



International Herbage Seed Group Newsletter

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<p>IHSG</p>	<p>Editor's Note</p>
<p>President Dr Richard Chynoweth Foundation for Arable Research (FAR), Templeton, Christchurch New Zealand Email: Richard.Chynoweth@far.org.nz</p>	<p>After a 6-year hiatus, your Newsletter is back. We are hoping to return to two Newsletter's a year. The next Newsletter is due for February 2024. We need content. I invite members to provide research or regional updates and people updates.</p>
<p>Vice-President Dr. Nicole Anderson Oregon State University Corvallis, Oregon, United States of America Email: Nicole.Anderson@oregonstate.edu</p>	<p>Congratulations to our French colleagues for giving us a great Conference in Angers and a great Post Conference Tour covering about a 1000 km ending in Reims. Coupled with great food, good weather and a sharing of our common love of things to do with herbage seed, what a perfect match!!</p> <p>Many thanks to our Immediate Past President, Rene Gislum. Read his "Looking Back" thoughts on Page 2.</p>
<p>Editor Dr. Phil Rolston Seed Industry Research Centre (SIRC) Email: phil.rolston@outlook.com</p>	<p>Congratulations to our President, Richard Chynoweth, awarded Researcher of The Year at the NZ Seed Industry Awards in August 2023.</p> <p>Contents</p> <p>Presidents Columns2 Looking Back – Immediate Past President.....3 Mario Falcinelli (1943 - 2023)3 11th IHSG Conference Reflections4 12th IHSG Conference 20255 IHSG past Conference & Workshops6</p>

Presidents Column

Richard Chynoweth, FAR, New Zealand

Greetings, I am delighted to be elected as president and look forward to the challenge of serving the IHSG in this role. Secondly congratulations to Nicole Anderson who was elected to the position of vice president. On behalf of the IHSG committee, I extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined our community of dedicated professionals. Your participation and expertise are invaluable in strengthening our efforts to foster collaboration and drive advancements in herbage seed research and production. We look forward to your contributions and fresh perspectives in the pursuit of our shared goals. A big thanks to Rene Gislum, our out-going President, for getting us to France and through the disruptions of Covid. This was not an easy task and was much appreciated by the wider IHSG.

1. I want to take this opportunity to announce the reinstatement of the Newsletter Post COVID.

The COVID pandemic posed many unforeseen challenges, disrupting our regular communications and activities. However, I am pleased to announce that our much-anticipated IHSG Newsletter will be reinstated and resume regular circulation. This publication will provide a valuable platform for members to share their research findings, experiences, and success stories. For example, please share articles that have been used in local communications that could be of interest to the wider group. Let us utilize this platform to stay connected and informed about the latest advancements and industry news. I see this as an informal opportunity to share stories from around the globe, and as such all relevant stories will be included, not just publishing of experimental results. Thus, if you know of a relevant story or article, please email it to Phil Rolston (phil.rolston@outlook.com).

2. Reference List for New Herbage Seed Papers

As part of our commitment to promoting new research, the IHSG newsletter will be providing a reference list of recently published herbage seed-related papers. This will serve as a valuable resource for members to stay up-to-date with the latest scientific literature and emerging trends in our field. Again, we need your help to ensure the list is up to date and I encourage all members to share their research findings for inclusion in this compilation.

3. IHSG Conferences

The 11th IHSG conference recently held in Angers, France was an exceptional gathering of global experts and stakeholders in the herbage seed domain. This event provided the ideal platform to exchange knowledge, discuss research, explore innovative strategies and above all to reconnect with those working on herbage seed production from around the world. I believe this gathering was very well planned and delivered. Even a replacement bus didn't take long to arrive after a breakdown near the start of the post conference tour. A huge thank you for the many hours dedicated to the conference by the French organizing committee, FNAMS, sponsors, tour hosts and participants, all of whom contributed to the resounding success of this conference.

Mark your calendars for the 16-23rd November 2025 when the 12th IHSG conference is scheduled to take place in Tasmania, Australia. The organizing committee is already working diligently to create an unforgettable event that will further advance herbage seed science and technology. We anticipate engaging discussions, a rich scientific program, and ample networking opportunities during this conference.

