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# Low Protein Wheat for Baking Quality

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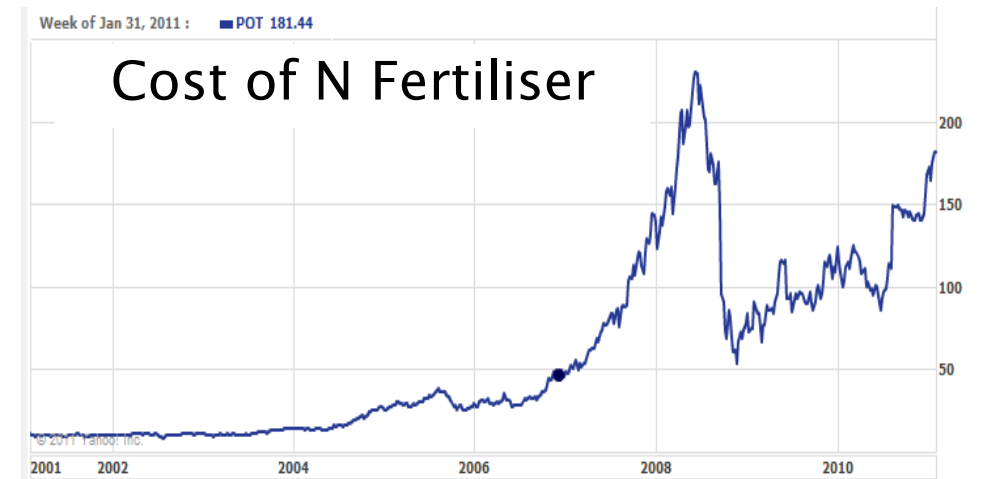
# Challenges for Wheat Quality in Europe



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## Major priorities

- Yield
- Reduce N requirement for growing high yielding bread making wheats
- Increase stability of yield and quality



# Challenges for Wheat Quality in Europe



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## Major priorities

- Yield
- Reduce N requirement for growing high yielding bread making wheats
- Increase stability of yield and quality

Types of UK wheat used by flour millers		
Group	Description	% of 2016 UK wheat crop*
<b>nabim</b> Group 1	Consistent bread making wheats. 13% protein, 250s HFN and specific weight 76kg/hl.	24
<b>nabim</b> Group 2	Bread making potential. Some are inconsistent, others suit specialist flours.	7
<b>nabim</b> Group 3	Soft wheats for biscuits, cakes etc. Low protein and an extensible but not elastic gluten.	5
<b>nabim</b> Group 4	Feed wheats.	58

\* Varieties not in the Recommended List are not included.



# Challenges for Wheat Quality in Europe

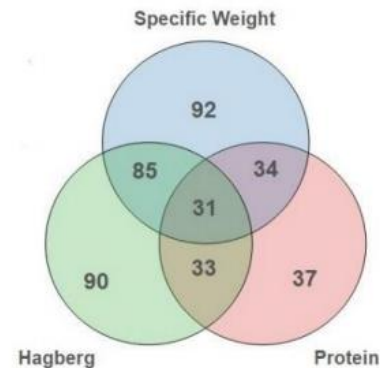


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## Major priorities

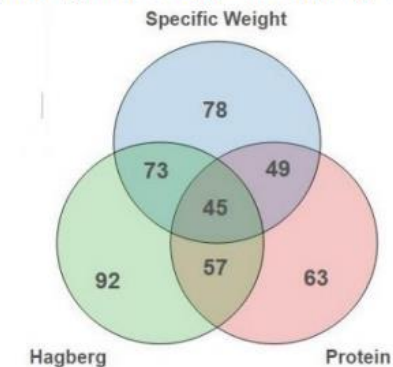
- Yield
- Reduce N requirement for growing high yielding bread making wheats
- Increase stability of yield and quality

**2015 Final results (GB)**  
High quality bread wheat  
(Group 1, 76.0 kg/hl Spec Wgt/ 250 Hagberg/13.0% Protein)



Sample: 21966

**2016 Final results (GB)**  
High quality bread wheat  
(Group 1, 76.0 kg/hl Spec Wgt/ 250 Hagberg/13.0% Protein)



Sample: 5773

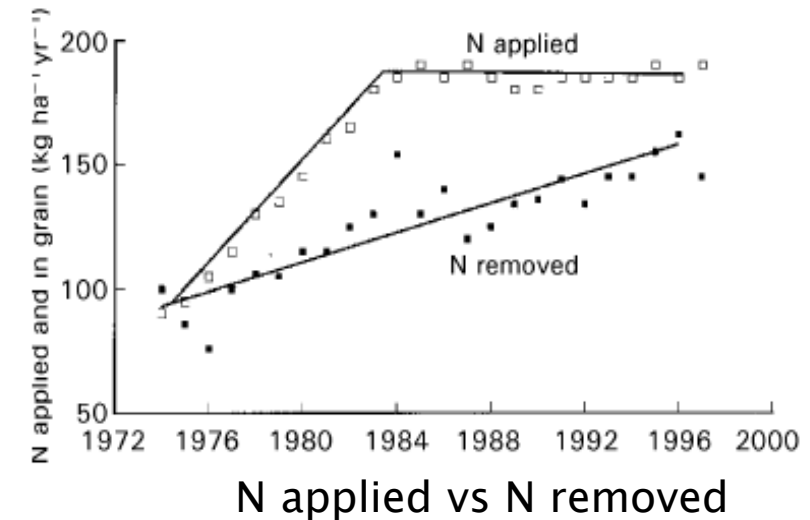
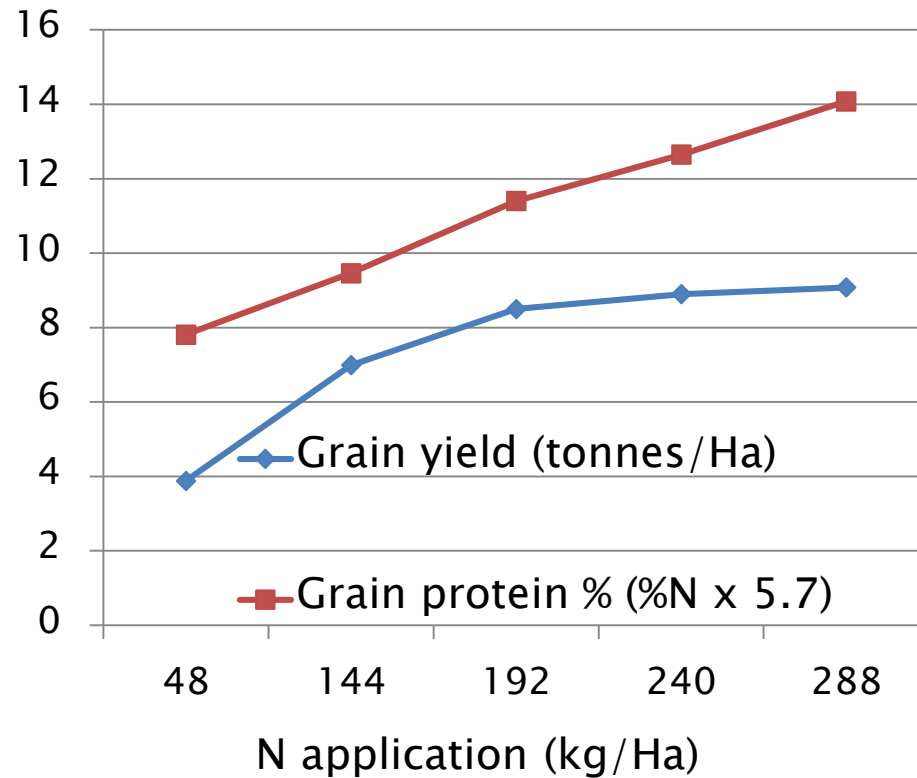
Source: AHDB Cereals &  
Oilseeds Quality Survey 2016





# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key

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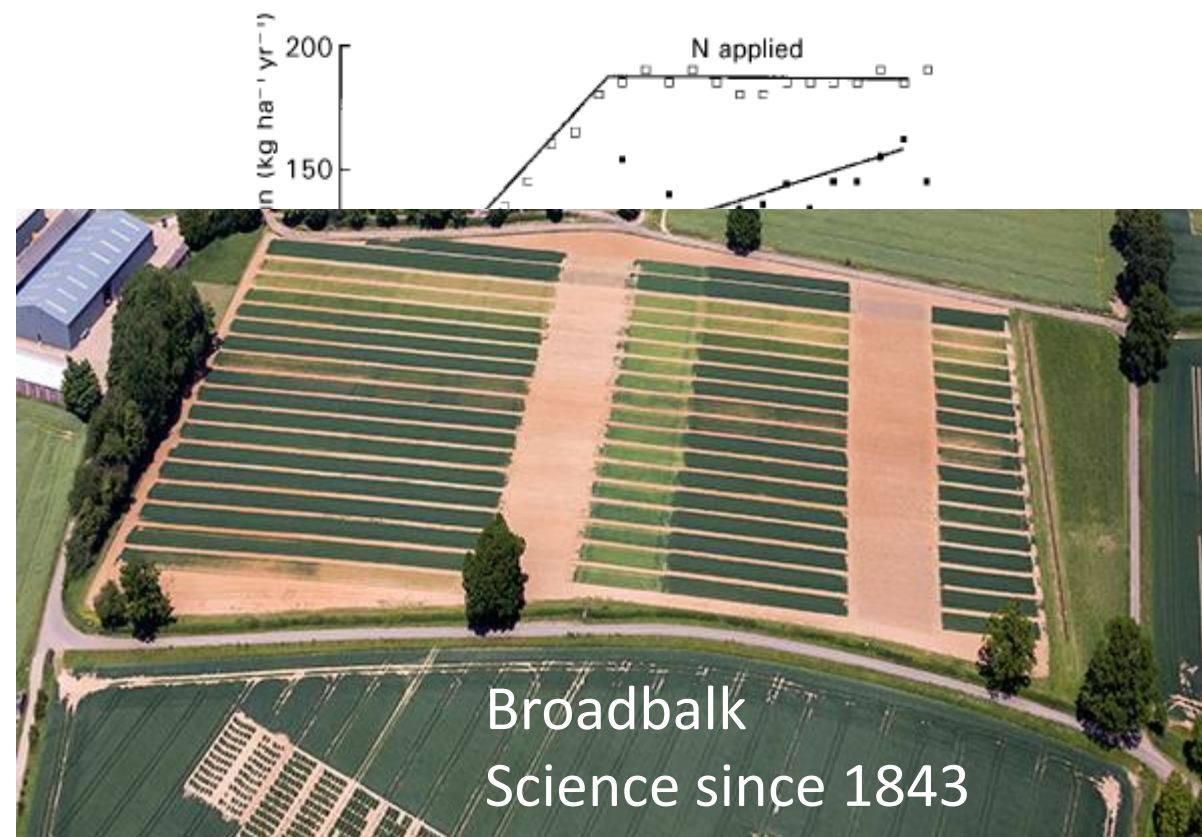
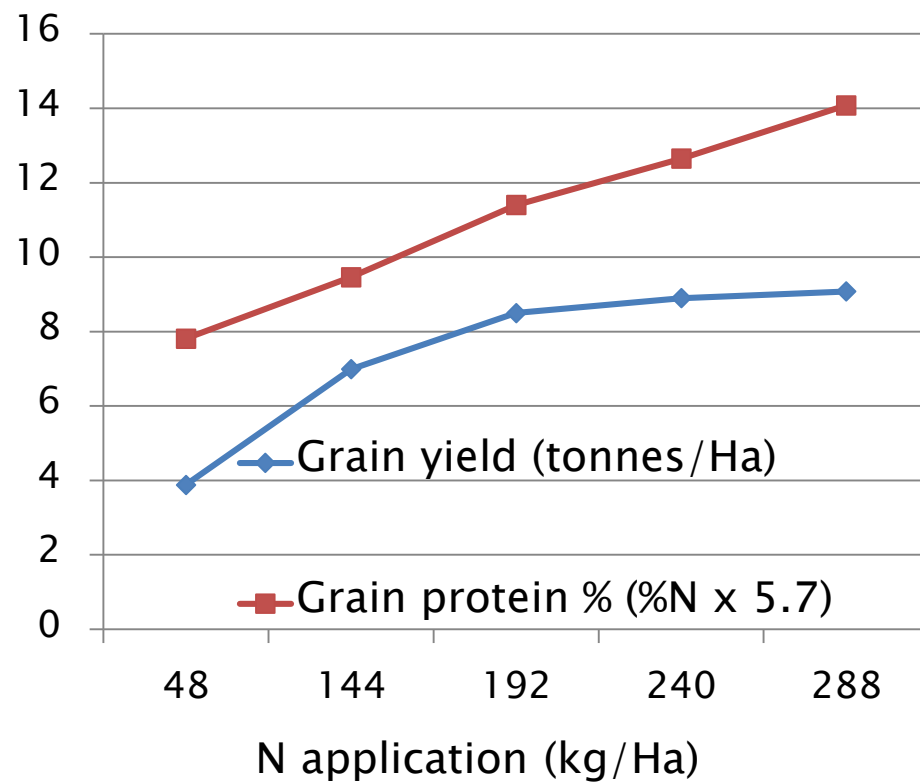
- The high grain protein requirement for bread making results in N applications above the optima for yield and N use efficiency





# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key

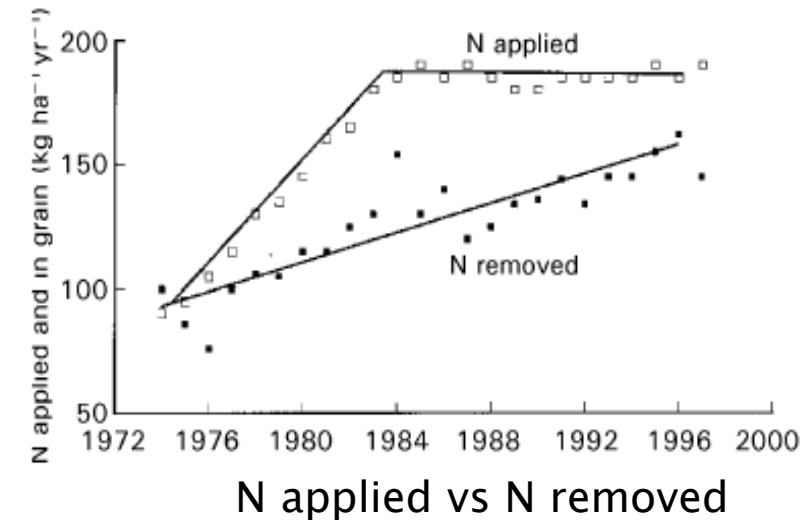
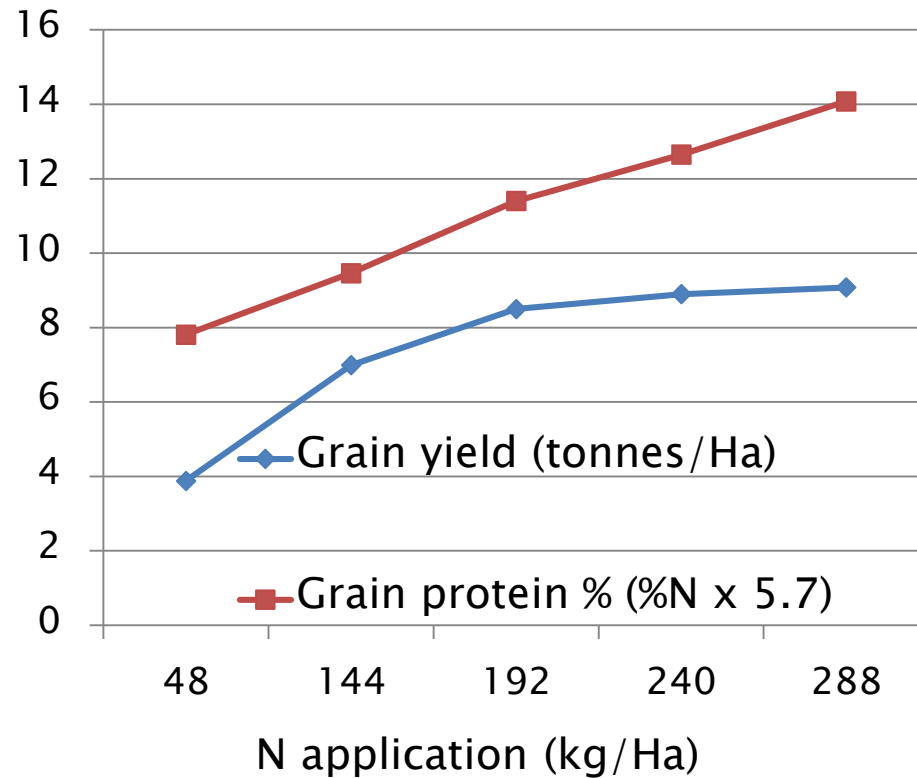
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# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key

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- The high grain protein requirement for bread making results in N applications above the optima for yield and N use efficiency

# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key



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Improved quality with low N application

- Exploiting grain protein deviation (GPD)
- Stacking beneficial genes
- Developing low protein grain





# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key



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Improved quality with low N application

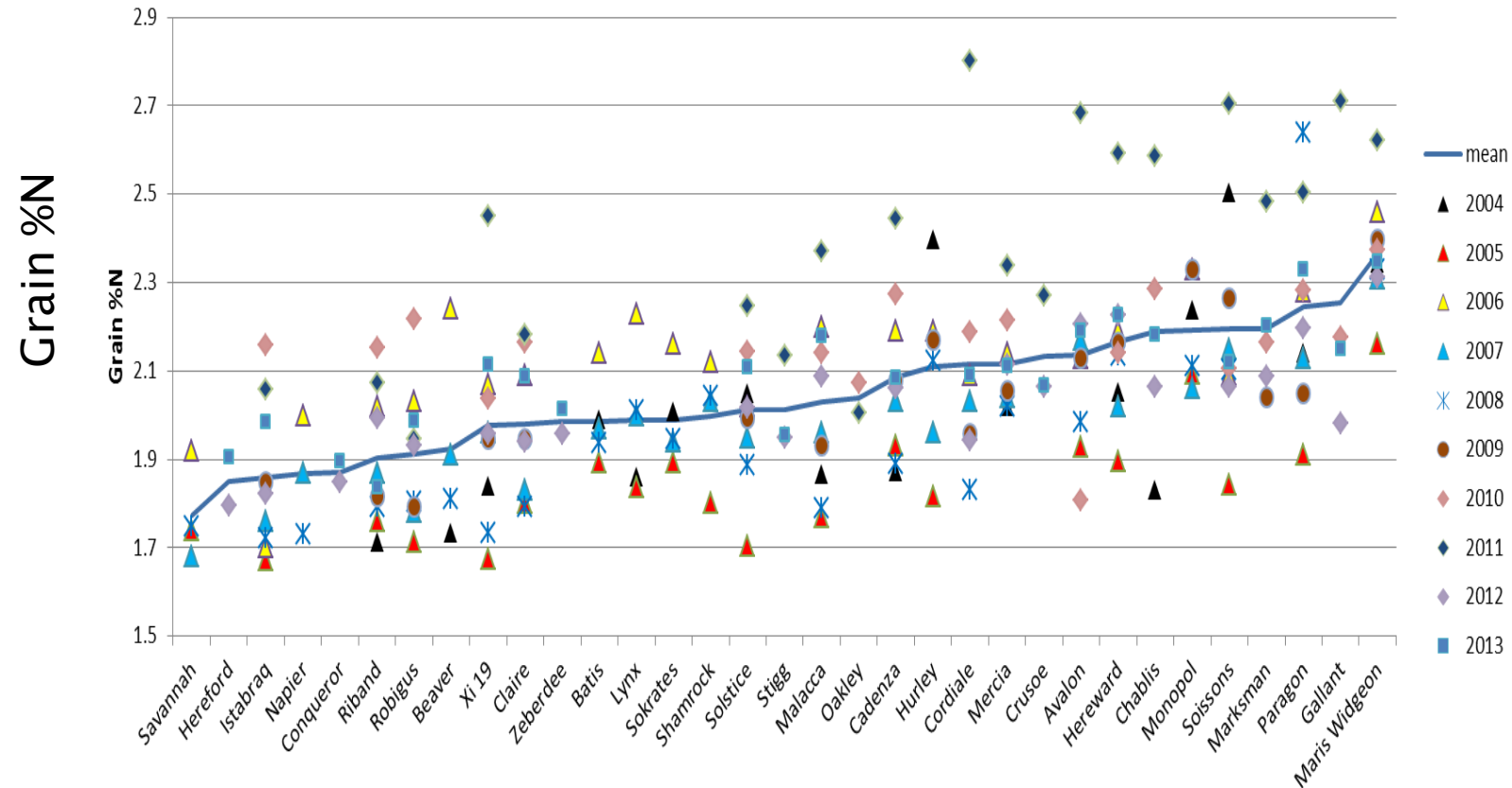
- Exploiting grain protein deviation (GPD)
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# Cultivars vary in their grain N contents



