

## **The Oat Rust Initiative**

Abstract for AOWC section: International Collaboration

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Enjoyed as porridge, granola, bread, milk, and more, oat has long been a nutritious part of the world's diet. This historic staple crop, however, is increasingly threatened by rust diseases for which there are limited control options available to growers. In response, in 2015 the Stakman-Borlaug Center at the University of Minnesota organized a forum of public and private partners which ultimately led to the formation of the Oat Rust Initiative under Oat Global. The goal of the initiative is to develop a community-wide strategy to provide lasting solutions to rust diseases threatening oat. To that end, the initiative has organized itself into nine project teams focused on strategic work in three general areas; understanding the pathogens, development of new technologies and practices, and deployment of knowledge and technology to stakeholders. Current projects include the evaluation of fungicides and best management practices, a survey of the pathogen population using a shared oat differential set, a community-wide discussion on the use of novel rust resistance gene(s) during cultivar development, and the building and elevation of genomic resources for *Puccinia coronata*.

More information about the Oat Rust Initiative, its governance, and the specific project teams can be found online at [www.oatglobal.umn.edu/initiatives/oat-rust-initiative](http://www.oatglobal.umn.edu/initiatives/oat-rust-initiative) and <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/oat-rust-initiative/home>.

<sup>1</sup> Any opinions or scientific interpretations expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of PepsiCo Inc.

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