Introduction
Oats 2020 - Birmingham, UK - November 2015

Bruce Roskens, Catherine Howarth
1. The oat R&D community is too small in size to afford isolation or regionality.

2. Many challenges in oat production and processing are of global nature and transferability of knowledge across geographies is key to success.
Recent advancements in science and technology have delivered many new tools for our scientific endeavors, yet those tools and approaches are too complex or too expensive for any given group to adopt them all in isolation.
4. Scientific expertise in the oat community must be continually evaluated, rejuvenated, and expanded. This is best done through informed community-wide consultation and coordinated funding.

A “Breeder” Today:
- Advanced Genetics
- Statistics
- Bioinformatics
- Computational Biology
- Measurement Sciences
- ...

A Breeder in the 1960’s
5. This is the era of “big data” and “global connectivity”: frequent interactions, sharing/open data and information across the community, and establishing shared platforms for knowledge management and data analysis is critical.
The oat R&D community deserves cohesive strategies and unifying platforms to drive a step-change in science and technology from oat biology to production and processing for the benefit of whole oat value chain globally.

Oat Global shall be a strategy forum driven by the leaders of the oat public and private community at large.
- Across agencies, institutions, and corporations.
- Across national boundaries.
- For all oat types and segments.
- Operating exclusively in the pre- (or non-) competitive space.

Oat Global shall provide a unifying platform for open knowledge, open data, strategy, and resource sharing.
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Organization Structure

• Sets strategic directions for the oat R&D community
• Helps aligning strategies across organizations
• Solicits developments of proposals in “gap” areas
• Evaluates spontaneous proposals
• Helps connecting good ideas to funding
• Advocates for public/private partnership in oat R&D
• Provides oversight to the Project Teams
• May provide administrative infrastructure to projects through one or more partnering organizations

Strategy Committee

• Are created upon need to execute funded initiatives or connect initiatives across organizations
• Are self-directed and establish their own governance structure
• Are accountable for the delivery of their project objectives and for open and transparent communication
• Report to the Strategy Committee

Ad-hoc Project Teams
Strategy Committee: Principles

• Any “oat worker” willing to help catalyzing the activities of the oat R&D community is welcome to join the Strategy Committee, regardless of their organizational affiliation, professional degree, or career phase.

• Those who join shall commit to be active participants and to operate in the best interest of the community as a whole.

• Every participant shall ensure that their participation in this committee is in compliance with policies and regulations of their own organization.

• Committee roles will be appointed on an annual basis by majority vote within the committee itself.

• Committee members shall self-fund their own participation to committee meetings.
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Strategy Committee: Membership

- Gabe Gusmini (PepsiCo - NAMA)
  - Oat Global Chairman
- Ben Boroughs (NAMA)
  - Oat Global Treasurer
- Catherine Howarth (Aberystwyth Univ.)
  - Oat Global Secretary
  - European Research Community Liaison
- Luiz Federizzi (UFRGS)
  - Latin American Research Community Liaison
- Nick Tinker (AAFC)
  - Canadian Research Community Liaison
- Pamela Zwer (SARDI)
  - Australasian Research Community Liaison
- Michele Marcotte (AAFC)
- Jack Okamuro (USDA-ARS)
- Jose’ Costa (USDA-ARS)
- Wade Hainstock, Jim Dyck (POGA)
- Bruce Roskens (Grain Millers)
- Bill Tracy (University of Wisconsin)
- Greg Cuomo (University of Minnesota)
- Kenneth Grafton (North Dakota State Univ.)
- Daniel Scholl (South Dakota State Univ.)

We invite others to join!
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Projects

Oat Data Infrastructure: leverage wheat & barley TCAP Platform in oat
2015: NAMA funded Curator, public brought free access to TCAP Platform

Oat Rust Initiative: private start-up funds, publicly funded research
2015: NAMA invested $90M, public matched $0.5MM

Oat Genome: no private investment, publicly funded research to date
2015: $1.2MM + pending UK application + potential private in kind contribution

Oat Lines Sequencing: no private investment, USDA absorbed sequencing + FTEs
2015: focused on North America - 2016: open to global expansion
2015-16 Key Objectives

- Engage
  - More decision makers from key universities and agencies worldwide → annual meeting.

- Mobilize
  - Dedicated engagement events with scientific communities in Latin America, Europe, and Australasia.

- Achieve
  - Kick-off funded initiatives.
  - Activate new community-wide initiatives.
Oat Global web portal:

http://www.oatglobal.org

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Q&A and Open Discussion
• Other than through the scientists, how should Oat Global engage with key influencers and resource owners in the European oat community?

• What should we be thinking about in order to build strength in oat research strategy and funding by joining efforts worldwide?

• How can we expand to Europe the discussion on defining competitive and pre-competitive space for oat research that happened in 2014-15 in North America?

• What are key challenges that oat research should be addressing in the pre-competitive space?

• What opportunities is the oat community missing in research due to lack of funding/coordination?