



## Your CEPAMS Newsletter – August 2024

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### *Introduction*

Welcome to the CEPAMS Newsletter.

We are just two months away from the Annual Science Meeting at JIC/TSL when many CEPAMS colleagues will be flying in from China. Now is the time to start thinking about people you would like to meet with, collaborations you'd like to foster or new research you'd like to kick off. Please make contact and get the ball rolling.

In this newsletter we celebrate the outstanding science in CEPAMS and the important collaborations that support this. A reminder, again, that these opportunities to collaborate are open to everybody in CEMPS, IGDB, JIC and TSL.

**Prof. Dame Caroline Dean, Director of CEPAMS**

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## Upcoming Grants & Awards

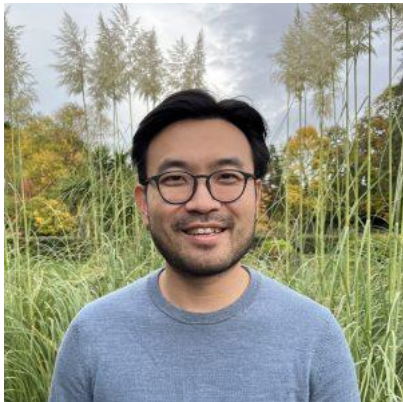


Grant: **PIFI**

Status: **Open**

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## Collaboration Testimonials



"My interactions with CEPAMS have greatly enhanced my research. I have had excellent collaboration with Jun Xiao. His visits to JIC, as well as my visit to IGDB earlier this year, have helped us identify complementary expertise. Learning about his large-scale biology approaches to understand the regulation of endosperm development have really helped me understand my own research on starch synthesis in a broader context. We have joint papers in the works, and I will be sending one of my students to his lab later this year to facilitate more exchange. Attending the CEPAMS symposium has led to many more collaboration ideas with other CEPAMS faculty, in areas as diverse as wheat domestication, plant immunity and symbiosis. It was also a great opportunity to develop friendships with other early career researchers."

**David Seung, Group Leader, JIC**

"CEPAMS is an efficient platform to foster scientific collaboration between China and the UK. This year's annual symposium in Hainan was a combination of seminars and discussion groups. I not only introduced my research on stomatal cell size control and the situation of the laboratory but also conducted in-depth academic and technical exchanges with CEPAMS members. This experience lays a solid foundation for potential scientific collaboration in areas such as exploring cell size control, and engineering climate-resilient plants by modifying stomata size in the future."

**Xinyu Zhang, Postdoctoral Researcher, JIC**

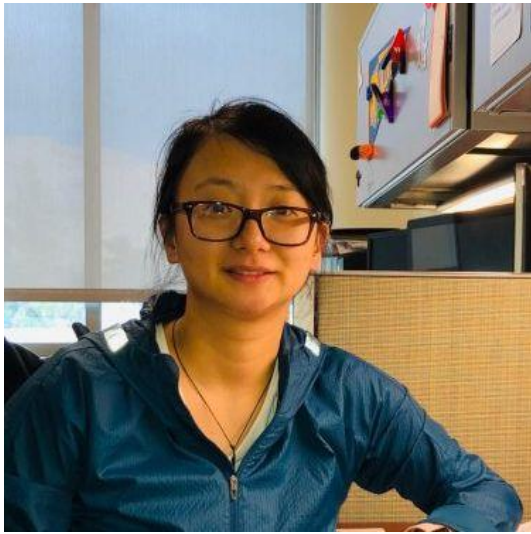


"I am honored to have attended the 2024 Annual Symposium in Hainan this March. During the symposium, I listened to many great talks and engaged in stimulating discussions with outstanding scientists from CEPAMS and the invited speakers. Some topics did inspire me a lot and hopefully I will be able to collaborate with some of my CEPAMS colleagues in the near future."

**Yuxuan Xi, Postdoctoral Researcher, JIC**



## Spotlight on...



[Yuan Wang](#)

Group Leader, IGDB

Interested in:

[Non-coding RNAs](#)  
[on development](#)

[Epigenetic regulation & cell fate](#)



[Jeremy Murray](#)

Group Leader, CEMPS

Interested in:

[Legume & bacteria symbiosis](#)  
Nitrate transport & signaling

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## Events Coming Up

Autumn 2024	<u><a href="#">Seminars at CEMPS</a></u> (Shanghai)
Autumn 2024	<u><a href="#">Seminars at IGDB</a></u> (Beijing)
Autumn 2024	<u><a href="#">Friday Seminars at JIC</a></u> (Norwich)
22-25 November 2025	<u><a href="#">IPCMI 2025</a></u>
23-25 April 2025	CEPAMS Symposium, Shanghai

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## CEPAMS Symposium 2025



### **Save the date: 23-25 April 2025**

The next CEPAMS Symposium will take place at the Shanghai Center for Plant Stress Biology in the Chenshan Botanical Garden in Shanghai. This is a beautiful setting with first rate facilities.

