



**Institute of  
Barley and  
Malt  
Sciences**

Press Release: January 27, 2011

Contact: Karen Hertsgaard, Karen.hertsgaard@ndsu.edu, 701-231-5384,  
701-793-1146

### **USDA Announces Triticeae (Barley & Wheat) Coordinated Agricultural Project Grant**

Roger Beachy, director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced that NIFA awarded a \$25 million grant over five years for wheat and barley research to a team led by Dr. Jorge Dubcovsky, University of California-Davis and Gary Muehlbauer, University of Minnesota. The primary goal of the new \$25 million Triticeae-CAP is to develop new varieties of wheat and barley. The work will focus on the biological and abiotic stresses that are caused, at least in part, by changes in weather patterns. The Triticeae Coordinated Agricultural Project (T-CAP) is composed of 55 university and USDA researchers, breeders and educators from 21 states. The team will identify superior genes for yield improvement, disease resistance, and water and nitrogen use efficiency. The researchers will search through diverse sources of barley and wheat collected through time from around the world. When complete the new varieties will mitigate impacts of climate variability on agricultural productivity. The 5-year project also will develop a Plant Breeding Education Network to train 30 new doctoral students in plant breeding and provide educational opportunities for 100 undergraduate students interested in plant improvement.

In the T-CAP, a team of researchers will tease out the impacts of changes in climate on crop yields and identify genetic loci that can be incorporated in breeding of barley and wheat to tolerate changes that accompany change in climate. Beachy said. "This project features transdisciplinary, regional, integrated teams, including scientists from institutions that represent underserved populations - an approach that represents a new paradigm in how USDA science can best solve critical issues facing agriculture today."

The T-CAP award was made through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). AFRI is NIFA's flagship competitive grant program and was established by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Contacts: Dr. Jorge Dubcovsky, University of California-Davis (530) 752-5159

Dr. Gary Muehlbauer, University of Minnesota, (612) 625-6228