

Dear colleagues, members of the oat community,

We have made considerable progress in preparing for the 10th International Oat Conference in St. Petersburg (Russia).

Three months before the opening of the Conference, more than 150 participants from all continents had registered through the Conference website, representing 28 countries of the world and various regions of Russia. The largest delegations are from China (40 participants), with more than 5 participants each from Germany, United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Canada, USA, and Brazil.

We have already received 120 new oat cultivars and breeding lines and they have been planted at the Pushkin Branch of VIR for the field session. The Local Organizing Committee is glad to express its extreme gratitude to all those who have sent seeds of their new varieties and breeding lines.

Abstracts have been received from over 100 Conference participants. The Conference program will be on the website after the end of May. The following oat experts will deliver oral presentations at the Conference:

Michael McMullen – USA, **Pamela Zwer** – Australia,
Bruce Winter – Australia, **Nicholas Tinker** – Canada,
Axel Diederichsen – Canada, **Tim Langdon** – UK,
Catherine Howarth – UK, **Christopher Green** – UK,
Steffen Beuch – Germany, **Changzhong Ren** – China,
Gongshe Hu – USA, **Toshinobu Morikawa** – Japan,
Åsmund Bjørnstad – Norway, **Juho Hautsalo** – Finland,
Elina Kiviharju – Finland, **Outi E. Mäkinen** – Finland,
Marcelo Pacheco – Brazil, and **Liliana Wehrhahne** – Argentina,

along with many other specialists in oat breeding, genetics, production, processing and utilization. Until the end of May, and as soon as possible, participants may send their abstracts for the poster session.

The Local Organizing Committee awaits from the Conference participants their full-length papers for publication in a special issue of ***PROCEEDINGS ON APPLIED BOTANY, GENETICS AND BREEDING***, which are due 1st June, 2016.

Early registration for Conference participants is now over, but general registration will go on until 1st June, 2016.

We are looking forward to meeting you in St. Petersburg in July during the unforgettable White Nights period.

Organizing Committee of 10th International Oat Conference

<http://oats2016.org/>