

A REFLECTION ON THE HISTORY OF  
THE IHSG,  
PAST CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS  
AND PUBLICATIONS

Phil Rolston, Birte Boelt,  
William (Bill) Young & John Hampton  
June 2023



## Four past presidents share their memories:

- ▶ Phil Rolston (Seed Industry Research Centre, New Zealand)
- ▶ Birte Boelt (Aarhus University, Denmark)
- ▶ William (Bill) Young (Oregon State University, OR, USA)
- ▶ John Hampton (Lincoln University, New Zealand)



# In the beginning

- ▶ 1978 (45 years ago)
- ▶ 28th Easter School in Agricultural Science, University of Nottingham, UK on “Seed Production”
- ▶ Attended by 200 delegates from 27 Countries
- ▶ Organized by Paul Hebblethwaite
- ▶ Covered Seed Production of Herbage, Sugar-beet, Cereal-seed, Vegetables, Soya bean, Seed quality and Vigour

# Paul Hebblethwaite - founding father


- ▶ The meeting was attended by Dave Chilcote (2<sup>nd</sup> IHSG president) & Harold Youngberg (OSU); Anton Nordestgaard (Denmark) and Murray Hill (NZ); among others;
- ▶ An outcome of the meeting was the formation of the IHSPRG (International Herbage Seed Production Research Group) with Paul Hebblethwaite as the 1<sup>st</sup> President;

# Paul Hebblethwaite - 1<sup>st</sup> President 1979-1983



- Paul in 2022 on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- He wrote in May 23 extending his best wishes to the 11<sup>th</sup> IHSG and apologizing for not attending as he is undergoing cancer treatment
- John Hampton's PhD supervisor 1980 -83.

# Dave Chilcote & Harold Youngberg - the Oregon link

- ▶ Dave Chilcote (2<sup>nd</sup> President of IHSRG) was a crop physiologist with a special interest in herbage seed;
- ▶ Dave was Bill Young's MSc supervisor, & Harold Youngberg his PhD supervisor
- ▶ Phil Rolston & Bill both took Chilcote's classes at OSU in mid 70's to early 80's.
- ▶ Harold Youngberg retired as Seed Extension specialist in late 80's, a position filled by Bill Young, & now Nicole Anderson
- ▶ Harold (now 94 yrs) & Bill Young (April 2023) 



# Murray Hill & the NZ link

- ▶ Murray Hill set up the Seed Technology Centre at Massey University; NZ (1976-1997)
- ▶ John Hampton worked with Murray for 17 year leading Research, Supervising post-grad students and teaching undergrads;
- ▶ In 1998 Murray & John moved to Lincoln University establishing the NZ Seed Technology Institute;

Murray Hill (L) and John Hampton (R) 2020 - - - - - ▶



# Change of name

- ▶ Started as the IHSPRG (International Herbage Seed Production Research Group),
- ▶ Shortened in 2000 to the IHSG (International Herbage Seed Group)
- ▶ Reflecting that the wider membership and conference attendees that included researchers, extension specialists, seed company production agronomists and seed growers.
- ▶ Bill Young organized the design of the new logo (2002)





# Anton Nordestgaard & the Danish link

- ▶ Anton was Birte Boelt's M.Sc and Ph.D supervisor
- ▶ She worked with him for 1½ years at Roskilde at the start of her career;
- ▶ Anton Nordestgaard and Sigurd Andersen organized the first IHSG conference
- ▶ The venue in Denmark allowed For participation from Russia and Eastern Europe

Birte Boelt and Anton Nordestgaard, Roskilde 1992 →



# Previous Conferences

Conference no.	Year	Location
1 <sup>st</sup>	1987	Tune, Denmark
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1991	Corvallis, Oregon, USA
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1995	Halle, Saxony Anhalt, Germany
4 <sup>th</sup>	1999	Perugia, Italy
5 <sup>th</sup>	2003	Gatton, Queensland, Australia with post conference tour in Victoria & NSW
6 <sup>th</sup>	2007	Gjennestad, Norway with post conference tour to Denmark

