The WheatCAP Project: Creating Public Long-Term Tools And Capabilities For Wheat Improvement

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The public sector is responsible for most of the commercial wheat cultivars released in the US. Since 2006 USDA/CCPRR funded a consortium of breeders, USDA/ARS high-throughput genotyping labs and Genome and Biotechnology. The project aimed at developing and long-term research that would have the greatest impact in wheat breeding, education, public awareness, and public policy. The project involved 60 participating institutions and 600 participants. The project has led to the development of new germplasm and cultivars, which have been distributed to researchers and farmers around the world. The project has also resulted in the development of new tools and technologies, such as high-throughput genotyping, which has enabled researchers to identify new genes and traits that are important for wheat improvement. The project has also helped to improve the awareness and understanding of the public about the importance of wheat and its role in food security. The WheatCAP project has also helped to bridge the gap between the public and private wheat breeders and researchers.