

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

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Presentation Paper
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Pre-breeding and wheat resynthesis

**Secretariat
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Pre-breeding and wheat resynthesis



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NIAB TAG Pre-breeding group

Pre-breeding and wheat resynthesis

- What do we mean by pre-breeding?
- Origins of wheat and resynthesis
- Tetraploid / hexaploid crossing
- Results to date
- Relevance to animal feed supply chain
- Next steps



Pre-breeding

- Pre-breeding sits in the (big!) gap between “high science” (universities, research institutes) and the market (breeders, growers, end-users)
- Primarily, it involves moving new genes & traits into adapted backgrounds
- The aim is not to directly breed new varieties, but to produce adapted lines which commercial breeders can then incorporate into their programmes
- This requires a different mindset - most of my NIAB selections would have got me the sack as a breeder for Syngenta!

New sources of genetic diversity

Mutants eg Smart Carbs



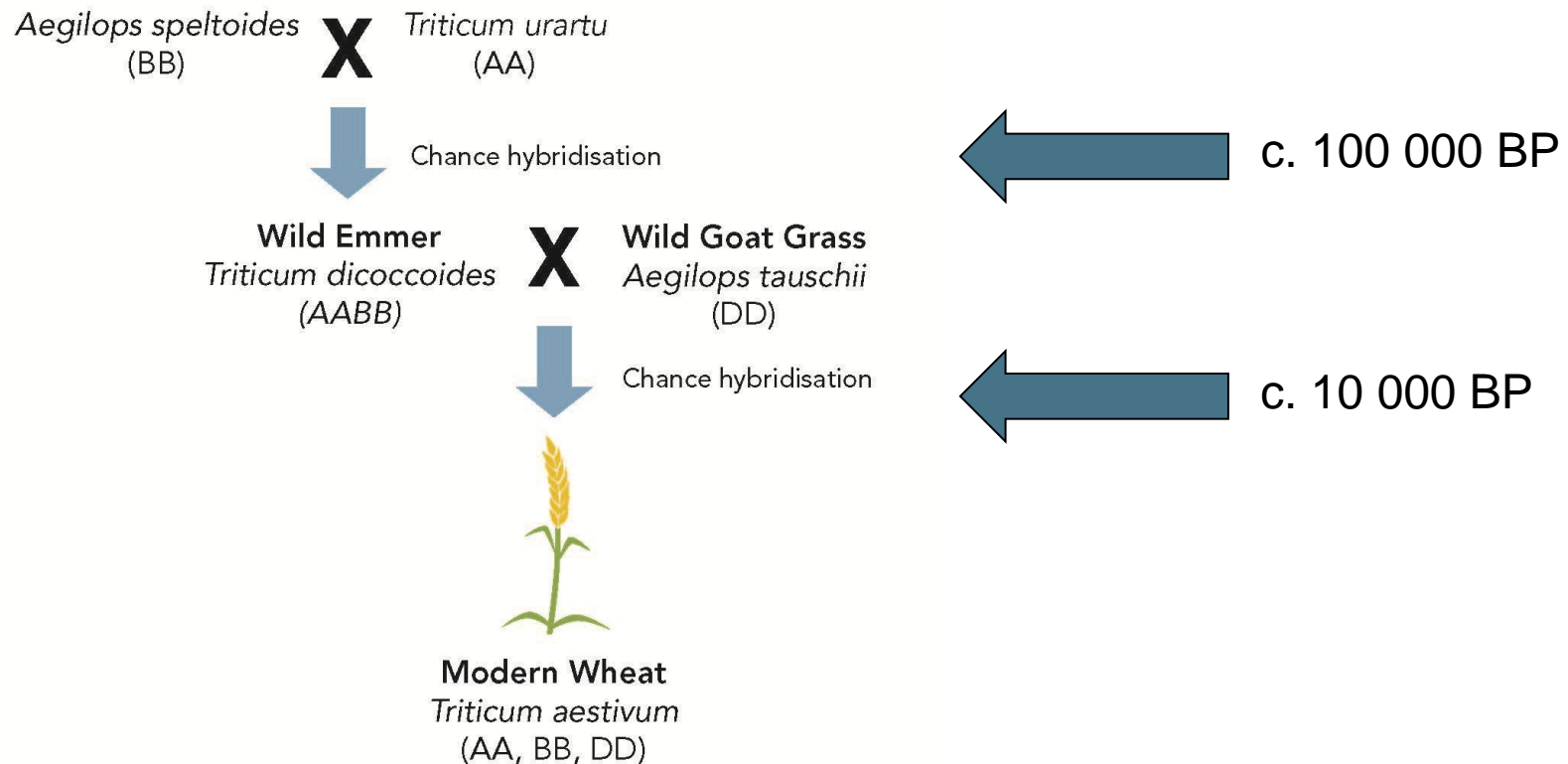
Related species



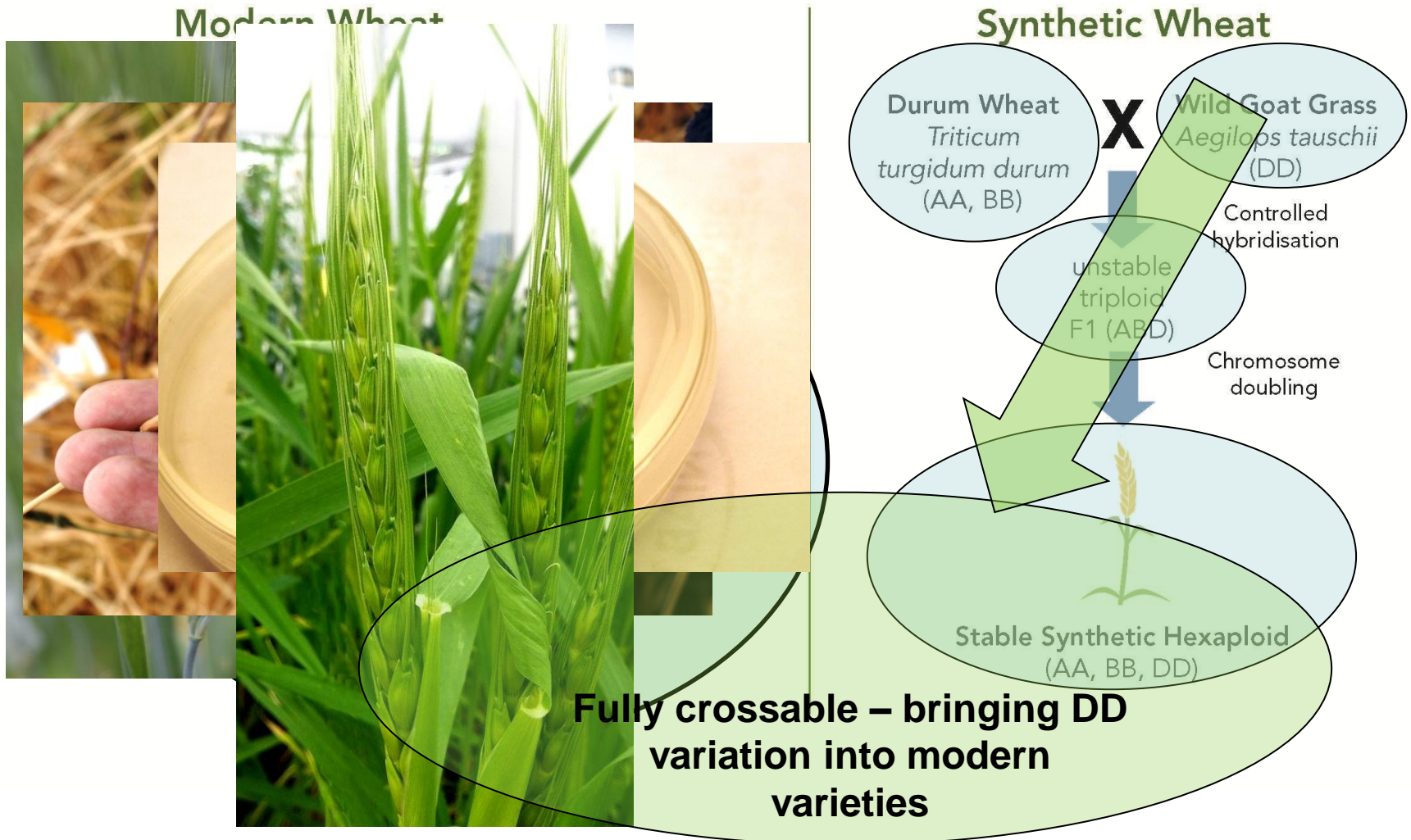
Resynthesis

Origins of modern wheat

Modern Wheat



Resynthesised wheat (SHWs)



Tetraploid / hexaploid direct crossing



Robigus,
Paragon
Triticum aestivum
(AA, BB, DD)

X

Wild Emmer
Triticum dicoccoides
(AA, BB)



pentaploid F1
(AA, BB, **D**)

X

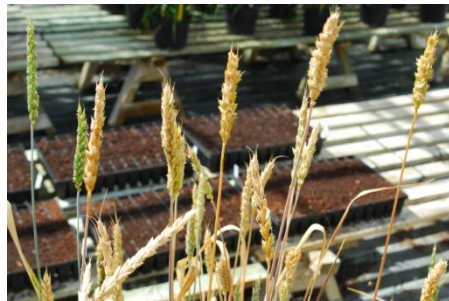
Robigus,
Paragon



Segregating backcross generation
(AA, BB, **D**); (AA, BB, DD)



