



Invitation to Perth, Western Australia for the 2020 International Oat Conference

Proposed city and hotel/meeting venue (if known)

The main presentation outlining Perth, Western Australia as host city and providing background to the Australian oat industry can be viewed as a short video accessible through <https://vimeo.com/173850558> (Password = perth2020). A number of hotel / meeting venues are detailed in the attached report.

Names and positions of the proposed local organizing committee

The Grains Industry Association of Western Australia, which includes members from the South Australian Research and Development Institute and the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food, invite the international oat community to Perth for IOC2020.

A Local Organising Committee has been convened through the Oats Council of the Grains Industry Association of Western Australia, as conference hosts. A Scientific Program Committee will be chaired locally by Dr Pamela Zwer and initially include Dr Robert Loughman, Mr Peter McCormack, and Ms Georgie Troup. IOC representatives will be involved in consultation with the organising and scientific program committees.

Together, we envisage a full international scientific oat conference program and additionally a joint science/industry program focusing on end uses and market requirements. We aim to stimulate interesting interactions between science, industry and consumers.

Potential conference sponsors include The Grains Research and Development Corporation, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd, Uncle Tobys, Quaker Oats, Blue Lake Milling, Unigrain, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre and AEXCO. We anticipate there will be additional sponsors and strong engagement from industry.

Proposed time of event (a range of times could be proposed for a later vote)

The best window in spring that coincides with the heading stage of oats is the last two weeks in September or the first week in October, 2020.

Nearest major airports and other travel logistics

Perth International Airport (PER) is about 20 minutes from the Perth CBD and is serviced by all major international air hubs. Taxi, bus and hotel shuttle services are easy to use. The Perth CBD has a broad range of accommodation options near potential conference venues. An accommodation package will be developed for participants. Subject to availability, university college accommodation will also be investigated in relation to post-graduate student participants.

Anticipated registration costs (or break typical hotel and meal costs in \$USD)

The Grains Industry Association of Western Australia, as conference hosts, has a strong track record in delivering highly accessible and cost effective conference arrangements. The local organising committee has the support of the Western Australian State Government, through the Perth Convention Bureau, in

developing the conference. Until factors such as sponsorship, number of delegates, cost of the venue and affiliated programs are fully modeled, we would not venture to guess registration costs. The conference objective is to maximise participation and as such the fees and arrangements will be managed accordingly.

An estimate of costs based on current exchange rates is: US \$: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and incidentals \$95, accommodation \$80-140, and registration \$500-600. During the conference the registration will cover lunch and the banquet. Registration costs will be dependent on sponsorship. Many of the hotels include breakfast. These costs are based on current exchange rates.

Location and logistics of field plots, including phytosanitary requirements

The field plots will be located near Northam, about 1.5 hours from Perth, which will be incorporated in the field tour. Australia imports/exchanges significant quantities of cereal germplasm and routine procedures are available for this purpose. We will develop post-entry quarantine germplasm arrangements with the Director of the Australian Cereals Collection to ensure that delegates' material is streamlined for conference participation. Delegates will be advised of arrangements throughout 2017 and 2018 as part of the promotion of the conference in the lead up to 2020.

Suggested excursions and/or optional visits

We envisage a one day field tour incorporating a "paddock to plate" concept. This will include an oat breeding and research field site, oat production, storage and handling, processing and export. The field plot visit will specifically include opportunities to examine breeding and agronomy research and adaptation of international germplasm.

The conference provides delegates with the opportunity to visit other Australian oat research centres including Adelaide (National Oat Breeding Program and Gene Function Research Group), Sydney (Australian Cereal Rust Control Program at Cobbitty) and Toowoomba (Forage Oats Breeding).

Suggested optional research-related visits

We also invite the international oat community to steer and co-develop technical workshops and tours as satellite meetings to the conference. Some examples might include:

- Use of oats to improve sustainable farming systems
- Improved strategies to resolve *Puccinia coronata* for the long term (e.g. In conjunction with rust initiative of oat global)
- Oat genomics and related -omics applications in oat improvement
- Breeding technologies to improve genetic gain
- Oat quality for traditional and non-traditional foods

These will be potential pre and post conference workshops that we will list on the website to determine delegates' interests. There will also be an attractive partner program developed.

Why Perth in 2020?

We are planning an exciting conference run in conjunction with strong industry backing. Our objective from your participation will be for you to gain:

- new methods/approaches/understandings to help you apply your expertise to the improvement of the industry
- new contacts that will help unite the oat community and foster collaboration

- new interest in some aspect of oats to enhance your excitement and enjoyment of working with oats.

Please refer to our video for further relevant information: <https://vimeo.com/173850558> (Password = perth2020).