# Previous Conferences

Conference no.	Year	Location
7 <sup>th</sup>	2010	Dallas, Texas, USA
8 <sup>th</sup>	2015	Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China
9 <sup>th</sup>	2017	Pergamino, Buenos Aries Province, Argentina
10 <sup>th</sup>	2019	Corvallis, Oregon, USA
11 <sup>th</sup>	2023	Angers, France

# What makes Conferences important

- ▶ Building relationships & friendships with international colleagues;
- ▶ The small size of our group makes getting to know everyone easy;
- ▶ If this is your 1<sup>st</sup> Conference, we challenge you to identify two people you are going to interact with post-conference;
- ▶ E.g. Juan Amadeo (Gentos, Argentina) Tune, Denmark 1987 struck up a friendship with the Kiwi's that continues today;
- ▶ New research ideas and knowing who is doing what research

# 2019 Oregon



# Tribute to Prof Wang YanRong, Lanzhou University, Gansu, China

- ▶ Wang YanRong (1956 - 2023),
- ▶ She led the Local Organizing Committee for the 8<sup>th</sup> IHSB Conference 2017
- ▶ She was a strong supporter of the IHSB and attended a number of Conferences;
- ▶ She made a huge contribution to Seed Science in China;
- ▶ She completed her M.Sci under John Hampton at Massey University in the late 1980's.



# The 8th International Herbage Seed Conference

The 8th International Herbage Seed Conference  
21st - 24th June 2015, Lanzhou China

第八届国际草种子大会  
2015年6月21-24日 中国·兰州

**Organizers:**  
International Herbage Seed Group (IHSG);  
State Key Laboratory of Grassland Agro-ecosystems (SKLGAE);  
College of Pastoral Agricultural Science and Technology (CPAST),  
Lanzhou University, China;  
Lanzhou Herbage and Turfgrass Testing Centre, MDA, China

**Co-organizers:**  
Committee of Herbage Seed Science and Technology,  
China Grassland Society,  
Grassland Station of Gansu Province,  
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**Gold Sponsors**  
111 Program - Pastoral Agriculture Project supported jointly  
by the Ministry of Education and the State Administration of  
Foreign Expert Affairs, China



Wang YanRong

Nicole Anderson

Tom Chastain

Phil Rolston

John Hampton

Barthold

# Post conference Tours

- ▶ Post-conference tours have become a “must-not-miss” aspect of IHSG Conferences,
- ▶ An opportunity to both see field production over a wider geographic area of the host country;
- ▶ and for the social interaction with other colleagues and building linkages that support long-term relationships.





# Interactions over meals - Oregon 2019



# Memorable post-conference tours

- ▶ Italy 1999 with the tour in northern Italy's Po River basin;
- ▶ Australia 2003 when we flew from Brisbane to Melbourne to view seed production in Victoria and NSW along the Murray River;
- ▶ Norway 2007 with tour in Denmark;
- ▶ China 2015 - the Hexi Corridor tour into northern Gansu with its irrigated oasis and fringed by deserts to the east and mountains to the west;
- ▶ Argentina 2017 tour of southern Buenos Aires Province & the unforgettable BBQ meals;
- ▶ Oregon 2019 with the tour of Central and Eastern Oregon seed production areas and the contrasts to the Willamette Valley.

# Post Conference 2015 China & 2019 Oregon



# Workshops & International Grasslands Congress (IGC)

- ▶ Workshops less formal than Conferences
- ▶ Linked to the (IGC);
- ▶ Held in years between the IHSO Conferences. This gave a four-year cycle for IHSO Workshops, which were usually held two years after each IHSO Conference.
- ▶ IGC Brazil 2001 & New Delhi 2015 no local organizing committee to run a IHSO Workshop
- ▶ However, this routine got out of sync when IGC ran a joint Conference with the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) which required delaying the joint Congress 2008 (held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China).