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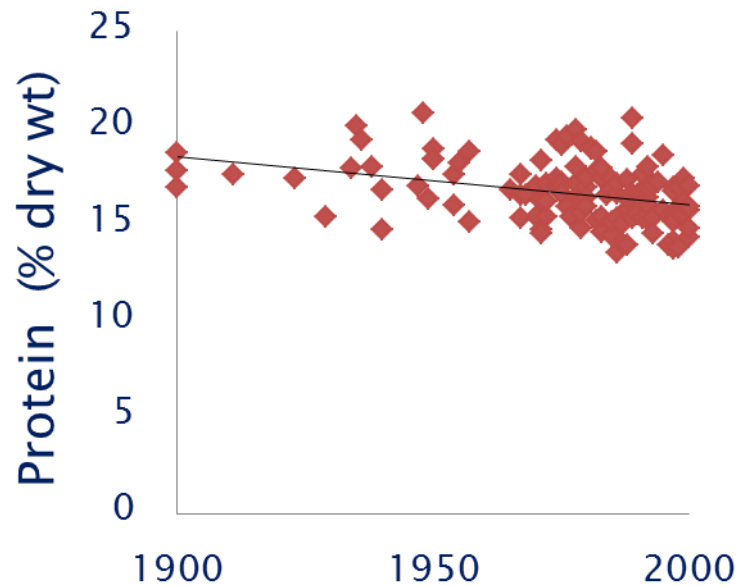


Data for 33 UK cultivars grown at least 2 years between 2004  
and 2013 at 200 kg N/Ha varieties

# Grain protein content decreased with intensive breeding

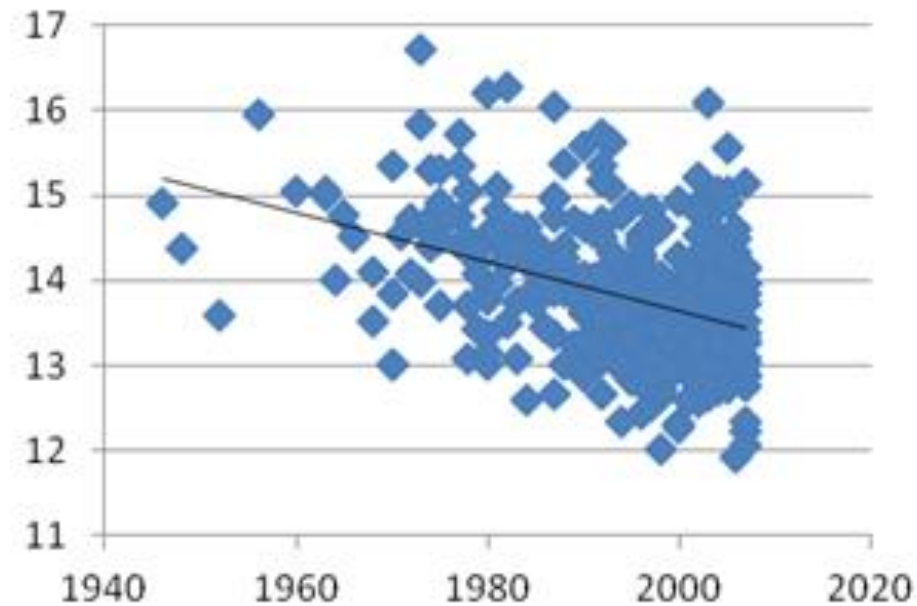


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Shewry et al, 2011, JAFS  
59 928-933

European Triticeae Genome panel of  
376 elite winter wheat cultivars



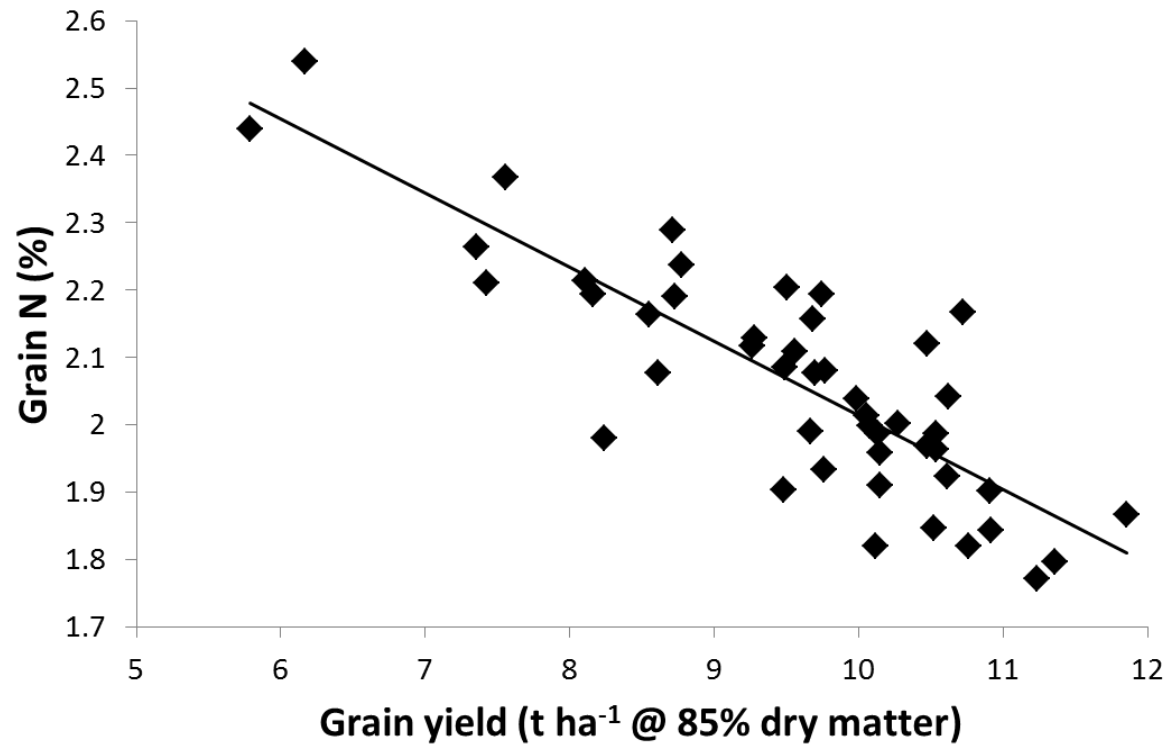
Data provided by Ian Mackay from Bentley  
et al 2014, TAG 127: 2619-2633



# Grain protein deviation (GPD)



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Mean grain N contents and yields for 47 wheat cultivars grown at Rothamsted Research between 2004 and 2012.



# Exploiting GPD

- Trials

- Rothamsted in 2009
- Rothamsted, Syngenta, Ragt, Limagrain and KWS in 2010 and 2011

- Analyses

- Yield
- Grain protein
- Milling and baking

- Transcriptomics (21 dpa)

- 2009 Rothamsted (all plots)
- 2010 Rothamsted (all plots) + RAGT (all N200 plots)
- 2011 Rothamsted and RAGT (200N at both sites only)

## Six cultivars:

**Hereward**: Group 1, stable high protein, outclassed in yield

**Xi 19**: Group 1, medium protein

Malacca: Group 1, medium protein, outclassed in yield

**Cordiale**: Group 2, medium protein, *grain protein deviation*

**Marksman**: Group 2, medium protein, *grain protein deviation*

**Istabraq**: Group 4, low protein, suitable for feed and biofuel



# Nitrogen Field Trials



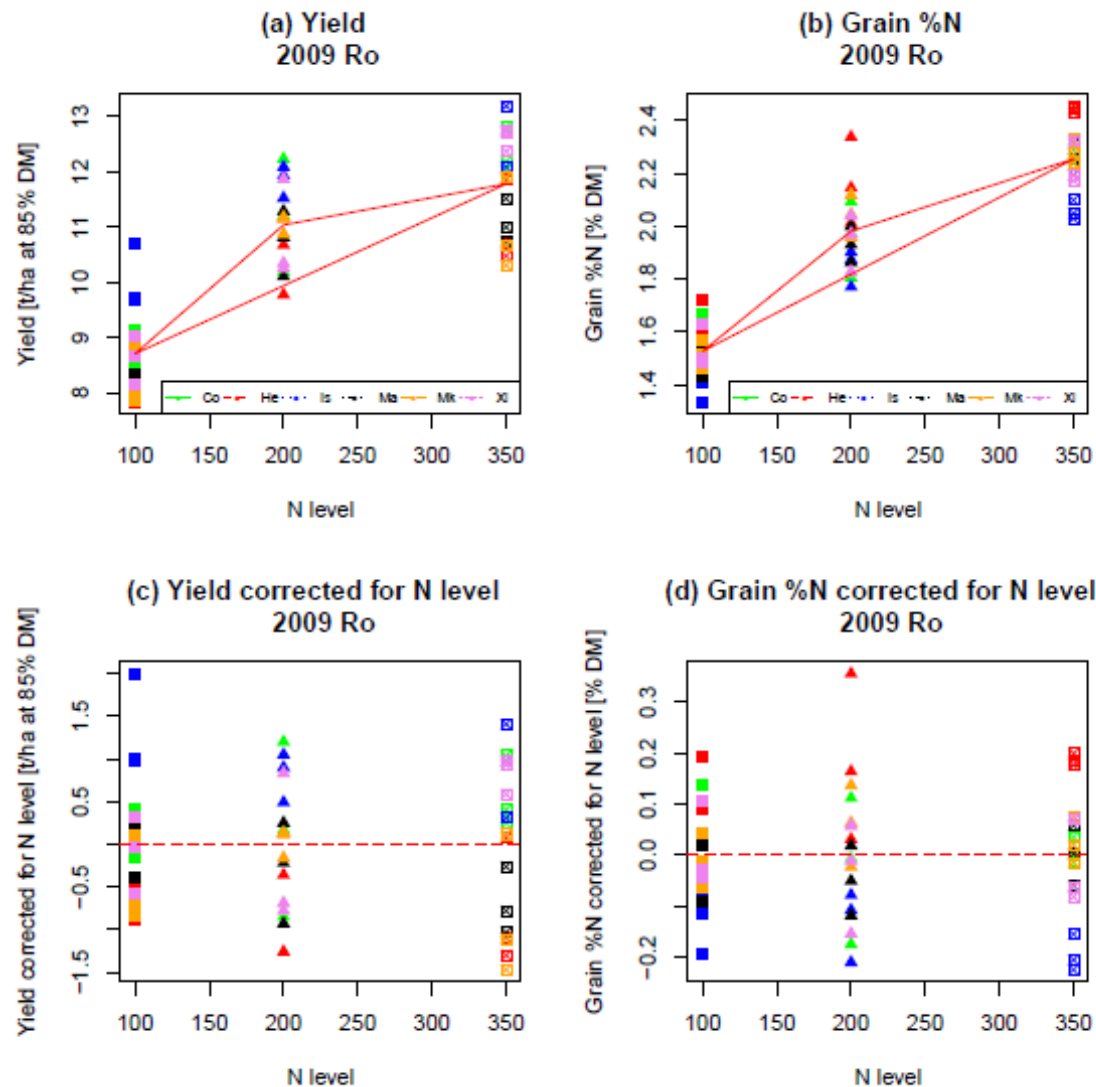
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# Yield and grain N are corrected for effects of N fertilisation



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Data integration:  
Ellen Mosleth (Oslo)



