



## Your CEPAMS Newsletter - May 2024

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### Introduction

Welcome to the CEPAMS Newsletter.

First off, a massive thank you to our Chinese hosts who delivered a magnificent CEPAMS symposium on Hainan island. It was so exciting to hear about the ground breaking science taking part in our institutes and thrilling to see new collaborations being born (more of that in the newsletter).

Just a reminder that these opportunities to collaborate are open to everybody in CEMPS, IGDB, JIC and TSL. Please reach out and start something new!

**Dr Yiliang Ding, Deputy Director of CEPAMS**

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## Upcoming Grants & Awards



Grant: **International Exchanges**

Status: **Open**

Deadline: **05 June 2024**



Grant: **PIFI**

Status: **Open**

Deadline: **01 September 2024**

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## Collaboration Testimonials



"I have two collaborations with CEPAMS (with Jun Xiao and Fei Lu), 2-3 papers in the works, a PIFI grant and two other grants in the pipeline. These collaborations are going extremely well – facilitated, in large part, by the outstanding CEPAMS Symposium in Hainan, China. It has been great to develop and mature these collaborations which have significantly enhanced my teams' research."

**Cristobal Uauy, Group Leader, JIC**

"At this year's conference we had seminars for half a day followed by discussion groups for half a day. This was very effective as discussion always makes inspiration. In our discussion group I introduced my work on insects and got some questions from an angle that I've never thought about. This made me realize the specialty and significance of my work. I have the contact details from potential collaborators and will get in touch with them in the near future."

**Qun Liu, Postdoctoral Researcher, JIC**





"As the only student on site, the symposium was not as daunting as I thought it would be. I felt greatly welcomed by all the scientists. Dr Jeremy Murray and Dr Fang Xie offered instructive opinions about my PhD project, which aims to understand dynamics and functions of triterpenoids in the nodulation process. A delightful conversation with Dr Bing Wang brought up a potential collaboration to identify small molecules with potential functions in the process of plant parasitism. I highly recommend scientists from JIC to attend the CEPAMS Symposium, which offers wonderful opportunities for plant science collaborations between China and UK."

**Shouchao Yan, Post Graduate Student, JIC**

"CEPAMS provides an excellent platform for collaborative scientific research between the UK and China. In the recent annual symposium, I had in-depth academic discussions with the members of CEPAMS. We explored how ideas and techniques from computational biology can be applied to solve problems in different areas, such as spike development, sperm cell mechanics, and protein movement. Some of these discussions quickly inspired us to form projects we could collaborate on."

**Jie Cheng, Postdoctoral Scientist, JIC**



## Spotlight on...



[Cao Xu](#)

Group Leader, IGDB

Interested in:

[Small peptide signaling](#)

[Cis-regulatory evolution](#)



[Xiufang Xin](#)

Group Leader, CEMPS

Interested in:

[Plant disease](#)

[Environmental sensing](#)

[Plant microbiome](#)

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## Events Coming Up

May 2024 [Seminars at CEMPS](#) (Shanghai)

May 2024 [Seminars at IGDB](#) (Beijing)

May 2024 [Friday Seminars at JIC](#) (Norwich)

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## CEPAMS Annual Symposium 2024



The 2024 Annual Symposium of the CAS-JIC Centre of Excellence for Plant and Microbial Science (CEPAMS) was successfully held in Sanya, Hainan (China) from March 18 to March 20. The symposium was organized by the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and hosted by CEPAMS, with Prof. Dame Caroline Dean FRS NAS and the CAS member Prof. Xiaofeng Cao NAS serving as co-chairs. Over 100 scientists from China, the UK, and the United States attended the meeting, including Fellows of the Royal Society, members of the National Academy of Sciences, and CAS members, as well as editors from scientific journals Cell, Developmental Cell, Molecular Plant, and Science China Life Sciences.



*Honorary opening remarks were given by CAS member Prof. Zhihong Xu*

In his opening remarks, the CAS member Prof. Zhihong Xu gave an account of the long-standing collaborative history between China and the John Innes Centre in the

UK. He described his study and research experience in the UK in 1979. He emphasized that CEPAMS is a joint center built on years of friendship and mutual scientific interests between the scientists of the UK and China. During the past decade of collaboration, CEPAMS has not only introduced and nurtured a group of outstanding young talents but has also achieved remarkable scientific breakthroughs. He expressed his hope that through the collective efforts of Chinese and British scientists, they can work together to address global technological challenges and create a better future.

During the symposium, seminars were given by the CAS member Prof. Jiayang Li, director of the Yanzhou Bay National Laboratory; the CAS member Prof. Sanwen Huang, the president of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences; Prof. Jijie Chai from Westlake University; and Dr. Shifeng Cheng from the Institute of Agricultural Genomics at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Scientists from JIC and CEPAMS also presented their latest research achievements. The symposium included dedicated discussion sessions focusing on research collaborations, joint collaborative grant proposals, and the future development of CEPAMS.



*Group discussions*

The symposium marked the first face-to-face CEPAMS annual meeting in five years. It was an important event for summarizing previous collaborative experiences, looking ahead to future developments, enhancing exchanges and deepening understanding among Chinese and British scientists. The symposium played a

crucial role in promoting substantive cooperation between scientists from both countries in relevant fields and advancing the development of the Sino-British joint research Centre.