With warm regards,
Richard Chynoweth
President, International Herbage Seed Group
(IHSG)

Looking Back – 2019-2023 Rene Gislum, Immediate Past President

I took over the Presidency in Corvallis, Oregon in 2019 after Dr. Thomas Chastain and was ready to do my best to make a great 2021 IHSG conference in Serbia. The planning of the 11th conference in Serbia went well during 2019 and in June 2019 I visited Serbia and went on the post-conference tour including a visit to most of the places we were expected to visit. We had meetings with the organizing committee, the conference venue, and the hotel where we were supposed to stay. I was happy about the planning and convinced that this next IHSG conference in Serbia would be very interesting and a great opportunity to visit a country with good connections and relationships with the eastern part of Europe. So, what could go wrong? The COVID pandemic changed, as you all know everything, and we decided to postpone the conference to 2022. Organizing and hosting an IHSG conference is time-consuming and costly, and you are dependent on enough participants to avoid an economic loss that you eventually will have to cover yourself. The economic risk was the most important reason for not having the conference in 2022, we were unsure of the number of participants, and we finally decided to cancel the 11th IHSG conference in Serbia.

I was of course eager to complete a conference during my presidential period – who wanted to be the president without a conference, and FNAMS (Fédération Nationale des Agriculteurs Multiplicateurs de Semences) in France was luckily still very interested in hosting the next IHSG conference. Working together with FNAMS and the great team behind this organization was a huge pleasure. The organizing team at FNAMS was always well-prepared and hard-working during the planning of the conference and they had a common goal to make this next IHSG conference a big success. During the period

from the 11th to the 17th of June 2023 we gathered more than 150 enthusiastic seed people from around the world in Angers, France. There were interesting presentations and posters and we visited innovative growers and companies. There is one thing that is especially important for me at these conferences, and this is the social gathering and discussions during the conference. This is the time and place where you catch up with the latest seed news and discuss which challenges you face in your daily work as a farmer, adviser, or scientist. This catching up is for me the lifeblood of IHSG and one thing that is important to prioritize at our conferences. The IHSG conference in France in 2023 was a very good example of all of this and I would again like to pay tribute to the organizing committee in FNAMS and thank them for hosting a great conference.

Mario Falcinelli (1943 - 2023)

IHSG President 1997 - 2001

A life dedicated to seeds

Prof. Mario Falcinelli passed away on 17 August 2023 at his home in Torgiano (Perugia, Italy) at the age of 80, after a long illness. Mario dedicated his professional life to plant breeding and seed production. Right from the title of its degree thesis “Genetic variability in four Umbrian populations of *Lolium perenne* L.” it became clear that his main interest in professional life would turn to fodder crops. Over time in this research area, he has developed extensive research contributing to the establishment of the plant breeding school at the University of Perugia, from which numerous researchers have graduated and are now in leading positions in Italian Universities,

and research centers and in both national and international seed companies. Of particular interest was his research on genetics of reproductive systems of crop species and meiotic mutations (apomixis). Furthermore, Mario made contribution in the development and application of molecular markers, cytogenetics and molecular cytogenetics, conservation and enhancement of agricultural genetic resources with special interest for local crops. Mario also participated in plant breeding programs contributing to the establishment of numerous Italian varieties of fodder plants. Finally, he has been in charge of national and international projects mainly devoted to seed production and held the position of IHSG President from 1997 to 2001. Last but not least, Mario taught the plant breeding course in Perugia for almost four decades and has covered the role of Director of the Department of Applied Biology of the University of Perugia from 1994 to 2013.

From Mario's colleagues from the University of Perugia (provided by Renzo Torricelli)

Former IHSG President Bill Young remembers when Mario & his wife Giuliana did a sabbatical leave at OSU in the 1982-83 academic year in our seed program, and that he and his wife have remained personally and professionally connected to Mario and Giuliana for the last 40+ years. In addition, Mario and I shared the same birth date (June 7), albeit mine a few years later.

Mario led the local organizing committee that hosted the 4th IHSG meeting Perugia 1999.



Four IHSG Presidents at 2005 UK Workshop (Left to Right) Mario Falcinelli (Italy), Birte Boelt (Denmark), Bill Young (OR, USA) and Don Loch (Australia).