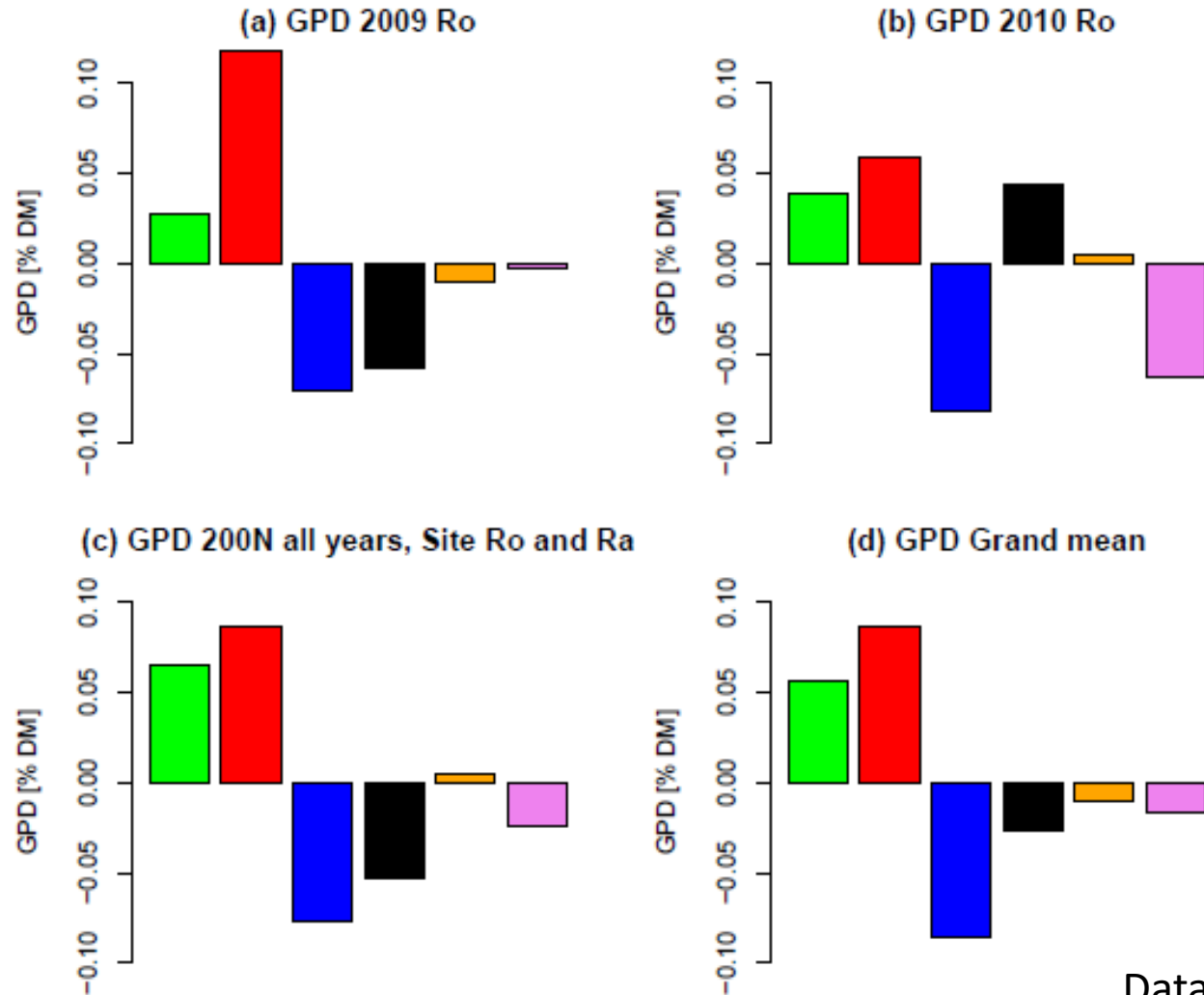




# This allows the calculation of GPD



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Her  
Xi19  
Mal  
Cor  
Mar  
Ist

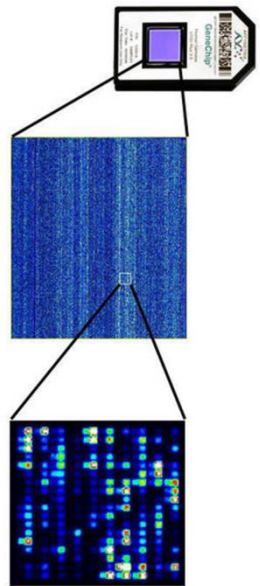
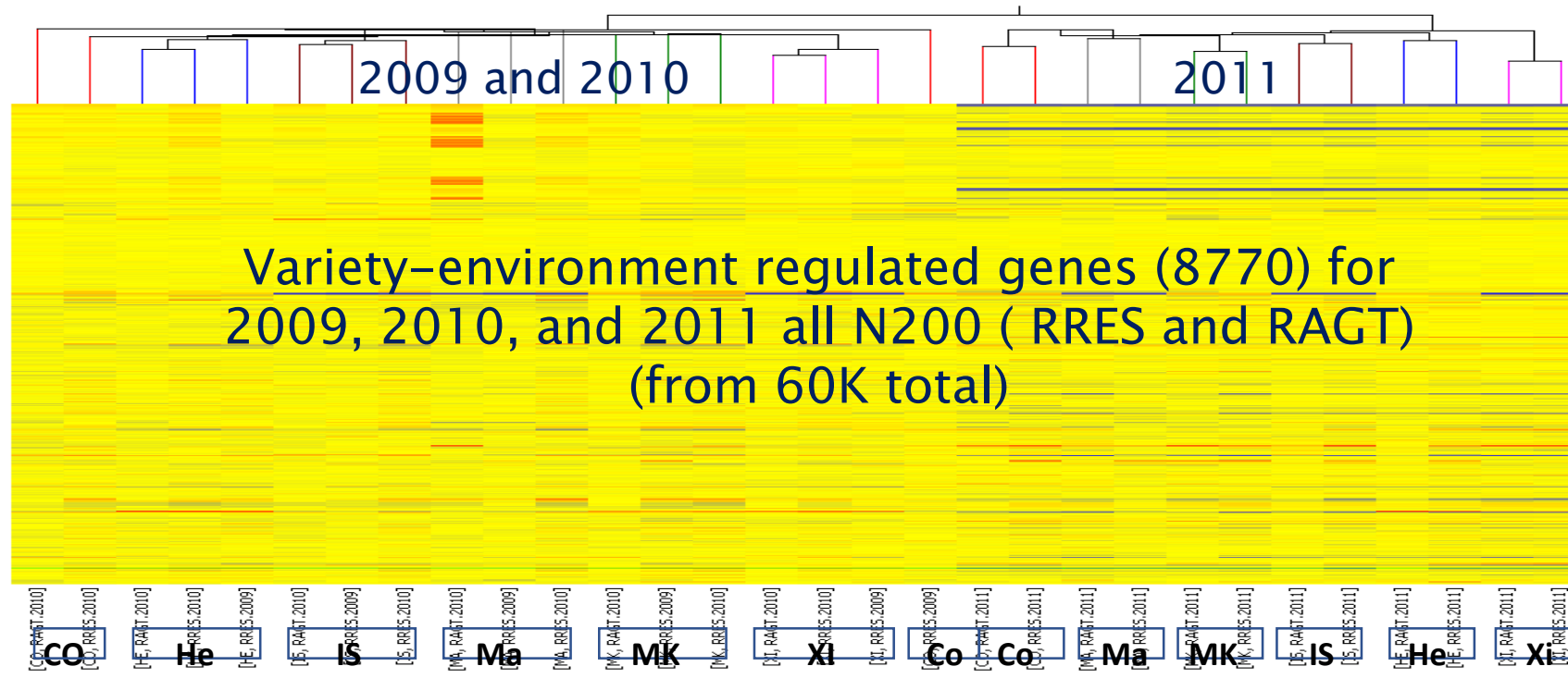
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# Transcriptomics



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Expression data processed to remove effects of

1. Nitrogen fertilisation
2. Yield

Identified 136 transcripts related to cultivar differences in GPD

# The challenge is to confirm gene function



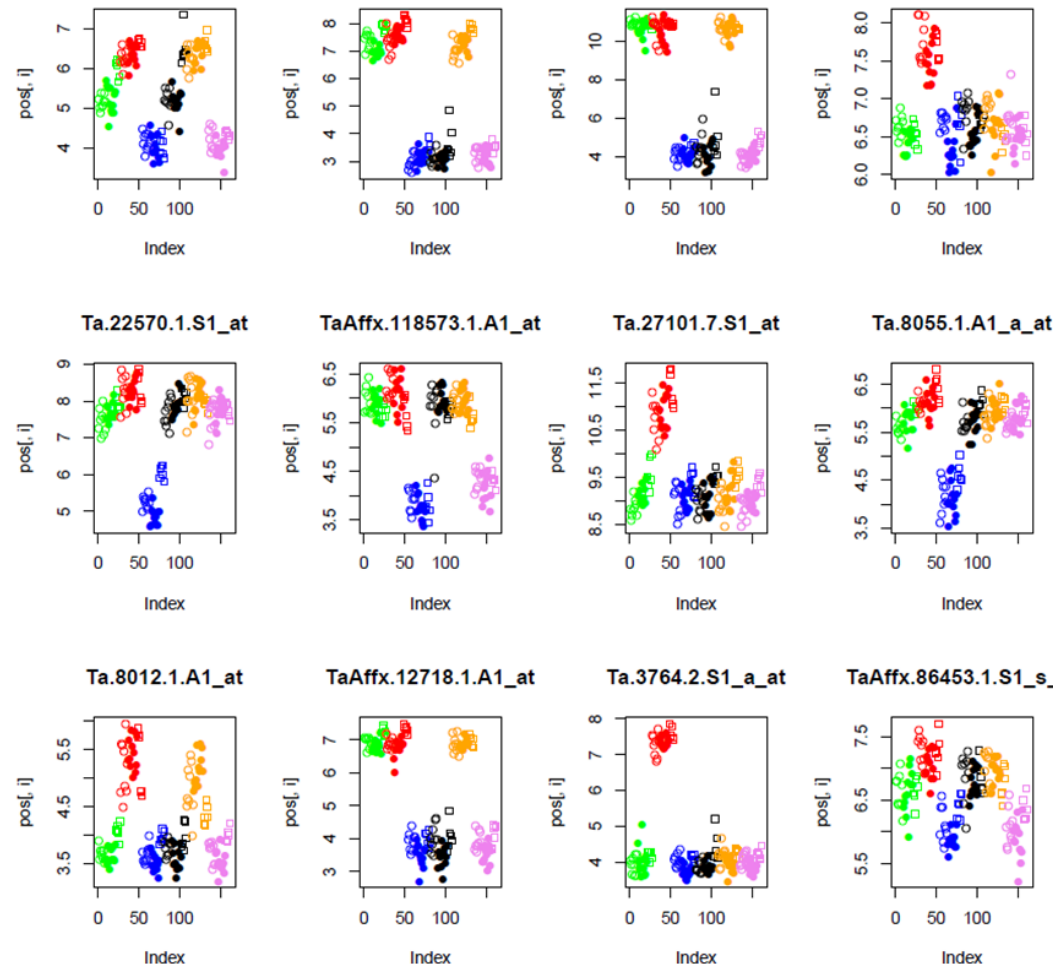
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The samples are sorted along the x-axis according to the cultivar

Green: Cordiale  
Red: Hereward,  
Blue: Istabraq  
Black: Malacca,  
Yellow: Marksman  
Purple: Xi19

Her  
Xi19  
Mal  
Cor  
Mar  
Ist

Expression of genes positively related to GDP in 2009 (open circles), 2010 (closed circles) and 2011 (open squares)





# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key



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## Improved quality with low N application

- Exploiting grain protein deviation (GPD)
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# The Hereward x Malacca population



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- DH population of approx 100 lines (from RAGT)
- “Good x good” cross but neither cultivar has “good” HMW alleles:
  - Hereward: 1B7+9, 1D3+12
  - Malacca: 1B17+18, 1D 2+12
- Grown for 2 years (2005, 2006) on 2 sites
- Assessed for milling, baking (spiral white, wholemeal, CBP) and puff pastry making



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# Traits Investigated

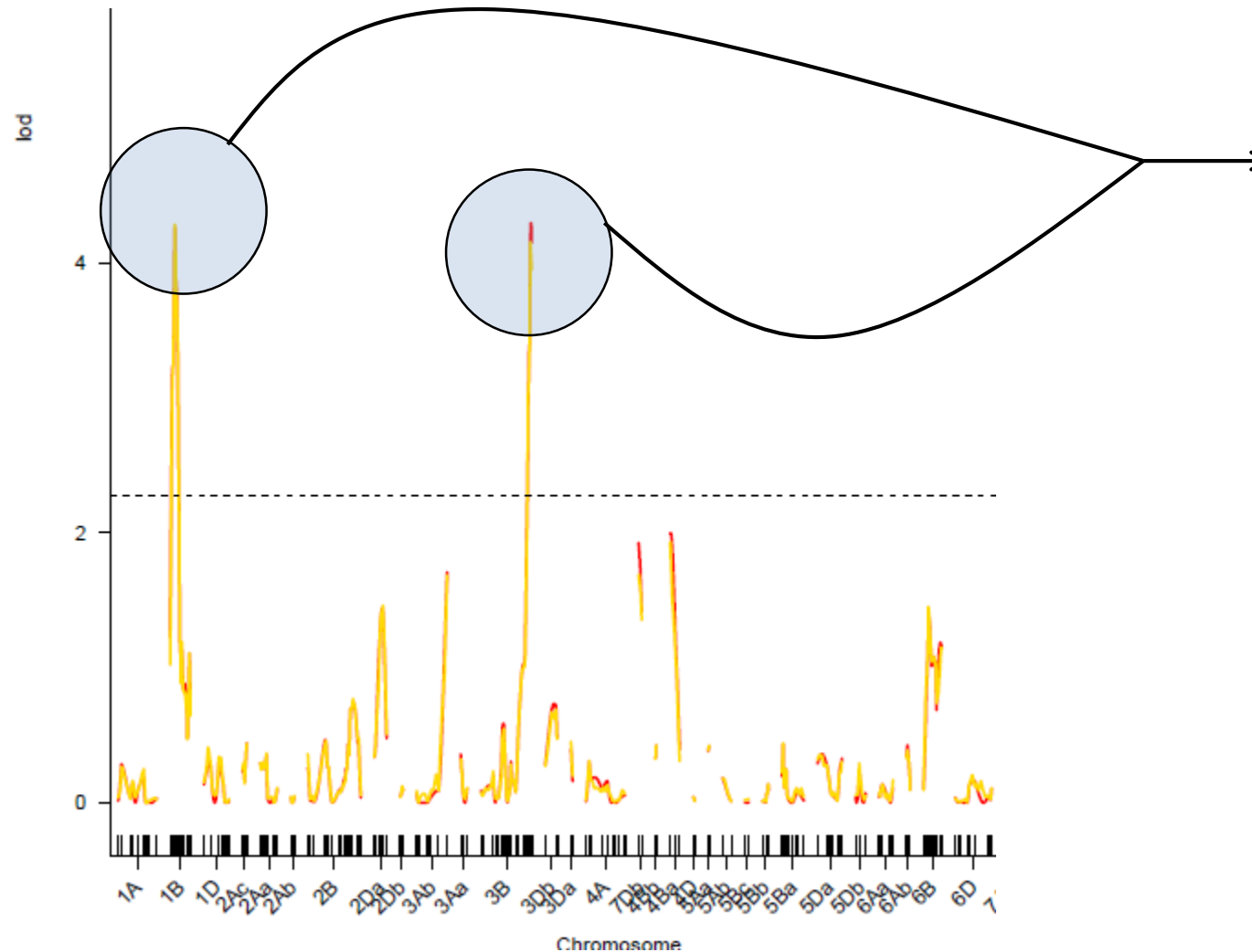
Milling		Puff Pastry		Wholemeal	CBP White	Spiral White		
M1	Hardness	P1	Avg Height (avg)/px	B1	Loaf volume, ml			
M2	Protein	P2	Avg No. of Cells	B2	L *			
M3	Water absorption	P3	Avg Cell Volume	B3	Firmness (Day 1), N			
M4	Development time	P4	Avg Count >10	B4	Firmness (Day 3), N			
M5	Stability	P5	Avg Calc Score	B5	Total_ Concavity			
M6	Hagberg	P6	Avg Tenderness	B6	Cell_ Contrast			
M7	Wheat moisture content % NIR	P7	Avg Breadth/px	B7	Number_ of_Cells			
M8	Straight run extraction rate (white)%	P8	Avg Coarse/Fine Clustering	B8	Cell_ Diameter			
M9	Bran finisher flour	P9	Avg Cell Alignment	B9	Non_ Uniformity		B18	Dough Consistency Ex Mixer (BU's)
M10	Protein Content white flour	P10	Avg Non Uniformity	B10	Firmness (DOP3)/loaf volume		B19	Dough Consistency Ex 10 Mins (BU's)
M11	Falling No (S)	P11	Avg wall thickness/px	B11	Firmness @25%compression(day3-1)N		B20	Degree of Softening
M12	Protein Loss	P12	Avg Layer Count	B12	Firmness @25% compression (day3-1)/loaf volume		B21	Mix time (S)
		P13	Avg Height mm	B13	Average height max		B22	Temp Ex mixer (0C)
		P14	Avg Width mm	B14	Cell / Unit area		B23	Temp Ex 10 minutes (0C)
		P15	Avg Depth mm	B15	Wall Thickness/px		B24	Gross Water to 410BU's
		p16	Avg Calc% Shrinkage	B16	Coarse cell volume		B25	Manual Stickiness
		p17	Avg Cell Elongation	B17	L + R Concavity			
		p18	Avg Max bubble px					



# QTL for spiral white loaf volume in Malacca x Hereward



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QTL represent  
genes

Different versions  
(alleles) of genes  
are present in  
Malacca and  
Hereward

Combining these  
alleles will  
increase loaf  
volume.

Simon Griffiths





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- Grown for 2 years (2005, 2006) on 2 sites
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- Simon Griffiths (JIC) developed molecular maps and near-isogenic pairs differing in quality QTLs



# Spiral white Quality QTL in Malacca x Hereward lines



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Donor line	Parent	Trait	Chromosome	Markers
MH100	Malacca	Cell number	1B	gwm264 and barc8
MH58	Hereward	Firmness	2B	wmc257 and wmc317
MH9	Malacca	Loaf volume	2D	whole linkage group
MH19	Hereward	L*	4D	barc98 and psp3103
MH1	Malacca	Cell number	4D	barc98 and psp3103
MH70	Malacca	Cell number	6A	gwm334-barc3
MH60	Malacca	Loaf volume	7A	psp3001-Wpt1259
MH39	Hereward	Loaf volume	7B	gwm357-barc182

Simon Griffiths





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- Simon Griffiths (JIC) developed molecular maps and near-isogenic pairs differing in quality QTLs
- Currently stacking QTLs to assemble “ideal wheat”

Simon Griffiths  
  
John Innes Centre



# Stacking functionality QTL



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Line 1	Line 2	Trait 1	Trait 2	Background
MH1/Mal4 161-1 7	MH100/Mal4 188-3 20	4D cell num/L*	1B cell num	Malacca
MH1/Mal4 161-2 16	MH100/Mal4 188-4 6	4D cell num/L*	1B cell num	Malacca
MH100/Mal4 188-6 6	MH9/Mal4 163-2 7	1B cell num	2D loaf vol	Malacca
MH100/Mal4 188-9-1	MH9/Mal4 163-2-18	1B cell num	2D loaf vol	Malacca
MH60/Mal4 186-5 3	MH1/Mal4 161-5 3	7A loaf vol	4D cell num/L*	Malacca
MH60/Mal4 186-8 4	MH1/Mal4 161-2 17	7A loaf vol	4D cell num/L*	Malacca
MH9/Mal4 163-2 22	MH60/Mal4 186-11 9	2D loaf vol	7A loaf vol	Malacca
MH9/Mal4 163-2 24	MH60/Mal4 186-12 7	2D loaf vol	7A loaf vol	Malacca
MH70/Mal4 168-1 4	MH1/Mal4 161-5 12	6A cell num	4D cell num/L*	Malacca
MH70/Mal4 168-3 7	MH1/Mal4 161-7 7	6A cell num	4D cell num/L*	Malacca
MH70/Mal4 168-9 2	MH100/Mal4 188-11 8	6A cell num	1B cell num	Malacca
MH70/Mal4 168-10 4	MH100/Mal4 188-14 11	6A cell num	1B cell num	Malacca
MH19/Her4 207-6-12	MH39/Her4 209-5-17	4D L*	2D/7B Loaf vol	Hereward
MH19/Her4 207-8-02	MH39/Her4 209-6-10	4D L*	2D/7B Loaf vol	Hereward
MH39/Her4 209-5-20	MH58/Her4 214-3-05	2D/7B Loaf vol	2B firmness	Hereward
MH39/Her4 211-7-13	MH58/Her4 214-9-11	2D/7B Loaf vol	2B firmness	Hereward

Simon Griffiths



# Nitrogen (Protein) is Key



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## Improved quality with low N application

- Exploiting grain protein deviation (GPD)
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# Determine genetic variation in commercial germplasm



