



Your CEPAMS Newsletter - November 2025

Introduction

Welcome to the CEPAMS newsletter, a celebration of the collaborations between:

- Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB), Beijing
- Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Science (CEMPS), Shanghai
- John Innes Centre (JIC), Norwich
- The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) Norwich

The agreement between our institutes has been thriving since it began in 2014, producing world-leading research and many highly-cited papers.

In the year ahead we look to enhance and expand this agreement with some exciting initiatives. Please read on to discover how you can get involved. Enjoy the newsletter!



Prof. Xiaofeng Cao
Co-Director of CEPAMS

Upcoming Grants & Awards



Grant: **PIFI**

Status: **Open**

LEVERHULME
TRUST

Grant: **Visiting Professorships**

Status: **Closes 02 October 2026**

CEPAMS for Everyone

CEPAMS has broadened its collaboration to include all CEMPS, IGDB, JIC and TSL researchers. These collaborative opportunities are now also available to all Principal Investigators (PIs) at CEMPS/IGDB, and not just CEPAMS-appointed PIs.

Our institutes have a shared vision of excellence in plant science and microbiology and produce world-leading research. In a recent review of the CEPAMS vision, it was enthusiastically agreed, between all CEPAMS partners, to expand and revitalise these key relationships.

To this end, if you are interested in exploring scientific collaborations with researchers at one of the partner institutes, you are invited to contact them directly.

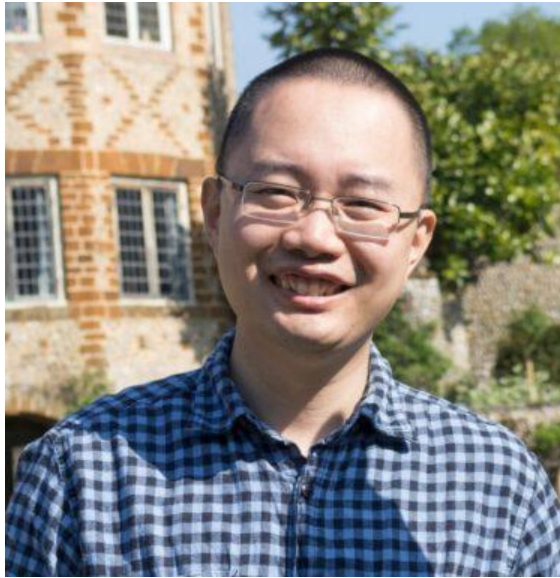
[CEMPS Principal Investigators](#)

[IGDB Principal Investigators](#)

[JIC Principal Investigators](#)

[TSL Principal Investigators](#)

Spotlight on...

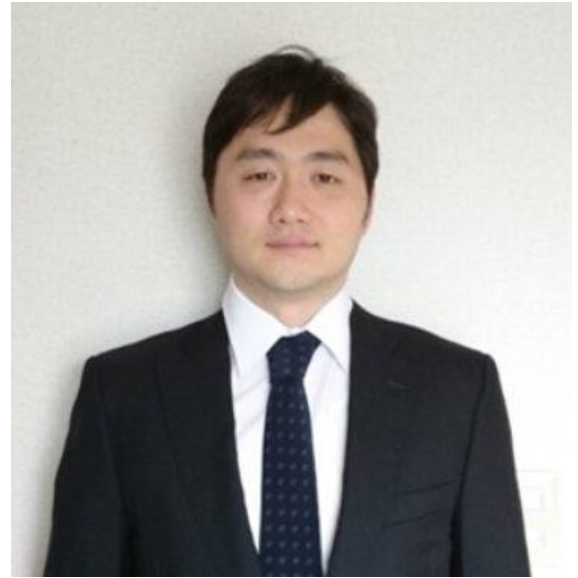


Jian Feng

Group Leader, IGDB

Interested in:

legume-rhizobial symbiosis signalling



Hiromu Kameoka

Group Leader, CEMPS

Interested in:

AM symbiosis

Events Coming Up

Autumn 2025

Seminars at CEMPS (Shanghai)

Autumn 2025

Seminars at IGDB (Beijing)

Autumn 2025

Friday Seminars at JIC (Norwich)

CEPAMS Symposium 2026, save-the-date



The next CEPAMS Symposium will be in sunny Norwich from **2-4 June 2026**. Please save the date in your calendars.

There will be science talks, flash talks, group discussion sessions and posters!

It is hoped that there will be a record number of labs represented this year. Brace yourself for a hotbed of collaborative opportunities!

CEPAMS Publications

[Chen et al. 2025](#). A tomato NBS-LRR gene *Mi-9* confers heat-stable resistance to root-knot nematodes.

[Cheng et al. 2025](#). An annotated near-complete sequence assembly of the *Magnaporthe oryzae* 70-15 reference genome.

