



# Oat Global

## Meeting Minutes: Strategy Committee – 12/01/2015

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### Meeting Participants

Gabe Gusmini (gabe.gusmini@pepsico.com); Nicholas Tinker (Nick.Tinker@AGR.GC.CA); Ben Boroughs (bboroughs@namamillers.org); Catherine Howarth (cnh@aber.ac.uk); Tom Rabaey (Tom.Rabaey@genmills.com); Bruce Roskens (bruce.roskens@grainmillers.com); Jose Costa (jose.costa@ars.usda.gov); Wade Hainstock (wadehanda@aol.com); Gregory Cuomo (cuomogj@umn.edu); Daniel Scholl (daniel.scholl@sdstate.edu);

Excused: Pamela Zwer (pamela.zwer@sa.gov.au); Michèle Marcotte (Michele.Marcotte@AGR.GC.CA); Luiz Carlos Federizzi (federizzi@ufrgs.br); Jim Dyck (oatadvantage@gmail.com); Jack Okamuro (jack.okamuro@ars.usda.gov); Kenneth Grafton (k.grafton@ndsu.edu); William Tracy (wftracy@wisc.edu);

### Meeting Objectives

1. Introductions of new members.
2. Election of directors.
3. Projects updates (sponsored, strategically supported, inspired).
4. Update on international engagement.
5. Key objectives for 2016.
6. Shifting from supporting projects to setting strategy.
7. Developing a bio sketch of participants and communication material.
8. Meeting schedule for 2016.
9. AOB.

### Discussions and Resolutions

#### New Members

In 2014 it was duly noted that key US universities were not represented in this committee. The following organizations have accepted an invitation to join the Oat Global Strategy Team effective this date and nominated their representatives:

- North Dakota State University: Dr. Kenneth Grafton
- University of Wisconsin: Dr. William F. Tracy
- University of Minnesota: Dr. Gregory Cuomo
- South Dakota State University: Dr. Daniel Scholl
- Agriculture and Agri Food Canada: Dr. Michelle Marcotte

During the recent outreach event at the conference Oats 2020 in Birmingham, UK, there was significant interest by other parties to engage with Oat Global. Catherine Howarth will reconnect with them and suggest a one-on-one



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discussion with her and Gabe Gusmini to better understand their level of interest and determine whether participation in the Strategy Team or in specific project/initiative committees might be appropriate.

*Action item: Catherine Howarth to follow-up individually with interested parties and also engage others who could bring strategic and funding leadership/connect.*

## Election of Directors for 2016

The roles of Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer are appointed annually within this committee and elected by majority vote. After a short discussion, Bruce Roskens makes the motion to confirm the incumbents for one more year. The incumbents are willing to retain their roles. Jose Costa and Tom Rabaey second the motion. With full agreement of the other team members, the following members have been confirmed for the 2016 calendar year.

- Chairman: Gabe Gusmini
- Secretary: Catherine Howarth (Nick Tinker kindly offered to act as a back-up in case of need)
- Treasurer: Ben Boroughs

## Projects Updates

### Oat Rust Markers Platform - Dr. Kathy Klos, USDA-ARS

Oat Global members NAMA and POGA sponsored a platform for development, maintenance, publication, and application to breeding of molecular markers for oat rust resistance (crown and stem). The sponsorship of 40,000 USD/year for five years matched funding made available for the same program by the USDA-ARS. The platform is progressing with a post-doc assigned to the project under the direction of Dr. Kathy Klos, PI. Dr. Kathy Klos is well connected to Dr. Tom Fetch, stem rust expert in Canada, as highly advocated by POGA during the funding discussions. As per funding requirement from NAMA and POGA, Dr. Klos should present an update on the project and interim results yearly to warrant renewal of funding for the following year.

*Action item: Ben Boroughs to request a written report and organize a conference call for presentation and Q&A with available attendees. Kathy Klos to invite any other scientists as relevant.*

### Oat Rust Initiative

NAMA, PepsiCo, and Stakman-Borlaug Center for Sustainable Plant Health (U. of Minnesota) organized in February 2015 a strategy meeting with upwards of 30 scientists (active and retired, from US, Canada, and Australia) and key stakeholders and resource owners to determine a forward strategy for management of crown and stem rust resistance via a community-wide coordinated effort. Recommendation was to fund a coordinator of a global initiative and create a board of directors including the funders of such position in order to lead to action. NAMA, individual millers, and U. of Minnesota funded such position and it is currently being created within the Stakman-Borlaug Center.