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Type	Cultivar	Breeder	Type	Cultivar	Breeder
NABIM 4	JB Diego	Breun	Misc.	Cadenza	CPB/KWS
	Dickens	Secobra		Malacca	CPB/KWS
NABIM 1	Skyfall	RAGT		Shamrock	Advanta
	Crusoe	Limagrain	Hungarian	Mv Karisma	Martonvasar
	Gallant	Syngenta		Mv Lucilla	Martonvasar
	Solstice	Limagrain	German	Memory	Secobra
	KWS Trinity	KWS		Potenzial	DSV
NABIM 2	Einstein	Limagrain		Rumor	S Union
	KWS Cashel	KWS		Nelson	Secobra
	Cordiale	KWS	Hybrids	Hybery SU	S Union
	KWS Lili	KWS		Hystar	S Union
Spring	Mulika	Blackman	French	Tobak	Desprez
	Paragon	RAGT		Apache	Limagrain
	Granary	KWS		Arlequin	Limagrain
	Willow	KWS		Premio	RAGT
Misc.	KWS Siskin	KWS	Denmark	Genius	S Union
	Hereward	RAGT		Dacanto	KWS
	Soissons	Desprez	Paragon lines	Par Rht2	JIC
	Xi 19	Limagrain		Par Stay Green	JIC
	Avalon	PBI		Paragon LR19	JIC

40 Varieties

UK cultivars: current, recent, new

Parents of JIC mapping populations

Hungarian “strong” wheats

German and Danish “low protein” wheats

Hybrids

Model lines based on gluten composition  
(HMW subunits, Gli:Glu ratio etc)

2 N levels

150kg/ha and 250kg/ha

6 Sites



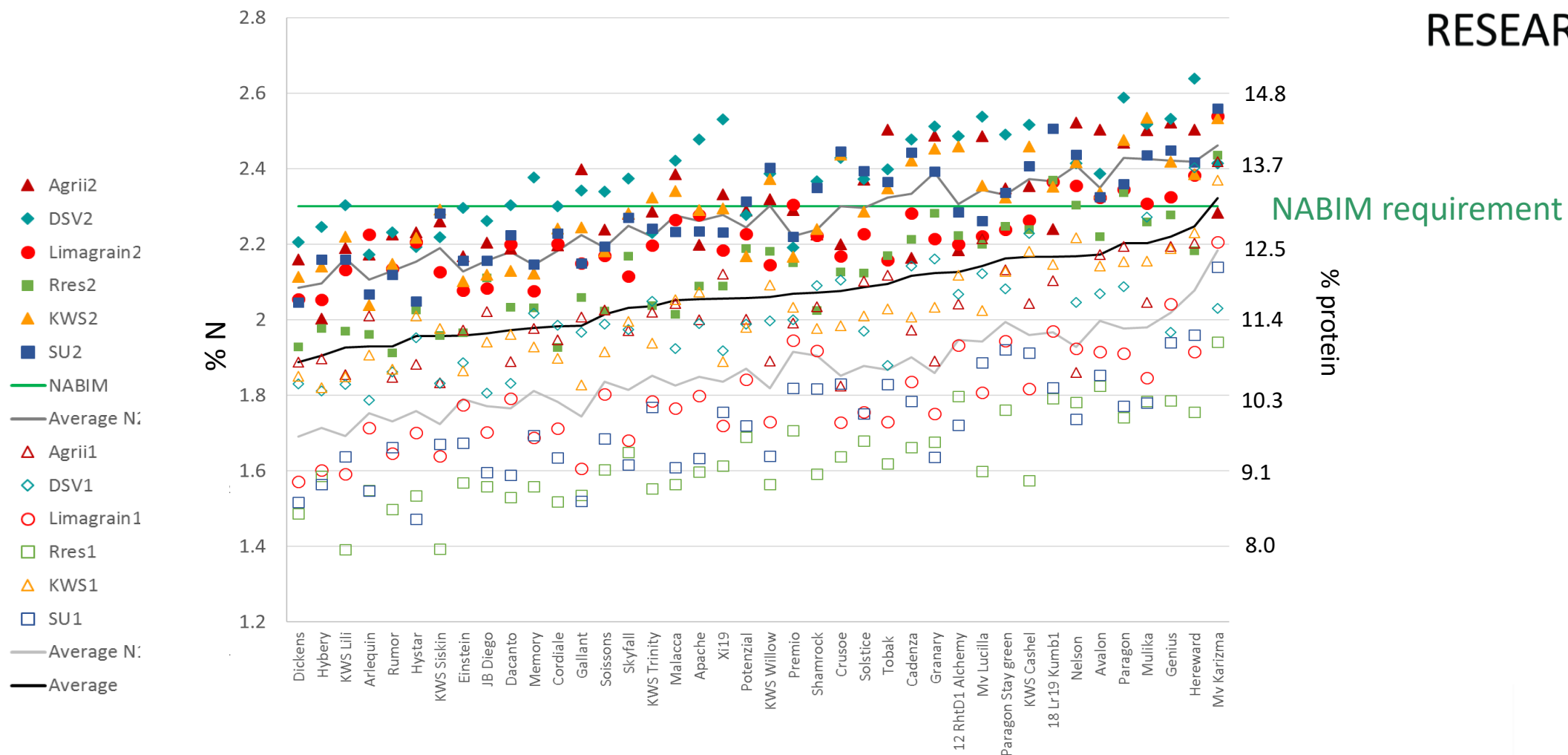




# 2016: Grain nitrogen contents (by NIRS)



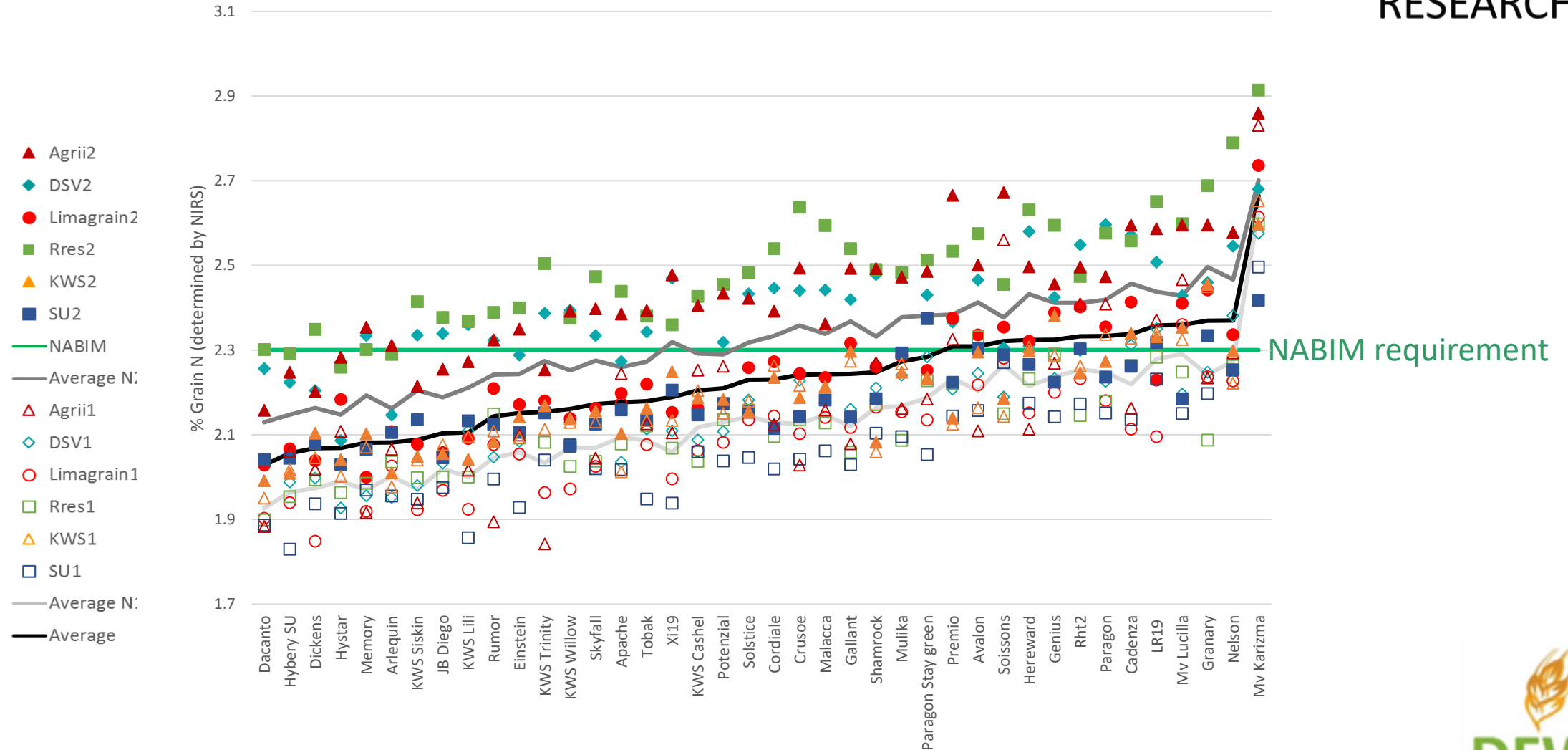
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# 2017: Grain nitrogen contents (by NIRS)



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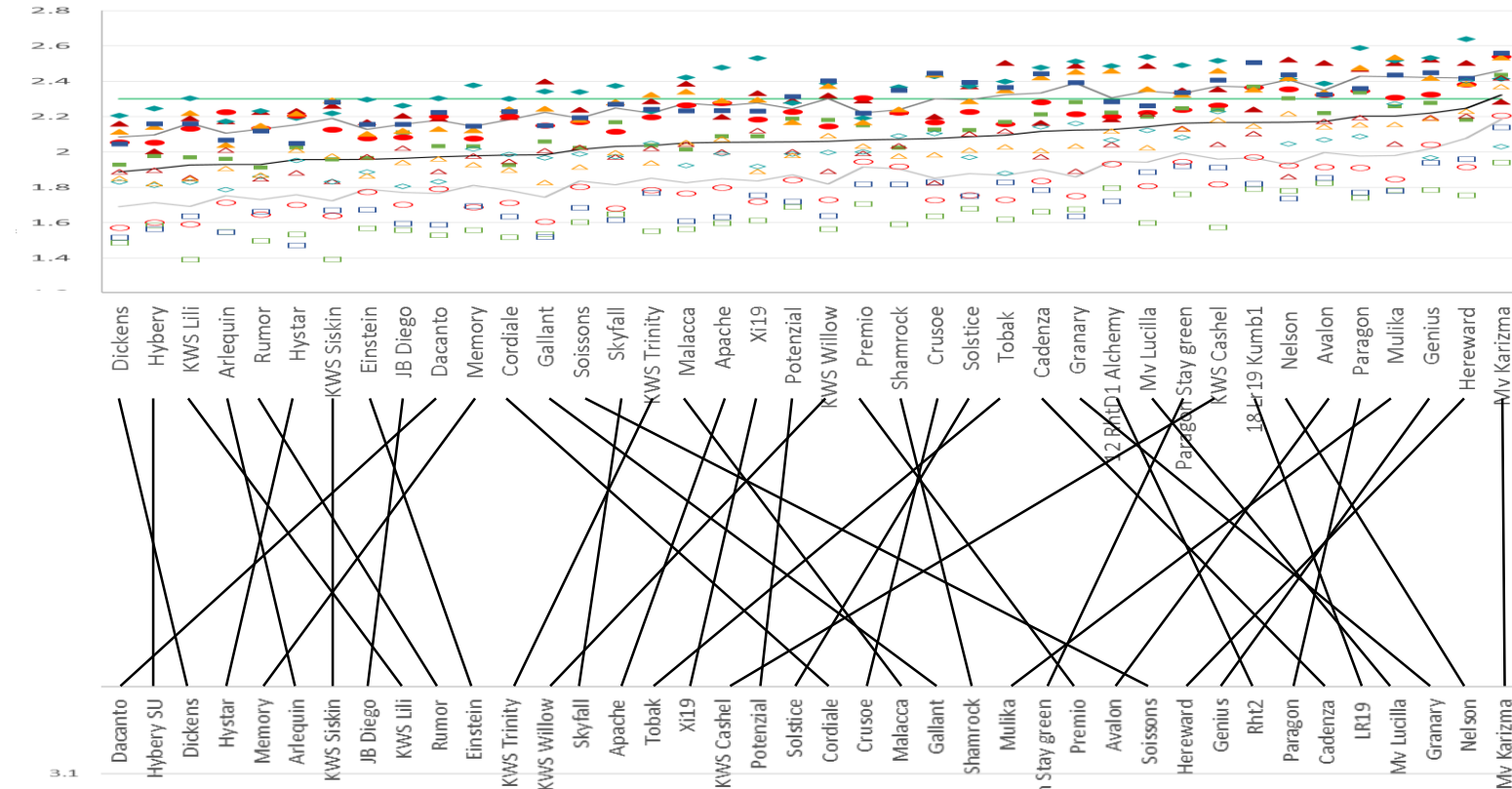