Cultivated Emmer
Triticum dicoccum
(AA, BB)



Inbred BC1F5 generation
(**AA, BB**); (AA, BB, DD)

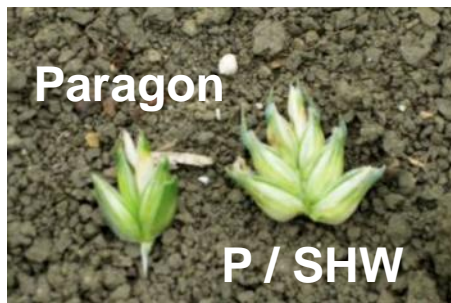


Durum Wheat
Triticum durum
(AA, BB)



Positive results so far.....

- High yield potential in SHW-derived selections
 - Best yields >30% above adapted parent
- Room for further improvement:
 - eg 110% yield but 119% biomass: can we tweak harvest index further?
 - Even if yield only = best elites, likely to be for different reasons: are these additive?
- High yields may be maintained better at lower N than elites
- We have also seen increases in yield components:
 - Very large grains
 - Increased grain number



Grain quality

- Relatively little quality testing so far
- Samples from 2011-12 trials showed “normal” ranges of protein content, HFN, specific weight etc in predictive quality tests
- Samples from 2012-13 trials currently passing through the labs
- Best candidates from 2013-14 will go on to milling and baking tests
- Currently no plans for specific animal feeding studies
- The trials appear perfectly palatable to certain animals!



Is there a feed wheat ideotype?

Most wheat feeding studies come from non-ruminants (primarily pigs/poultry)

- Soft wheat is broadly preferred to hard wheat (energy conversion)
- Reducing GI viscosity is key:
 - 1BS/1RL (“rye”) translocation is detrimental - secalins
 - Non-starch polysaccharides (NSPs) esp arabinoxylans
 - Xylanase-inhibitor proteins (XIs) can counteract enzymes added to reduce feed viscosity
 - Gluten “dough balls” can cause lethal intestinal blockages: affected by protein content, gliadin/glutenin profile and degree of milling
- Ideotype = “rye-negative”, soft, low NSP, low XI, low protein, weak gluten ?
- More studies needed to refine this and test hypotheses

Do our pre-breeding lines fit this ideotype?

- Hard/soft: some SHWs carry novel gene variation which may give hardness and softness outside the usual range ✓?
- 1BS/1RL: not carried by any of the donor or recipient lines ✓
- NSPs and XIs: unknown, not a standard screening test ?
 - NIRS calibrations for NSPs?
- Protein content: routinely screened within breeding process ✓
- Gluten profile: Routinely screened within breeding process ✓
 - Both SHWs and tetraploids can carry unusual sub-units with unknown functionality ?
- Overall viscosity: not a standard screening test ?
 - NIRS calibrations? RVA screening standard in France

Is this new?

- The first resynthesised wheat was reported in the 1946 in the US
- CIMMYT began a large resynthesis programme in the late 1980s; other work in eg China and Australia is also underway
 - 1/3rd of new lines distributed through CIMMYT's global nurseries have resynthesised wheat in their pedigree
 - 25% of the Chinese wheat acreage (~5m ha) is reported to be planted with SHW-derivatives
- Closer to home:
 - 40 varieties on the 2014-15 UK Recommended List
 - Wheat used for animal feed will be mainly drawn from the 31 Gr3 and Gr4 varieties
 - 2/3rd of these have pedigree links to *T. dicoccoides* derivatives, mainly through the variety 'Robigus'
 - Unaware of any alarm bells regarding their feeding suitability
 - No SHW-derivatives have been commercialised to date in N Europe



Next steps

- Existing material (BBSRC Follow-On Fund, all SHW-derived)
 - 3 breeder partners already have full access for crossing
 - Exhaustive testing, entry into NL trials, commercial release?
- New material (WISP material; SHW-derived and THEX)
 - Primary sift, transfer to commercial breeders
 - Longer-term pre-breeding to explore beneficial traits
- “Breed for Feed”
 - Biosciences KTN sponsored a meeting in May 2013 for the animal feed supply chain (plant breeders, feed compounders, meat producers etc)
 - Feed Supply Chain Working Group formed to address the challenges of animal feed from UK crops from all sides
 - Hoping to bid for funding from the imminent Agritech Catalyst call

Funding

- NIAB's pre-breeding is funded from several sources
 - BBSRC
 - HGCA
 - Breeders
 - EU
 - Technology Strategy Board
 - NIAB Trust



Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation