

Members of the National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB),

It has been a busy but exciting three months for the executive committee, various committees, and working groups as we strive to achieve outcomes that benefit our larger organization. The teams have made significant progress, and in this newsletter, you will learn more about what is happening across the NAPB.

We welcome Dr. Tom Koch, Research Manager at Beck's Seeds, who will start in mid-2025 as our **new 2025/26 NAPB Secretary**. Thank you to everyone who helped us with the voting process.

We also had a successful presence at both the Tri-societies (November) and ASTA (December) events, where we had a booth and a presentation to share more about who we are and our strategic intent as an association.

We are pleased to announce that, in partnership with ASF (Agronomic Science Foundation) and APBA (African Plant Breeding Association), we have created an **International Borlaug Scholar Fund** for non-US-based PhD students to complement our NAPB Borlaug Scholar program. This initiative allows us to extend the remarkable legacy of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug by developing talent in Africa for Africa. Please reach out to the Commercial Plant Breeding Committee and Donn Cummings for any information and support.

Since 2023, we have connected leaders across more than five Plant Breeding Associations in Africa, Asia, and Europe in a **'Roundtable of Plant Breeding'** to create a community. We have worked on identifying the outcomes we want to drive, connecting with each other via social media, and creating a plan for 2025 to have two newsletters to share what each of us is doing.

Due to significant interest, we decided to reopen registration for the \$1,000 **Early Career and Student Travel Reimbursement Award**. This initiative is designed to support early career and student members in attending our Annual Meeting in Hawaii. Our positive financial position following the Annual Meeting in St. Louis has made it possible to fund these awards for 2025. The registration process has been reopened and will remain open until December 31, 2024.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to visit farmers in various parts of the world. As I reflected on these interactions over the Thanksgiving break, I wanted to share a few thoughts on why the NAPB has a lot to offer to the agriculture industry both in the US and globally.

- Agriculture is a global industry,
- Plant breeding plays a crucial role in addressing long-term trends and challenges.
- To tackle these issues, it is important for us as a scientific community to collaborate across the public and private sectors.

Happy holidays, and I look forward to work with many of you in 2025!

J.D. Rossouw

NAPB President

Picture below from [Stephanie Botton](#) to show “Research brings the world together”! One of the three winners in the photo contest during our St. Louis Annual NAPB Meeting.