[See more photos of the CEPAMS Symposium 2024.](#)

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## CEPAMS Publications



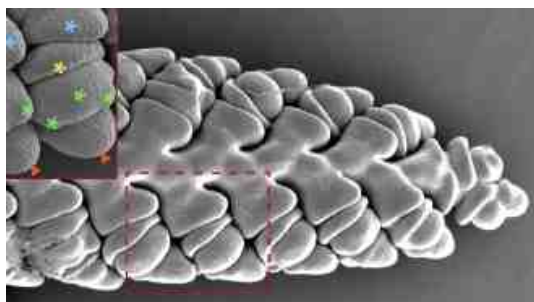
[Lin et al. 2024](#). Systematic identification of wheat spike developmental regulators by integrated multi-omics, transcriptional network, GWAS, and genetic analyses.

[Lyu et al. 2024](#). The TaSnRK1-TabHLH489 module integrates brassinosteroid and sugar signalling to regulate the grain length in bread wheat.

[Shen et al. 2024](#). The wheat sucrose synthase gene *TaSus1* is a determinant of grain number per spike.

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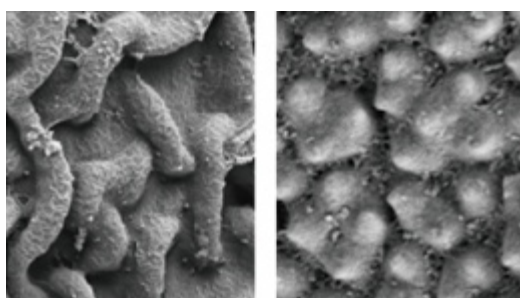
## CEPAMS News



[Systematic, Efficient, and Accurate Approach for Identifying Key Regulatory Factors in Wheat Spike Development](#)



[Researchers Reveal Impact of Brassinosteroid and Sugar Signal on Wheat Grain Size Regulation](#)



[Chinese Scientists Uncover the Functional Role of Lipid Metabolism in Cold Tolerance at Rice Booting Stage](#)



[Researchers Study Role of Post-transcriptional Splicing in Plant Response to Light](#)

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## Caroline Dean Visits China

In March 2024, Professor Dame Caroline Dean, co-director of CEPAMS, visited Shanghai, Hainan island and Beijing to meet with people keen to support the work of CEPAMS.





Caroline gave a presentation at the Institute of Botany, Beijing.



Caroline Dean and Xiaofeng Cao (co-directors of CEPAMS), visited the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and met with Deputy Director Yan Wu to discuss joint funding schemes and future visions for CEPAMS.



Caroline gave a CEPAMS Seminar entitled "Antisense-mediated chromatin silencing" at IGDB in Beijing.

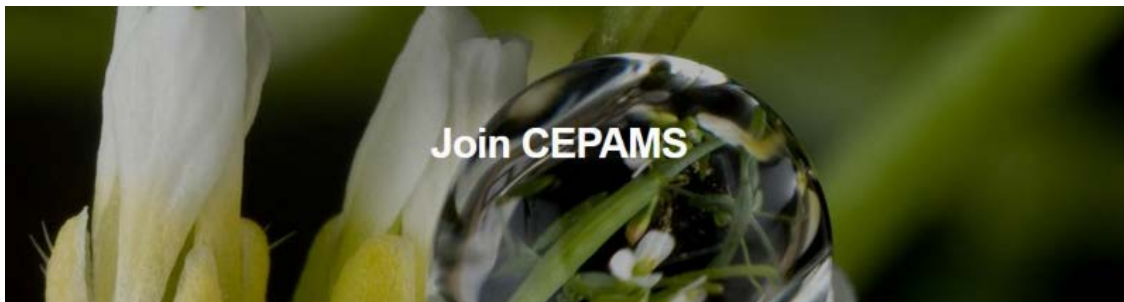


Caroline and Xiaofeng met with Mr Yongtao Zhang, Acting Director General of the International Collaboration Bureau of the NSFC to explore joint funding schemes for CEPAMS and how best to enhance scientific collaborations between UK and China.



Caroline and Xiaofeng met with Mr Matt Moody, Minister Counsellor at the British Embassy in Beijing, to investigate joint international funding schemes between UK and China to promote the development of CEPAMS

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## CEPAMS Group Leader Positions

CEPAMS is [recruiting for Group Leaders](#) in Shanghai and Beijing.

This important role will give you the financial support and freedom to advance your own original research programmes in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Our research makes use of a wide range of disciplines in the biological and chemical sciences including cell biology, biochemistry, chemistry, genetics and molecular biology.

If you wish to apply, please send your CV, research proposal, and three letters of recommendation to [cepams@genetics.ac.cn](mailto:cepams@genetics.ac.cn) and [nlin@cemps.ac.cn](mailto:nlin@cemps.ac.cn).

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## Share your science

We'd love to celebrate your science in the CEPAMS newsletter. Please [email us](#) with any information on activities or achievements you've had, including:

- Recent events you've been involved in.
  - Awards that you or colleagues have received.
  - Podcasts or seminars you have given.
  - Virtual events you have attended or would like to be advertised.
  - Interactions with external people on your science and projects.
  - Industry interactions and collaborations.
  - Articles you have published.
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