# Grain nitrogen 2016 v. 2017

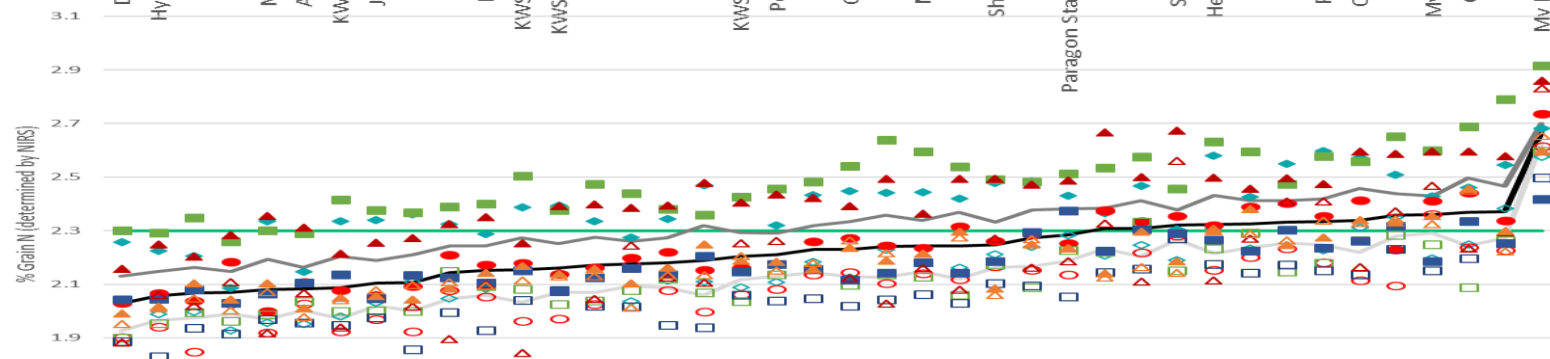


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2016



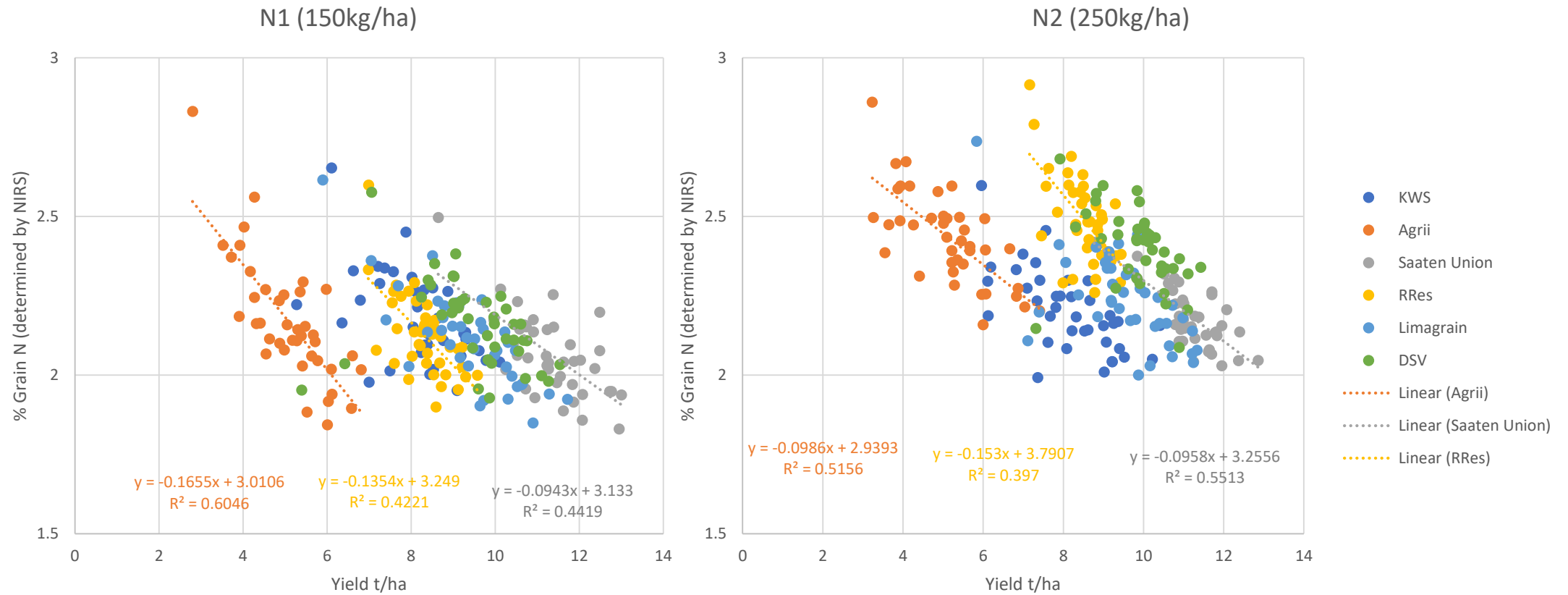
2017



# Yield v Grain N % 2017 season



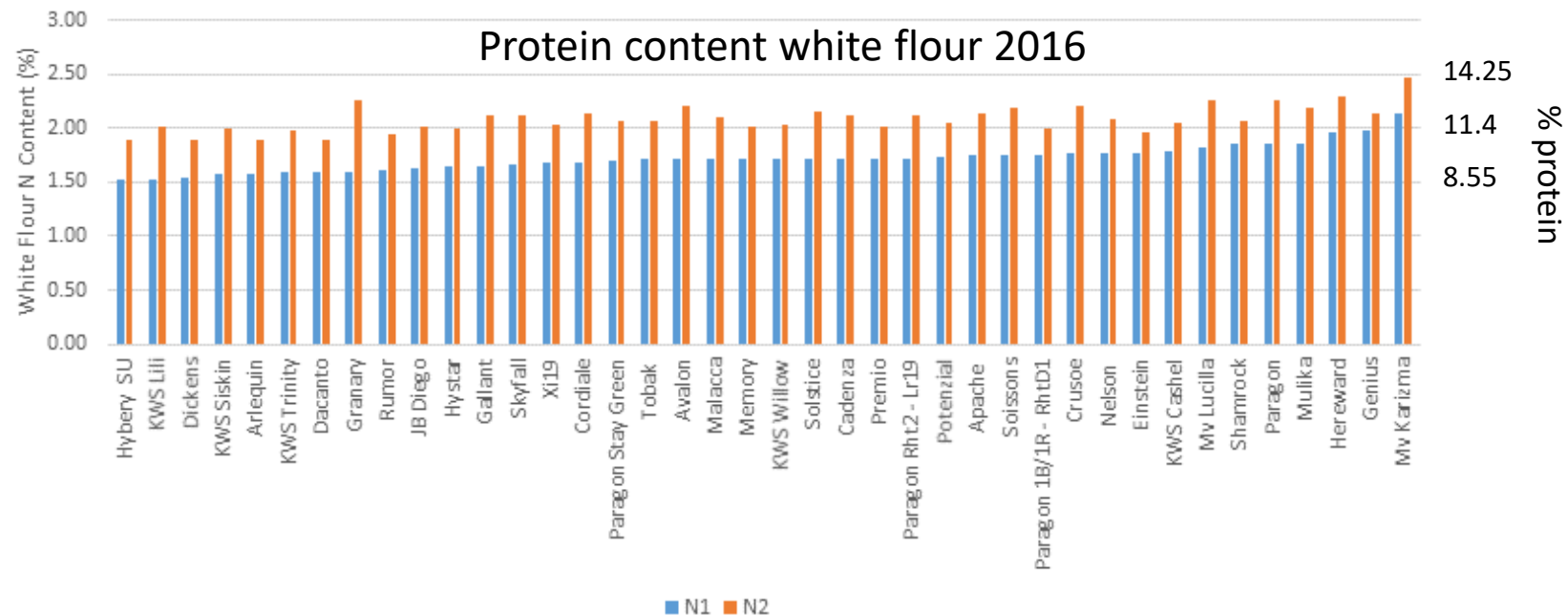
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# Flour Quality Testing

