


ISRFG
'26

International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics 2026

8-11th September 2026
The Royal Society, London

Fundamental science for climate resilient rice

**Programme, Poster Numbers
and Delegate List**

International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics 2026

Programme

Tuesday September 8th 2026

0915-0930 **Welcome**

Ari Sadanandom and **Erik Murchie**

0930-1015 **Opening Keynote**

Adam Price, Aberdeen University, UK

PRICE ON RICE: 35 YEARS OF RICE GENETICS

1015-1045 *Break*

1045-1215 **Plenary session 1: Future proofing rice**

1045-1115

Qifa Zhang, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China
TBC

1115-1145

Rod Wing, University of Arizona, USA
Towards a Digital Genebank for Rice to Drive AI Foundation Models
for Complex Trait Prediction

1145-1215

Jitender Giri, BRIC-NIPGR, India
Galactolipids are vital for salt tolerance in rice

1215-1315 *Lunch*

Concurrent Sessions

Main Auditorium

1315-1445	CS1: Climate resilience
1315-1345	Ian Dodd , Lancaster University, UK ROOTS TO RICE ADAPTATION TO ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING IRRIGATION
1345-1405	Rory Hornby , Alora, UK TBC
1405-1425	Yibo Li , Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China The molecular and genetic basis of field thermotolerance for grain quality and yield in rice
1425-1445	Christian Bougma , Yembila Abdoulaye Toguyeni University, Burkina Faso Farmers' fertilization practices increase greenhouse gas emissions in irrigated rice fields in Burkina Faso, West Africa

Wolfson Room I

1315-1445	CS2: AI and Rice Research
1315-1345	Andy Jones , University of Liverpool, UK AI-driven genome annotation and functional genomic analyses for rice and rice pathogens
1345-1415	Ke Li , University of Exeter, UK TBC
1415-1445	David Emms , Instadeep, UK Multi-omics Profiling of Australian Wild Rice Identifies Haplotypes of Starch Biosynthesis Genes Associated with Slow Digestibility

Wolfson Room II

1315-1440	CS3: Breeding and Gene Editing
1315-1335	Cecile Grenier , CIRAD, France Breeding To Reduce Aerenchyma As A Strategy To Increase Rice Adaptation To Aerobic Conditions
1335-1355	George Littlejohn , University of Plymouth, UK TBC
1355-1410	Wongsakorn Wongla , Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japa Production of neo-tetraploid and -diploid hybrids between <i>Oryza sativa</i> and <i>O. rufipogon/longistaminata</i> exhibiting high salt tolerance by in vitro fertilization

1410-1425 **Muhammad Awais Farooq**, University of Aberdeen UK
Multi-environment GWAS identifies
stable QTLs and haplotypes for nitrogen use efficiency in rice

1425-1440 **Ryo Ishikawa**, Kobe University Japan
Genetic Dissection of a Loss of Seed-Shattering
Trait Uncovers Stepwise Routes in Rice Domestication

1445-1515 *Break*

1515- 1600 **OryzaNet – enabling the UK Rice Research Community**
Erik Murchie, University of Nottingham, UK

1600-1700 **Plenary session 2: Novel Advances in Rice Biology**

1600-1630 **Takeshi Izawa**, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Simulation-guided recovery of false-negative loci improves genome-
wide association studies of complex traits in rice

1630-1700 **Martin Kater**, University of Milan, Italy
Tapping into Wild Rice Biodiversity to Identify Key Regulators
Controlling Inflorescence Development

1730-2000 **Conference Social Event**

The Horse and Guardsman, 16-18 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY

Wednesday September 9th 2026

0800-0900 **Registration and Poster Hanging**

0900-1045 **Plenary session 3: Global Methane Hub Session: Mitigating Methane
Production and Climate Change**

0900-0915 **Sundaresan Venkatesan**, UC Davis, USA
Introducing GMH Rice Accelerator

0915-0945 **María Camila Rebolledo**, CIRAD, France
Re-engineering aerenchyma for aerobic rice and methane
mitigation

0945- 1015 **Nguyen Thi Lang**, University of Science And Technology of Hanoi
Vietnam
Rice Research, Biotic and Abiotic stresses for the Mekong
Delta, VietNam

