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IWGSC 2.0: Wheat Genome Curation for Future Crop Resilience

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International initiative to unlock bread wheat diversity by sequencing 12 maximally diverse landrace genomes & update RefSeq Chinese Spring

Wheat Diversity Project

13 Bread Wheat Accessions
12 Maximally Diverse Landraces + 1 cv. Chinese Spring (RefSeq)

Genome Sequencing & Assembly
9 Accessions: Corteva Agriscience, Genomics Technologies, Choulet & Gautier (INRAE-GDEC / Gentyane)

Gene Annotation
Map-based from RefSeq (De Novo/Evidence-based)

Practical Haplotype Graph
All accessions + EDT (U. Georgia)

IWGSC Data Repository
Alexis (INRAE)

Project leadership & oversight: PI Eversole (IWGSC)
Project management, Education, Outreach & Training (EOT), NCBI liaison: Co-PI Stein

NSF Funded | **EU Funded**

Aim 1) Platinum genome assemblies for 12 maximally diverse landraces and Chinese Spring (CS).

Aim 2) Transcriptome long-reads and gene annotation for 12 landraces while sustaining IWGSC CS RefSeq as a community-curated resource.

Aim 3) Practical Haplotype Graph (PHG) to catalog all genetic diversity in bread wheat and enable community-driven discoveries across the species;

Aim 4) Increase STEM diversified workforce through education outreach, and training.

Aim 1: Platinum genomes of 12 maximally diverse landraces and cv. Chinese Spring

DLS* mapping Bionano
150- to 3,000-Kbp DLEI-labelled DNA (Regenome) → *DLS: Direct Labeling and Stain

HiFi sequencing PacBio
Start with high-quality tritum aestivum DNA → Ligate SMRTbell adapters and size select

HiFi Contigs → **Hybrid Scaffolding** (Bionano Maps) → **HiFi sequence assembly** → **Hi-C Seq** → **Pseudomolecule Construction**

8 phylogeographic haplogroups among 632 genotyped landraces = subpopulations corresponding to early regional growing centers.

Genome sequence & assembly using long-reads, optical mapping, and conformational capture sequence.

Balfourier et al. 2019

Sequence & Assembly Progress

HiFi read generation:

- 6-7 SMRT cells Revio
- 29-40X coverage
- Mean cov. 32.4 ± 2.9X
- Read N50: 17-19 Kb

HiFi assembly:

- ~1000 contigs per assembly
- Contig N50 ~50Mbp
- Max contig length ~340Mbp

DLS map assembly:

- ~600 maps/accession
- Map N50 ~80Mbp
- Map max. len. ~380Mbp
- ~94X molecule coverage

HiFi/DLS hybrid assembly:

- Hybrid scaffold N50 exceeds contig N50 and map N50

Accession	Bionano DLS	PacBio HiFi	Hybrid Scaffold	Illumina Hi-C	Pseudo molecule
CHINESE SPRING	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
HURMA	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
ERG24184	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
9676	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
NANKING-NO-25	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
PRINCE-ALBERT	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
MAHOR	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
BARBELA	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
BANATKA	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
BLANC DE HAUTE SAONE	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
POCHO	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
BINTANE	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
SBEI	In Progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed

Aim 4: IWGSC undergraduate summer internship in genome curation

3-day training at Corteva Agriscience (Johnston, IA): June 11-13, 2024

- Principles of optical mapping, long read sequencing, assembly, and chromosome reconstruction.
- Training on Bionano Access software, visualization and interpretation of assembly data.
- Informative tours of Corteva's core labs and greenhouse facilities.

Genome Curation Project

- Automated conflict resolution is good but imperfect
- Manual curation often improves assembly accuracy
- But manual curation is time consuming and costly

Pre-screen:

- Perl script reads XMAP output files
- FLAGS potential problems
- Gaps, overlaps, and overhangs
- Output loaded into spreadsheets

Visual Inspection:

- Bionano hybrid scaffold browser
- Checks flagged regions
- Notates as OK or needing further manual inspection/intervention

IWGSC Manual Curation Results

Accession	Left Overhang	Bubble	Gap
Hurma	~10	~10	~10
Prince Albert	~10	~10	~10
NANKINGNO25	~5	~5	~5
BANATKA	~10	~10	~10
MAHOR	~10	~10	~10
ERG24184	~5	~5	~5
BARBELA	~5	~5	~5
9676	~5	~5	~5

Initial comparative genomic views (Bionano maps) show value in revealing conserved and novel structural variation

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INRAE Plant Biology and Breeding Department
IWGSC

IWGSC Sponsors

References

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