# IGC 2008 Hohhot had a seeds section



# Argentina 2017 Post Conference Tour



# Workshops

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)

# Northern v Southern hemisphere meetings

	North	South
Conferences	9	2
Workshops	3	2
Combined	12	4



# Newsletter

- ▶ During the IHSG first 35 years a twice annual hard copy Newsletter was the main communication tool with members.
- ▶ A total of 56 Newsletters were produced, starting in 1997.
- ▶ Newsletters 38 (2002) to Newsletter 56 (2017) are on the IHSG website ([www.ihsg.org](http://www.ihsg.org)).
- ▶ Is the Newsletter important?

# Journal of Applied Seed Production (JASP)

- ▶ The Journal ran for 17 Issues (from 1983 to 1999), with Editors Harold Youngberg (1983-1985) and John Hampton (1986-1999);
- ▶ Initial funding from Oregon Seed Growers League (1981) & from IHSPRG member subscriptions (\$US10 for surface mail & \$US 15 for airmail);
- ▶ Vol 1 lists the Editorial Board (Youngberg, Chilcote, Don Grabe (OSU), Murray Hill (NZ), Hebblethwaite (UK) & Vern Marble (UCA) & the background history.

# Journal of Applied Seed Production (JASP)

Journal of Applied  
Seed Production

Volume 16 – 1998 ISSN 8755-8750

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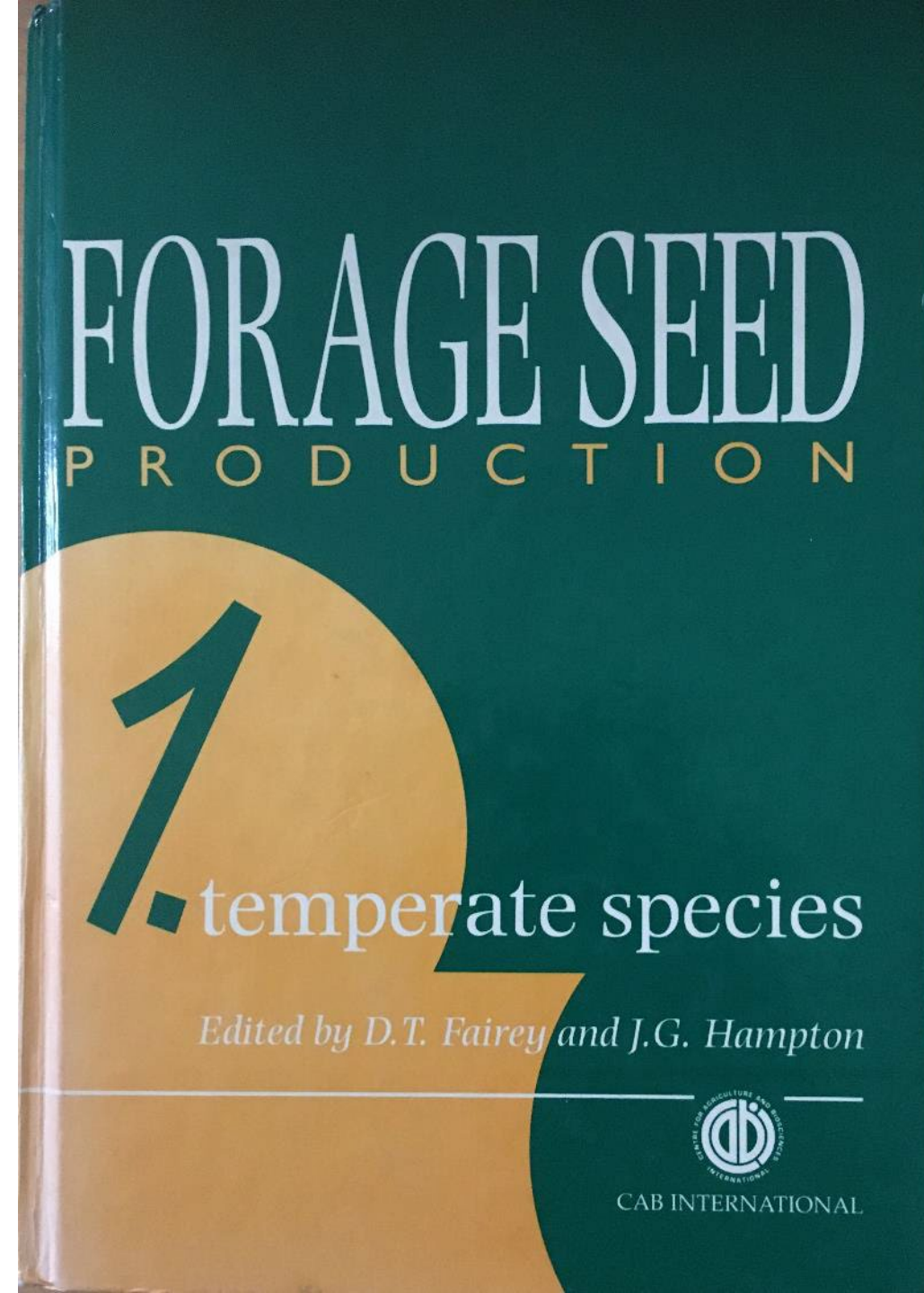
- ▶ The publication of JASP was a major achievement of the IHSG;
- ▶ Print runs averaged 200 copies, mailed to subscription members & some University libraries;
- ▶ JASP brought many seed production related papers into one easy to locate place.
- ▶ Remember this was before on-line searching for Journal articles was readily available

