H. Özkan Turkey
A. I. Palamarchuk, Ukraine
C.O. Qualset USA
C. Rojo Spain
L.D. Rossi Fidaf, Italy
F. Salamini E. Mach Found.- IIAM, Italy
R. Tuberosa University of Bologna, Italy

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S. Ravaglia SIS, Italy
R. Simeone University of Bari, Italy
International Symposium
GENETICS AND BREEDING OF DURUM WHEAT
May 27-30, 2013, Rome Italy

Preliminary registration Form
To be sent to: segreteria@accademiaxl.it

Attendee

First Name: ........................................................................................................................................

Family Name: ...................................................................................................................................

Title (e.g. Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms): ....................................................................................................................

Position: .............................................................................................................................................

Department: ....................................................................................................................................... 

Organization: ...................................................................................................................................... 

Postal Address: .................................................................................................................................... 

City: ................................ Postcode: .................... Country: .................................................................

Phone (Office): .............................................. Fax (Office): ...............................................................

Mobile: ............................................................ Email: ...........................................................................

Session interest

Session no. ......................................................

Paper presentation  yes __  No __  Poster presentation  yes __  No __

Paper tentative title ............................................................................................................................... 

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Accompanying Person

First Name: ........................................................................................................................................

Family Name: ....................................................................................................................................

Title: ...................................................................................................................................................