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11th IHSG Conference Reflections from 1st time Attendee

Suzie Maier (Tasmania, Australia) writes "As a first-time attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the 11th IHSG Conference in Angers, France. It was definitely worth the trip to the other side of the world! The quality of the presenters, posters and field trips was excellent. As was the food! Being relatively new to pasture seed research, the networking opportunities were invaluable, and I met several people who are now valuable contacts. I learned a lot and left feeling inspired. I am still awed at how all the delegates, from all aspects of the international pasture seed industry, were so willing and generous in sharing their knowledge, expertise and experiences in pasture seed production. It was also the first time I've met anyone who's family has lived in a château for 500 years! The conference was well-planned and executed, and I had a great time overall. Thank you to the organising committee and the IHSG committee for a great experience, and I look forward to the next conference in 2025."

11th IHS Conference Reflections from a long-time regular attendee

John Fairey, Germinal GB Ltd, UK



Having attended all the conferences and workshops going back to 2007, it is always interesting to appreciate the problems that different parts of the World face when it comes to forage seed production. France was no exception. As well as excellent speakers on diverse topics, this year there was an exceptional display of posters many with very applied information.

The post conference tour highlighted the issues of climate change for many species, as well as the drive to reduce pesticide use. Both are challenges to continued viable seed production. Of course, being in France meant that we were treated to fine cuisine and some great cultural experiences during a very busy week. All involved in the organisation deserve great credit for putting on a wonderful trip.

Video Review of conference in Angers, France

The organizing committee for the 11th IHS Conference invite you to watch a video review (4 minutes) of the IHS 2023 Conference here : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ-nHvDt_zg

Angers France – what a great Conference

Congratulations to our French colleagues for a wonderful conference in Angers and post conference tour. The conference was attended by >150 participants from 13 countries: **Europe** – Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom); **Asia** – PR China; **North America** (Canada, USA); **South America** (Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay); **Australasia** (Australia, New Zealand).

12th IHS Conference 2025

16-23 November 2025 Launceston, Tasmania (Australia)

Firstly, on behalf of the Tasmanian Seed Industry Group (TSIG), we are honoured and excited to be hosting the 12th IHS Conference in Launceston, Tasmania, in 2025.



Thank you to the IHS committee for this opportunity. The organising committee from Anger set a very high standard! Rob Dent, Bramwell Heazlewood and Suzie Maier – who

attended the conference in Angers - will lead the 12th organising committee, bringing in additional TSIG members for their expertise. Planning has already started, and we're busy putting together the best venues, food, sponsors and field trips for the conference, and the chance to see a wallaby! We look forward to seeing you all 'down-under' in 2025.

Note:

1. Launceston is 440 km south of Melbourne (about 1 hour flying) or by ferry a 9 to 11 hour journey.
2. Tasmania is an island state with a land area of 68,000 km² and a population of 600,000 people.

Past Conferences and Workshops

Table 1. List of IHSG Conferences

No.	Year	Location
1 st	1987	Tune, Denmark
2 nd	1991	Corvallis, Oregon, USA
3 rd	1995	Halle, Saxony Anhalt, Germany
4 th	1999	Perugia, Italy
5 th	2003	Gatton, Queensland, Australia with post-conf tour in Victoria & NSW
6 th	2007	Gjennestad, Norway with post conference tour to Denmark
7 th	2010	Dallas, Texas, USA
8 th	2015	Lanzhou, Gansu Prov, China
9 th	2017	Pergamino, Buenos Aries Province, Argentina
10 th	2019	Corvallis, Oregon, USA
11 th	2023	Angers, France

Workshops

Workshops were linked to the International Grasslands Congress (IGC) and held in years between the IHSG Conferences. This gave a

four-year cycle for IHSG Workshops (Table 2), which were usually held two years after each IHSG Conference. However, this routine got out of sync when the IGC ran a joint Conference with the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) which required delaying the joint Congress in 2008 (held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China). Workshops have been less formal than Conferences, with break-out groups and more field trips.

Table 2. List of Workshop locations and year.

Year	Location
1989	Nice, France (linked to IGC in Nice)
1993	Palmerston North, New Zealand (linked to IGC Palmerston North)
1997	Peace River, Alberta, Canada (linked to IGC Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)
2005	Winchester, UK (linked to IGC Dublin, Ireland)
2013	Methven, New Zealand (linked to IGC Sydney, Australia)