# The demise of JASP

- ▶ 1990's many Research organizations began to weigh a publications Impact Factor in accessing staff performance;
- ▶ Made a small Journal like JASP a less attractive place to publish;
- ▶ The cost of printing and distributing JASP was becoming an issue;
- ▶ These combined factors led to future JASP hard copy production being suspended;
- ▶ While an e-Journal was considered the problem associated with a small circulation leading to no Impact Factor ranking meant this approach was not adopted;
- ▶ JASP volumes & contents available on IHSG web page.

## Books

- ▶ Two books on Forage Seed Production (1997) by CABI for IHSG;
- ▶ Vol. 1 Temperate Species (eds Daphne Fairey and John Hampton) &
- ▶ Vol. 2 Tropical and Subtropical Species (eds Don Loch and John Ferguson)



# Books

- ▶ A major achievements.
- ▶ Volume 2 sold out.
- ▶ Royalties from the publication were a major revenue source for a 10-year period after publication.
- ▶ Vol 1 Temperate Species is very out of date;
- ▶ Needs a champion to take on the editorship of a new edition.

# Seed Grower Engagement

- ▶ A small number of seed growers from Oregon, England, Tasmania and more recently New Zealand have been regular attendees at IHSG Conferences and Workshops.
- ▶ Oregon growers attended Gatton 2003 (Bob Vander Zaden & Dave Vanasche)
- ▶ Workshop 2013 NZ & Oregon IHSG Conference 2019 both
- ▶ had presentations & field day events targeting growers;
- ▶ Grower engagement & interaction is a strength for the IHSG that we applaud;

Bob V\_Z Gansu 2013



## Web page

- ▶ The IHSG webpage ([www.ihsg.org](http://www.ihsg.org)) was redeveloped in 2017,
- ▶ Led by Tom Chastain and is based at Oregon State University,
- ▶ The new web site had scans of all the JASP papers and Newsletters dating from Issue 38, and a Blog page.

**International Herbage Seed Group**

**Welcome to the IHSG**



# Presidents - 7 countries

Year	President IHSG
1979 - 1983	Paul Hebblethwaite, UK
1983 - 1986	Dave Chilcote, USA
1986 - 1989	John Hampton, New Zealand
1989 - 1993	Don Loch, Australia
1993 - 1997	Daphne Fairey, Canada
1997 - 2001	Mario Falcinelli, Italy
2001 - 2005	William (Bill) Young III, USA
2005 - 2013	Birte Boelt, Denmark
2013 - 2017	Phil Rolston, New Zealand
2017 - 2019	Tom Chastain, USA
2019 - present	Rene Gislum, Denmark

# 4 past Presidents -Winchester Workshop 2005



Mario  
Falcinelli

Birte Boelt

Bill Young

Don Loch

# Conclusion

- ▶ The IHSG has built a loyal following of regular attendees;
- ▶ Is a valuable forum for information exchange;
- ▶ A forum for building relationships and co-operation between seed researchers in different countries;.