1015-1045 **Shalabh Dixit**, IRRI, The Philippines
A Genomic Engine for Low-Methane, Direct-Seeded Rice: Precision
Phenotyping, Mid-Density Genotyping and a One-Year Breeding
Cycle

1045-1115 *Break*

1115-1245 **Plenary session 4: Breeding and editing**

- 1115-1145 **Ashwani Pareek**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
How Rice Learns to Survive: From Multi-omics to Functional Genomics of Stress Sensing and Adaptation
- 1145-1215 **Amelia Henry**, CIRAD, France
Insight into abiotic stress physiology from rice functional genomics
- 1215-1245 **Victoria Bulegeya**, Sokoine University of Agriculture Tanzania
Genome-Wide Association Analysis of Eastern African Rice Landraces for Complete Submergence Tolerance

1245-1400 *Lunch*

Concurrent Sessions

Main Auditorium

- 1400-1530 **CS4: Functional genomics**
- 1400-1430 **Xuwei Chen**, Sichuan Agricultural University, China
A pathogen lncRNA secreted into rice sequesters a host miRNA for virulence
- 1430-1500 **Nelson Saibo**, Institute of Chemical and Biological Technology (ITQB), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
From Gene Regulation to Photosynthetic Improvement
- 1500-1530 **Ari Sadanandom**, University of Durham, UK
TBC

Wolfson Room I

- 1400-1530 **CS5: Quality and nutrients**
- 1400-1430 **Adriana Botes**, Azotic, UK
The interaction between rice varieties and the nitrogen-fixing endosymbiont *Gluconacetobacter diazotrophicus*
- 1430-1445 **Kuo-Chen Yeh**, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
Independent hormonal control of root plasticity in rice revisits the link between aerenchyma and iron plaque
- 1445-1500 **Pinky Agarwal**, BRIC-NIPGR, India
Control of Rice Grain Size and Nutrition by a C2H2 Zinc Finger Repressor

1500-1515	Nurmansyah , University of Queensland, Australia Exploring Domestication Traits and Nutritional Diversity in Australian Wild Rice Species as Potential Neo-Domesticated Rice Species
1515-1530	Jing-Chi Lo , National Chiayi University Taiwan Manipulation of bHLH IVc stability improves rice productivity in water-saving cultivation systems

Wolfson Room II

1400-1530	CS6:Bioinformatics and AI
1400-1420	Rafal Gutaker , Kew Science, UK Two centuries of genetic diversity change in rice
1420-1440	Wanneng Yang , Huazhong Agricultural University China What can high-throughput phenotyping and AI bring us?
1440-1500	Shradha Saraf , EBI, UK Moving oryza to the new Ensembl: A fresh interface, more genomes, updated datasets
1500-1515	Eshan Sharma , University of Liverpool UK Towards building a structural pan-proteome of rice
1515-1530	Meng-Ting Hsieh , Kew Science, UK Population genetic statistics revealed a batch bias driven by an asymmetric distance reference genome

1530-1600 *Break*

Concurrent Sessions

Main Auditorium

1600-1730	CS7: Molecular and Cell Biology in Rice
1600-1630	Julian Hibberd , Cambridge University, UK Engineering chloroplast biogenesis in rice
1630-1700	Peter Eastmond , Rothamsted Research, UK TBC
1700-1715	Carlotta Nardi , Università Degli Studi Di Milano Italy Auxin Response Factors in Reproductive Development: A Comparative Study of OsARF1 and its orthologs AtARF11/AtARF18.
1715-1730	Kasidit Rattanawong , Tokyo Metropolitan University Japan In vitro doubled Haploid Induction-Edit (dHI-Edit) in isolated rice egg cells via transient exposure to histone deacetylase inhibitor alks selected from submissions

Wolfson Room I

1600-1730	CS8: Novel Advances in Rice Biology
1600-1630	Sneh Pareek , International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, India Strigolactones: The Yield Switch in Rice
1630-1700	Usha Vijayaraghavan , Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India Functional genomics gives leads on the expanded roles for rice PISTILLATA (PI) clade organ patterning genes in flowering time, floret opening and female fertility
1700-1715	Concha Domingo , Instituto Valenciano De Investigaciones Agrarias Spain Advancing Sustainable Weed Control: Genetic Insights into Rice Allelopathy
1715-1730	Moe Moe Kyi Win , Kasetsart University, Thailand Integrating QTL-Seq and RNA-Seq to identify candidate genes regulating bacterial leaf streak resistance in rice

