



Workshop

Adapting Winter Wheat for Harsh Winters

October 28, 2025

ONLINE (Teams platform)

REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/4HAU6UiryjJ4NBbo6>

- 9.00–9.05 **Opening words**
Dr. Rita Armonienė, LAMMC, Lithuania
- 9.05–9.15 **Introduction to “Fimbulwinter wheat”, a NKJ research network**
Dr. Sofia Marmon, LU, Sweden

Session 1:

Understanding the trait of winter hardiness

- 9.15–10.00 **Keynote speaker:**
VRN turning into winter: Exploring the role of VRN2 in cold adaptation
Dr. Dominique Hirszt (IPK, Germany)
- 10.00–10.30 **Unlocking fructans for future wheat production: a sweet approach to frost and drought resilience**
Dr. Camilla Lorange Lindberg (NMBU, Norway)
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–11.45 **Keynote speaker:**
Can we teach machines to select like a plant breeder?
Dr. Sebastian Michel (Boku, Austria)
- 11.45–12.15 **Freezing tolerance: an important trait for winter wheat in the Nordic-Baltic region**
Dr. Rita Armonienė (LAMMC, Lithuania)
- 12.15–13.15 Lunch break
- 13.15–13.30 **Lipids and their role in plant cold acclimation**
Dr. Sofia Marmon (LU, Sweden)

Session 2:

The role of winter hardiness in breeding, different country perspectives

- 13.30–13.45 **Winter wheat in Iceland**
Hrannar Smári Hilmarsson (LBHI, Iceland)
- 13.45–14.00 **Diversity of Nordic winter wheat genetic resources**
Dr. Sbatie Lama (LBHI, Iceland)
- 14.00–14.15 **The challenges of winter wheat survival in Norway and opportunities for breeding more winter hardy varieties**
Dr. Jon Arne Dieseth (Graminor, Norway), and Dr. Morten Lillemo (NMBU, Norway)
- 14.15–14.30 **Adapting to Nordic conditions: insights from Lantmännen winter wheat programme**
Dr. Firuz Odilbekov (Lantmännen, Sweden)
- 14.30–15.00 Coffee break
- 15.00–15.20 **Winter wheat from Finland's perspective and description of previous work in winter survival and wheat diseases at Luke**
Dr. Juho Hautsalo (LUKE, Finland), and M.Sc. Annika Johansson (UH & LUKE, Finland)
- 15.20–15.40 **Winter hardiness in Finnish winter wheat breeding**
Sanna Ahonen (Boreal, Finland)
- 15.40–16.30 Questions and discussions