*Action item: Gabe Gusmini to follow-up with Stakman-Borlaug Center to launch the initiative and board.*



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## Oat Global Database

The database is active and running. An oat data curator position was funded by NAMA for one year and Clare Saied was hired at Cornell University by Dr. Jean-Luc Jannink. She has been very active and brought online multiple datasets, including Uniform Oat Nursery as an example. Her funding was targeted to 2015 but Dr. Jannink secured additional funding through the USDA-ARS and will utilize the NAMA funding in 2016, thus securing her support for an additional year. It is an aspiration of this committee that this position will become a permanent position within the USDA-ARS hopefully by 2017. The position is felt as very valuable by the international community (reports by Nick Tinker and Catherine Howarth of success during Oats 2020 and tours of North American programs). USDA-ARS currently does not have new money and there is need for communicating success to DC to help making money available through re-distribution within USDA-ARS.

*Action item: Ben Boroughs and Bruce Roskens to discuss how to further advocate for USDA-ARS funding.*

## Breeding Lines Sequencing - Dr. Jean-Luc Jannink, USDA-ARS

In an attempt to start generating genomic data shared across the breeding community through the Oat Global database, Dr. Jannink has funded GBS sequencing of breeding lines from the US and Canada in Spring and Winter oat. The desire is to grow this initiative over time including more breeding programs internationally.

## Genome Sequencing - Dr. Jessica Schlueter, UNC-Charlotte

Dr. Schlueter has secured NSF funding of 1.2 million USD plus additional private contributions in kind for sequencing of a reference genome in 6n oat. She is now engaging the broader community in the initiative and she is coordinating with Dr. Tim Langdon in the UK to take advantage of his work in sequencing of 2n oat lines. This is a key enabler in oat research. Although Dr. Schlueter applied for this grant independently of Oat Global and before its formation, she wants to manage the initiative forward under the Oat Global umbrella as a unifying element in the community.

*Action item: Gabe Gusmini to reconnect with Dr. Schlueter and discuss how we can support.*

## Oat Newsletter

The Newsletter is now fully active again, with the historical archive digitalized and online, a dedicated website linked to the Oat Global site, and an editorial committee.

## Additional USDA-ARS Funding Actions

Jose Costa reports that the USDA-ARS has been successful is directing towards oat research the following resources:

- 125,000 + 40,000 USD/year to Cereal Disease Lab in Minnesota for oat rust research and Uniform Oat Nursery management.
- 40,000 USD/year to USDA-ARS in Aberdeen ID for rust research.
- 125,000 USD/year to Dr. Dave Garvin for genetic research in oat.

250,000 of these dollars came from reallocation of funds assigned to Dr. Howard Rines prior to retirement.



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## Bio Sketches

It would be useful to compile biographical notes from all members of the Strategy Team for publication on the Oat Global website and for use in outreach activities.

*Action item: Catherine Howarth to coordinate in Q1 2016.*

## Must-Win Subjects for 2016

Throughout the call various topics that have high priority for 2016 were discussed and can be summarized as follows:

1. Further outreach in Europe, possibly leveraging the Oat Conference in July in Russia.
2. Fully activating the Oat Rust Initiative.
3. Develop forward strategy on big-bets in pre-competitive research and for leveraging resources in oat research (e.g., recent reactivation of university programs in the US Midwest).
4. Take a similar approach to ORF 2015 in order to map current status and need for evolution of the community and its activities in areas of pre-competitive research other than rust.

## 2016 Meetings

While maintaining the basic plan of two conference calls per year, it was discussed that a face-to-face meeting would be very beneficial for new members and also a much better setting for a strategy development focus. Various options were identified (non-exclusive of each other):

- A meeting hosted at NAMA HQ in Washington DC to coincide with advocacy visits at USDA-ARS and “on the hill” as relevant to maintain attention and focus on oat research funding.
- NAMA meeting in Florida (March 12-15).
- Canadian field tours in July (CDC, AAFC).
- AAFC/USDA strategy meeting currently being planned.

It was agreed that participation for those not able to travel should be facilitated by phone or other remote communication mean so to increase interaction between this team and the scientific community as well.

*Action item: Ben Boroughs, Bruce Roskens, Gabe Gusmini to make plans and share back via email.*