Wolfson Room II

1600-1730	CS9: Response to Abiotic Stress
1600-1630	Sarah Assmann , Penn State University USA Temperature-associated RNA structural variants in rice
1630-1645	Xuelel Lai , Huazhong Agricultural University China A temperature-dependent protein phase transition underlies bidirectional cold and heat stress tolerance in rice
1645-1700	Su-May Yu , Academia Sinica, Taiwan The Mitochondrial PK1-HXK-VDAC Complex Regulates Root Ventilation Crucial for Flooding Tolerance in Rice and Beyond
1700-1715	Antonio Costa de Oliveira , Universidade Federal De Pelotas Brazil The stressing point: rice responses under abiotic agents
1715-1730	Chwan-Yang Hong , National Taiwan University Taiwan CRISPR/Cas9-mediated multiplex promoter editing enables fine-tuned OsLTP311 expression for improved salt tolerance in rice without yield reduction

1730-2000 **Evening Poster Session, Drinks and Canapes**

Thursday September 10th 2026

0800-0915 **Registration Open**

0915-1045 **Emerging Talent Plenary session 1**

- 0915-0945 **Pallavi Singh**, University of Essex, UK
The Hard Graft: Can rice borrow pearl millet root systems to improve water-use efficiency?
- 0945-1015 **Alexandra Gibbs**, University of Nottingham, UK
Overcoming the Phenotyping Bottleneck in Rice: Generative AI, Data Readiness, and the Future of Functional Genomics
- 1015-1030 **Alice Fornasiero**, Marche Polytechnic University, Italy
GRAiN Oryza - Genetic diversity, Resilience and Adaptation in Native Oryza of the Americas
- 1030-1045 **Yifan Dong**, University of Nottingham, UK
The effect of stomatal density on drought stress under both daytime and nighttime conditions

1045-1115 *Break*

1115-1215 **Emerging Talent Plenary session 2**

- 1115-1145 **Bipin Pandey**, University of Nottingham, UK
Understanding how plant roots sense hard soils
- 1145-1200 **Giulia Ave Bono**, Università Degli Studi Di Milano Italy
Rice florigenic proteins determine inflorescence architecture and flower fertility
- 1200-1215 **Isaura Rosas Reinhold**, New York University, USA
Unravelling the genetic and environmental interactions underlying root adaptation in more than 108 cultivars of Oryza sativa subsp. indica

1215-1330 *Lunch*

1300-1500 **Plenary session 5: Biotic stress**

- 1330-1400 **Joao Correa**, Tropic Biosciences, UK
Development of Rice Blast Resistance Using Gene Editing-Induced Gene Silencing (GEiGS)
- 1400-1430 **Siwaret Arikrit**, Kasetsart University, Thailand
From Genes to Fields: Building Climate-Ready Rice

- 1430-1445 **Ya-Fen Lin**, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Zinc Takes the Field: Elemental Defense Mechanisms Protect Rice against *Cnaphalocrocis medinalis*
- 1445-1500 **Anjana Sharma**, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India
Integrated QTL-Seq and Multi-Omics Analyses Reveal Molecular Mechanisms of Sheath Blight Resistance in an EMS-Induced Rice Mutant

1500-1530 *Break*

1530-1630 **Closing Plenary session 6**

- 1530-1600 **Uta Paszkowski**, Cambridge Crop Centre, UK
The rice DWARF14-Like (D14L) hormone pathway integrates plant nutrition and symbiosis
- 1600-1630 **Julie Gray**, University of Sheffield, UK
Stomata and climate resilience

1615-1630 **Closing Ceremony and Prizes**

Friday September 11th 2026

1000-1600 **Visit to Kew Gardens**



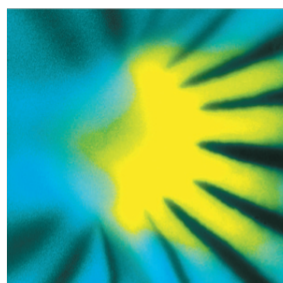
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