29 May 2006

GCP Selects Philippe Monneveux as New SP3 Leader/Product Manager

The Generation Challenge Program is pleased to announce the appointment of Philippe Monneveux to the position of Subprogram 3 Leader/Product Manager. Selected from a pool of 45 highly qualified candidates, Dr. Monneveux's research experience, leadership skills, and commitment to the GCP's mission uniquely prepare him for this new position, which combines the coordination of Subprogram 3: Trait Capture for Crop Improvement with the important new function of Product Manager.

Currently a professor of genetics and plant breeding at the Montpellier National College of Agronomy in France, Dr. Monneveux will join the GCP at its headquarters in Mexico on 1 July 2006. With 30 years of experience in crop physiology, phenotyping, and breeding for abiotic stress tolerance, Dr. Monneveux is well-poised to ensure that the research outputs of the GCP are able to be efficiently applied in the field toward improved crop varieties for the resource-poor. For more than 20 years, he led the INRA wheat and barley breeding program focused on drought tolerance. From 2000 to 2005 he worked at CIMMYT, first as a wheat physiologist, where he conducted research on yield potential, tolerance to drought, and high light intensities, and later as a maize physiologist and agronomist, where he worked closely with scientists in the Genetic Resources Unit to identify QTLs for drought and low nitrogen tolerance in maize. He is recognized internationally for his innovative physiological approaches and played a central role in the development and use of stable carbon isotopes to select cereals for drought tolerance and water use efficiency.

Dr. Monneveux also has considerable experience in coordinating international networks. He is currently coordinating a wheat and rice breeding network in Asia and Africa through an IAEA project, in which he is working to integrate selection for drought tolerance using carbon isotope discrimination. He is also highly knowledgeable in the areas of training and research guidance, having supervised more than 20 MSc and PhD students.

With such demonstrated research excellence, Dr. Monneveux is well aware of both the potential and the challenges for biotechnology and the application of genetic resources in plant breeding programs. The GCP is very pleased to have him on board. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Monneveux to the team!

Until his arrival at GCP Headquarters in July, Dr. Monneveux can be reached via email at pmonneveux@yahoo.fr, and at p.monneveux@cgiar.org after 1 July.

Contact Jenny Nelson, GCP Communications Manager (j.nelson@cgiar.org), with any additional questions.