The garden itself covers 82 hectares (>200acres) with 3,500 local plant species, including collections of magnolias, roses, azaleas, peonies, conifers, maples, osmanthus and bamboo.

The symposium is an outstanding opportunity to hear about the latest research in plant and microbial science and to meet with potential collaborators. If you are interested in attending, please contact your local [CEPAMS administrator](#).

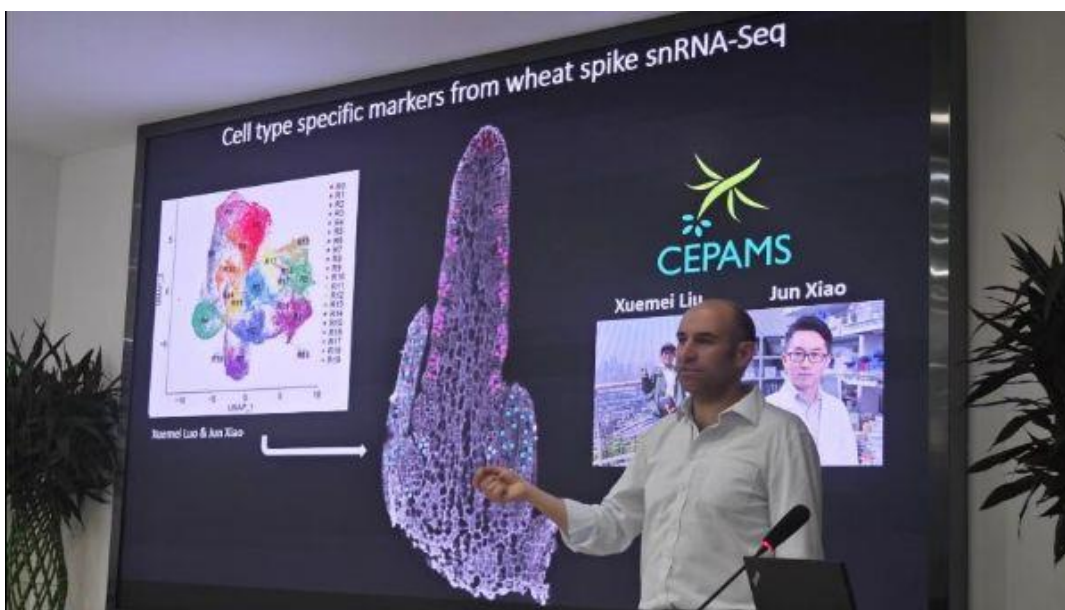
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## *Prof. Cristobal Uauy Visits CEPAMS*

