Resilience Breeding for Food Security

sigrid.heuer@rothamsted.ac.uk



Favorable versus unfavorable production systems



Irrigated - favorable

- ~60% of total rice area Asia (80 M ha*)
- ~ 70% of rice production
- constant water control
- high fertilizer inputs
- weed control (by flooding and herbicides)
- favorable conditions

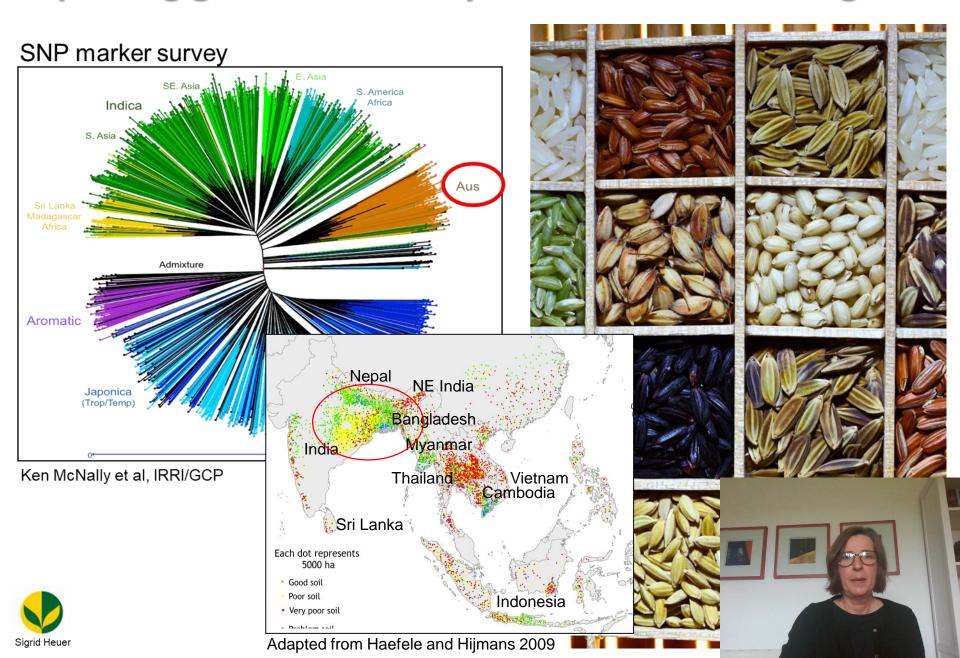
Increase yield potential, reduce inputs & mechanize

Rainfed – stress prone

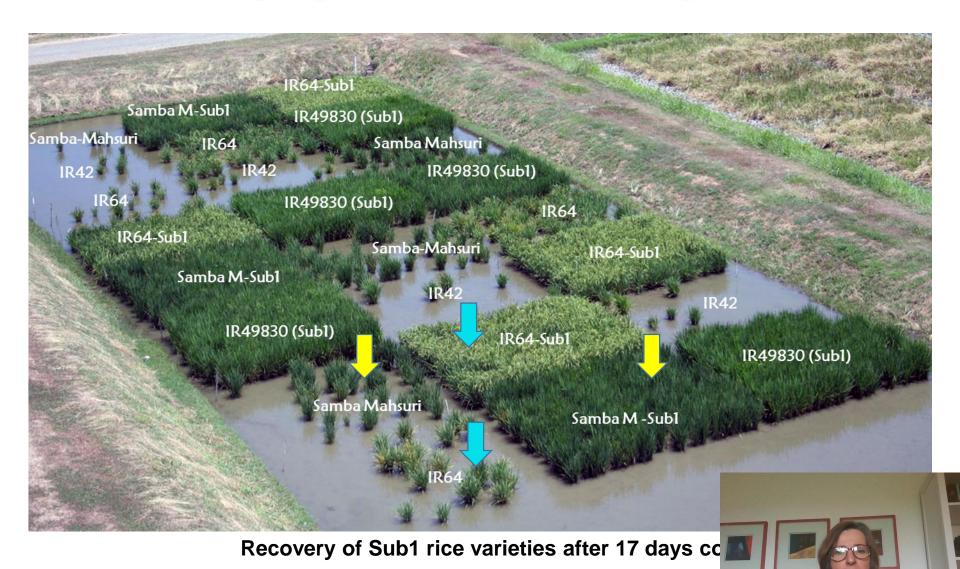
- ~40% of total rice area Asia (60 M ha*)
 - *Dawe et al 2010 ~ 25% of rice production
- no or little water control
- low to very low fertilizer inputs
- weed control difficult and labor intensive