[Huang et al. 2025](#). Genomic Variation Underpins Genetic Divergence and Differing Salt Resilience in *Sesbania bispinosa*.

[Kang et al. 2025](#). TAC-C uncovers open chromatin interaction in crops and SPL-mediated photosynthesis regulation.

[Liu et al. 2025](#). Forage Crop Research in the Modern Age.

[Liu et al. 2025](#). Epigenetic perspectives on wheat speciation, adaptation, and development.

[Lv et al. 2025](#). SHATTERING ABORTION3 controls rice seed shattering by promoting abscission zone separation.

[Song et al. 2025](#). Inheritance of acquired adaptive cold tolerance in rice through DNA methylation.

[Wang et al. 2025](#). Control of seed-to-seedling transition by an upstream open reading frame in *ABSCISIC ACID DEFICIENT2*.

[Wang et al. 2025](#). Near-complete assembly and comprehensive annotation of the wheat Chinese Spring genome.

[Xie et al. 2025](#). Engineering crop flower morphology facilitates robotization of cross-pollination and speed breeding.

[Yu et al. 2025](#). Harnessing Green Revolution genes to optimize tomato production efficiency for vertical farming.

[Yu and Xu, 2025](#). Decoding the cellular symphony of leaf senescence and nutrient allocation.

JIC/TSL Annual Science Meeting

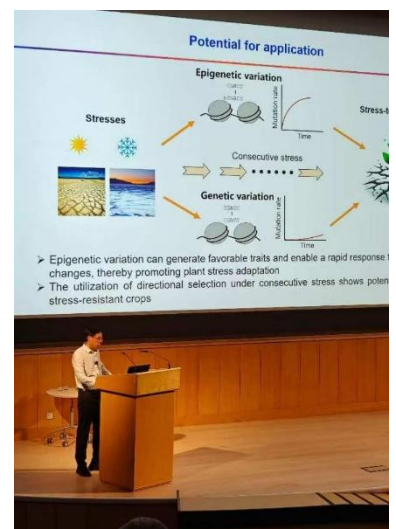
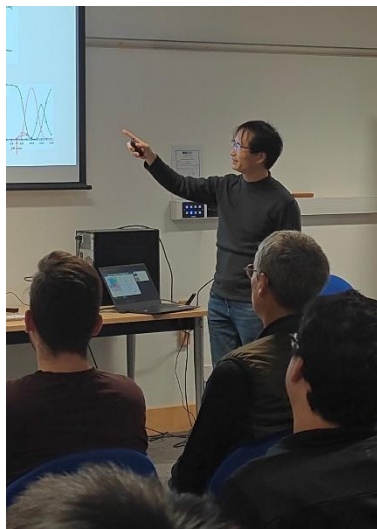


14 delegates from CEMPS and IGDB joined the Annual Science Meeting in October this year.

The CEPAMS Seminar Session, with talks from Chaofeng Huang, Weibing Yang, Qihua Ling, Donglei Yang and Xiaofeng Cao, being very well attended (pictures below).

Xianwei Song gave an outstanding presentation in the main auditorium.

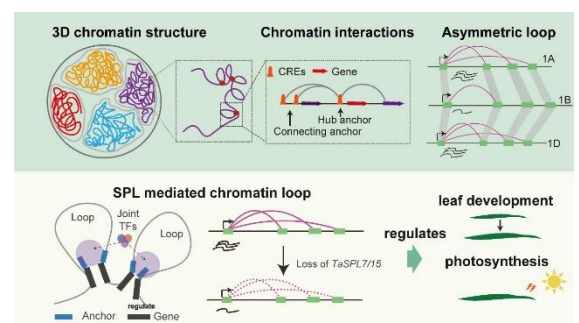
The visit was an excellent opportunity for collaborators and old colleagues to meet up to discuss their research projects.



CEPAMS News



Researchers Unveil the Translational Mechanism during Seed Germination



New 3D Genome Mapping Technology Sheds Light on How Plants Regulate Photosynthesis

Congratulations!



Congratulations to the CEPAMS Principal Investigators who recently received promotions. Cao Xu was promoted to Executive Deputy Director of the State Key Laboratory of Advanced Breeding Technologies; Fei Lu to Director; Jun Xiao to Deputy Director of the Laboratory of Advanced Breeding Technologies.

King Charles III birthday celebration



On 10 June 2025, Xiaofeng Cao and Lei Qi attended the birthday celebrations for King Charles III at the residence of the British Ambassador. They met Minister Counsellor Matt Moody, Health Policy Advisor Tom Jackson, officers for science and technology Bernadette Denton and Jingjing Jiang, and Sophie Durrans from UKRI. Different funding streams for CEPAMS were discussed.

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.