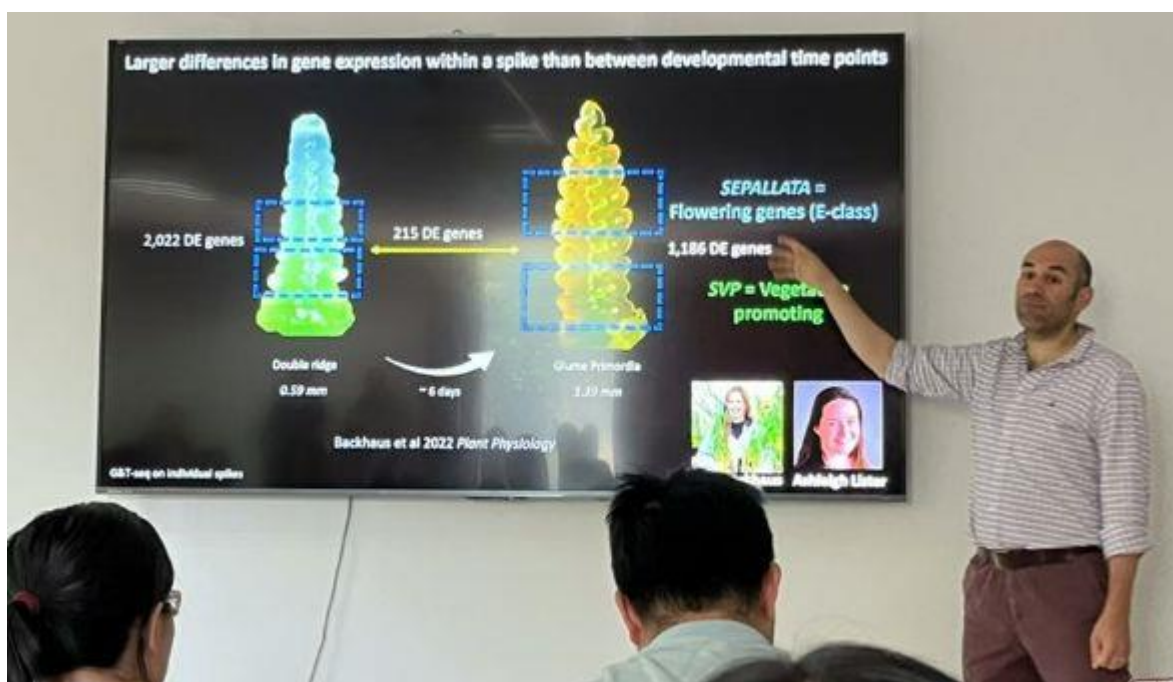


Beijing, China – The Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB) was honored to host Professor Cristobal Uauy on May 14, 2024. Professor Cristobal Uauy, an expert in wheat genetics and genomics from the John Innes Centre, UK, delivered an insightful presentation titled "Wheat Spike Development Across Space and Time" and on May 15, 2024, Professor Cristobal Uauy also gave a presentation at the Institute of Botany (IB), Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Professor Cristobal Uauy holds multiple prestigious positions, including Group Leader in wheat genetics and genomics at the John Innes Centre, Group Leader of the CAS-JIC Centre of Excellence for Plant and Microbial Science (CEPAMS), and CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) Distinguished Scientist.

His research aims to enhance both the yield and quality components of wheat through genetics and genomics. By using molecular genetic approaches, his lab identifies genes involved in wheat productivity traits and strives to translate this knowledge into improved varieties for industry and consumers. The ultimate goal is to understand how these genes function to develop the most effective strategies for deploying them in commercial wheat varieties.



Prof. Cristobal Uauy is a Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher (Since 2019). He has published 135 research papers in top-tier international journals such as Nature, Science, Nature Genetics, Nature Plants, and Nature Communications, and his research has garnered more than 21,000 citations. Additionally, in recognition of his contributions, he was

awarded the 2021 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Mentor Award.

Professor Cristobal Uauy's visit and presentations provided invaluable insights into the future of wheat research, fostering collaboration and innovation among scientists at CEPAMS, IGDB, and IB. His work continues to inspire advancements in agricultural science, driving progress toward sustainable and efficient wheat production.





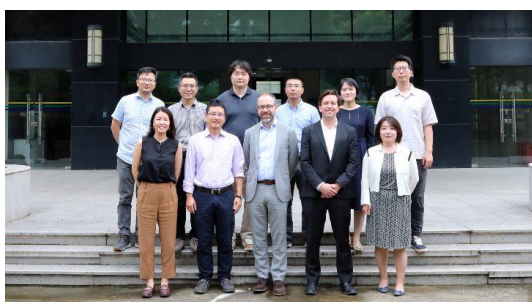
## CEPAMS Publications



[Zhao et al. 2024](#). Deciphering the Transcriptional Regulatory Network Governing Starch and Storage Protein Biosynthesis in Wheat for Breeding Improvement.

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## CEPAMS News



[UKRI Visits CEPAMS in Shanghai](#)



[Researchers Unlock Wheat's Water-Saving Potential with TabHLH27 Balancing Stress and Growth](#)



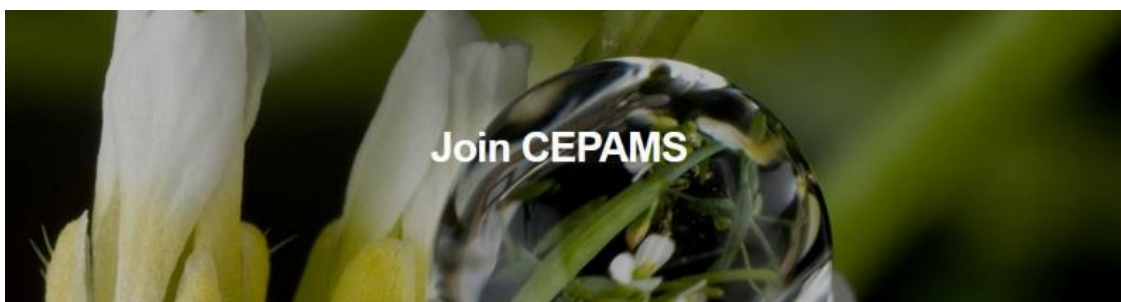
[Researchers Decipher the  
Transcriptional Regulatory  
Network of Wheat Endosperm  
Development for Breeding  
Improvements](#)

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## **The 5th International Conference on Plant Metabolism (ICPM 2024)**



ICPM 2024 takes place in Sanya, China from 22-25 November 2024. Invited speakers include JIC's Cathie Martin and Anne Osbourn. [Early bird registration](#) before 1 September 2024.



## *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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