Exploring genetic diversity for stress tolerance genes



SUB1A - a single gene confers submergence tolerance





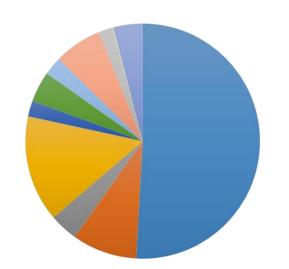
INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Wheat diversity panel (Uni Adelaide, Australia)



A Triticeae panel of 1018 accessions – including ~570 bread wheat accessions

- T. aestivum varieties
- T. aestivum landraces
- Synthetic T. aestivum
- T. turgidum durum
- T. urartu
- T. monococcum
- T. boeticum
- T. turgidum dicoccum
- *T. turgidum dicoccoides*
- Triticale

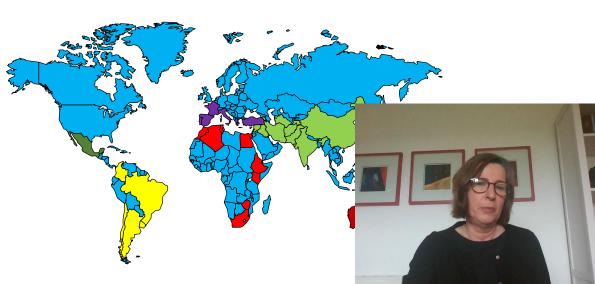




NAM population

75 donors x 2 Australian wheat (Gladius, Scout)

- imported into the UK
- phenotyping for H&D in India and other places



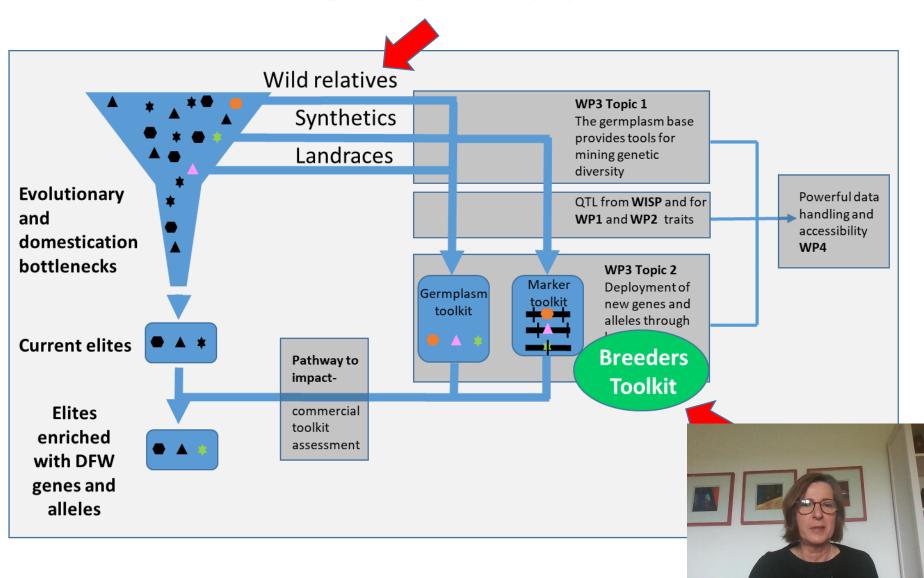
Designing Future Wheat (DFW): A multi-institute consortium 2017-2022



• Framework for the synergistic integration of BBSRC-funded ISP wheat activities



Overcoming the Domestication Bottle Neck – DFW germplasm pipeline



Landraces have valuable genes - but are low yielding



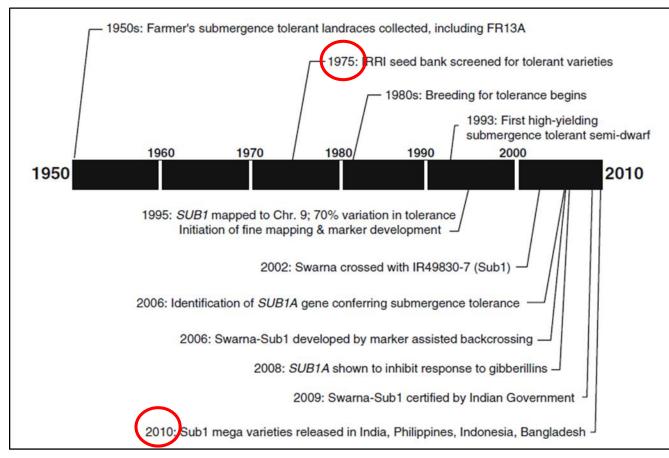


Transfer trait of interest - restore desirable pl (forward genetics, molecular breeding)





A very long journey to success







IRRI International Rice Research Institute

35 years!

Bailey-Serres et al 2010 Rice DOI 10.1007/s12284-010-9048-5

We have to do better than that -



Genetic diversity programs for food security

Look into the future & invest in breeding and research today