- Pooling of four sites
- Buhler milling
- Functionality Testing
- Test baking



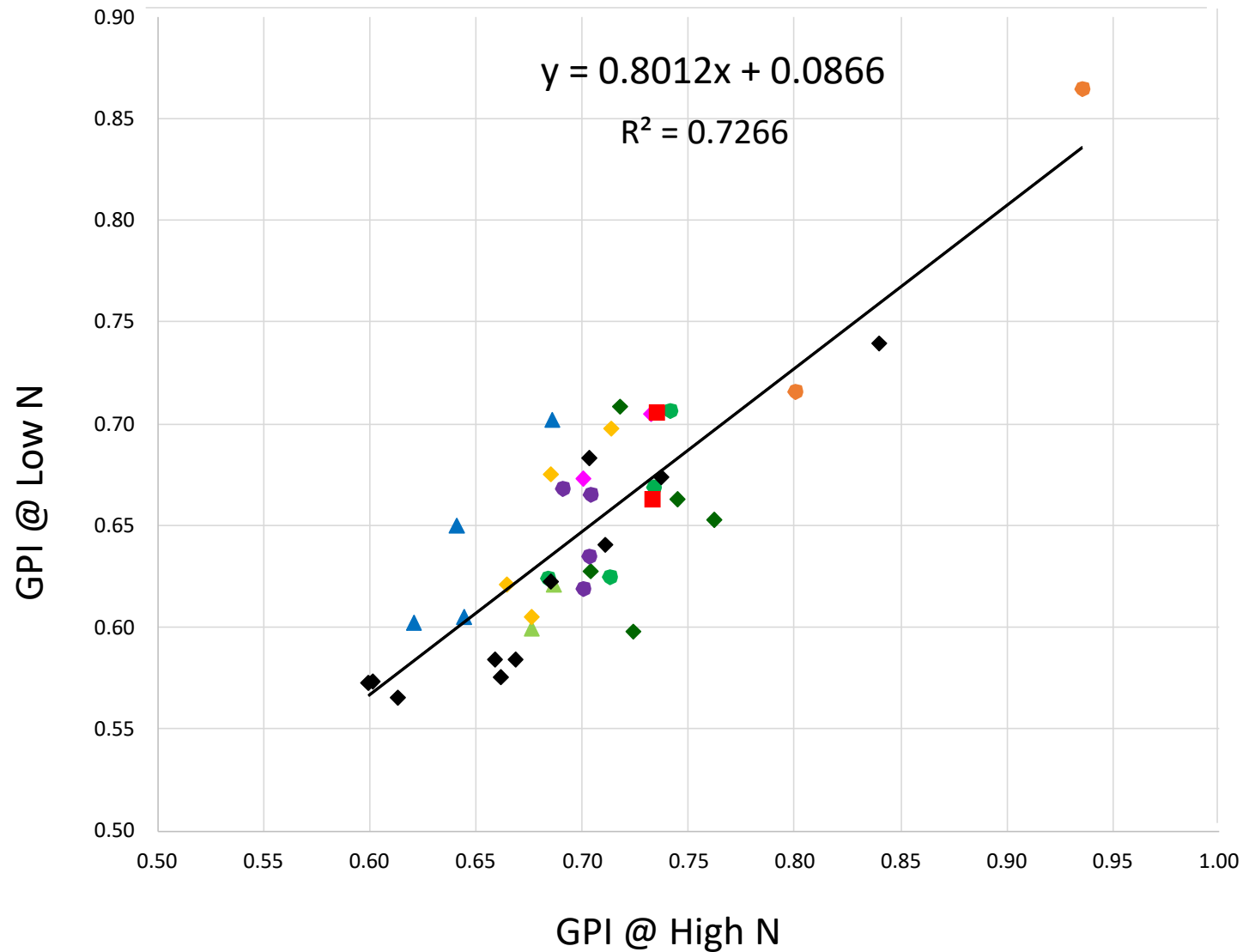




# Gluten Performance Index determined by SRC



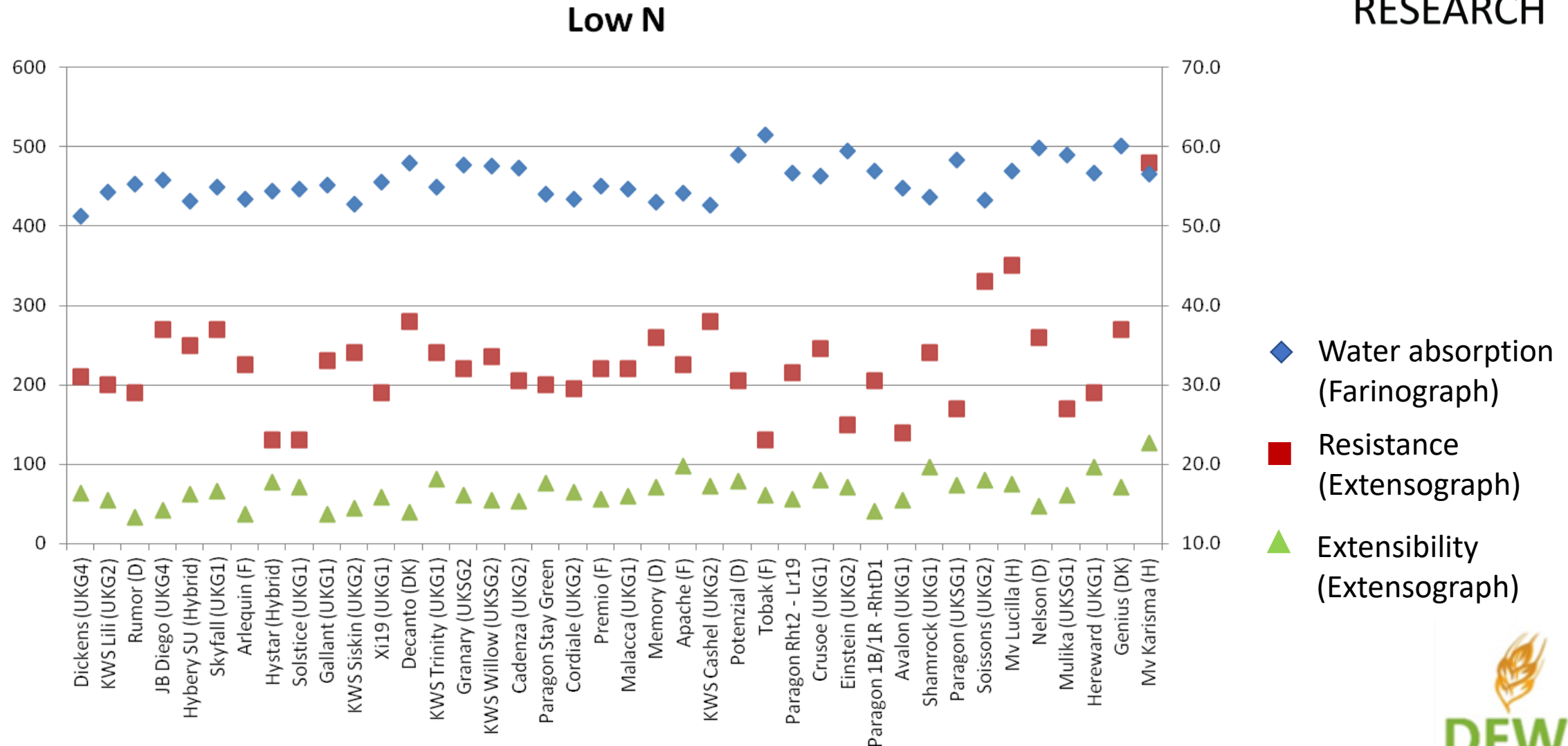
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# Resistance, Extensibility and Water Absorption



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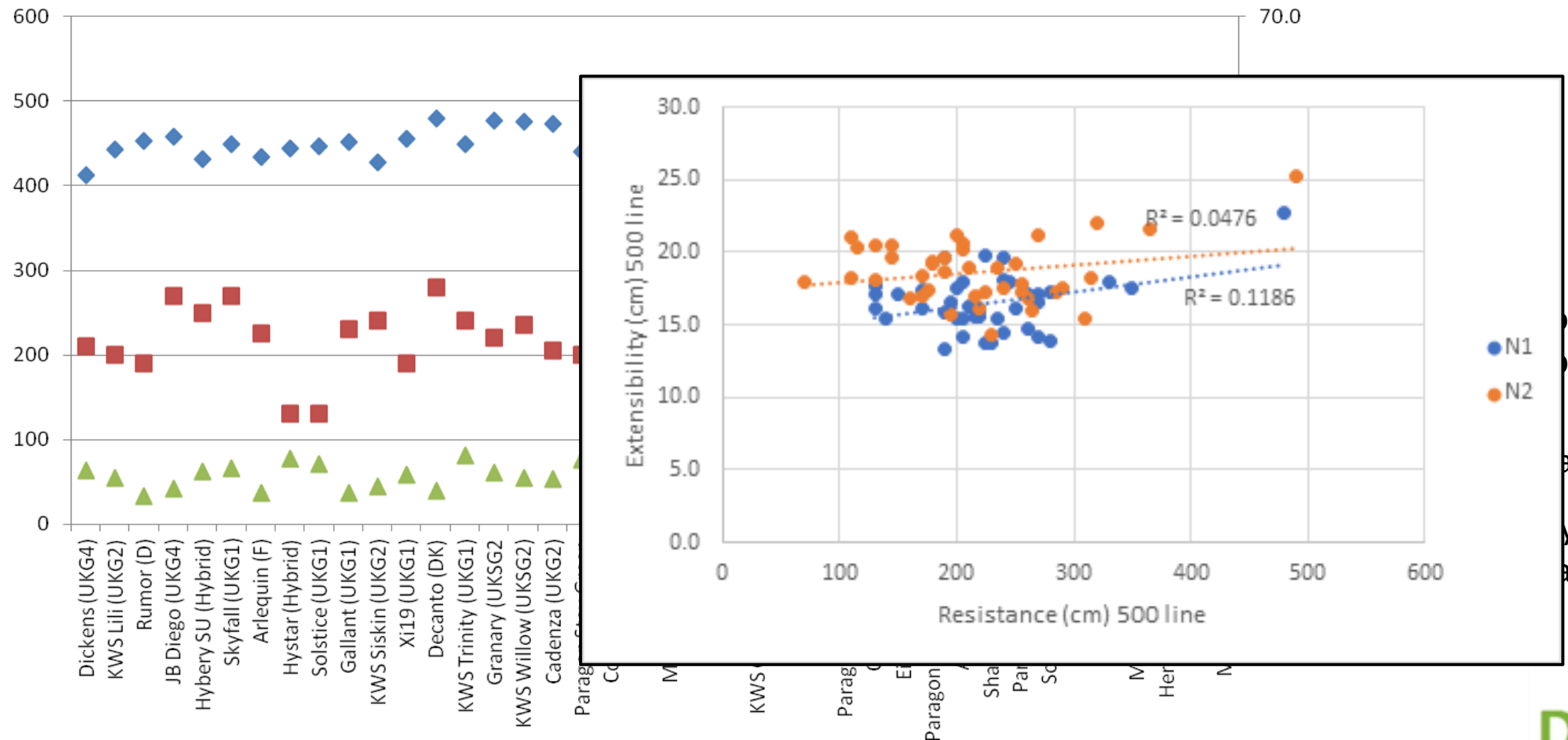


# Resistance, Extensibility and Water Absorption



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Low N



# Test Baking



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## Data recorded by bakers

- Mixing time
- Dough temperature
- Dough strength
- Dough extensibility
- Dough handling
- Proof height
- Oven spring (except Warburtons)
- Loaf volume and/or baked height
- Crumb colour
- Crumb texture
- Crumb structure
- Crumb colour  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  (except ADM)
- C-cell (except Hovis)

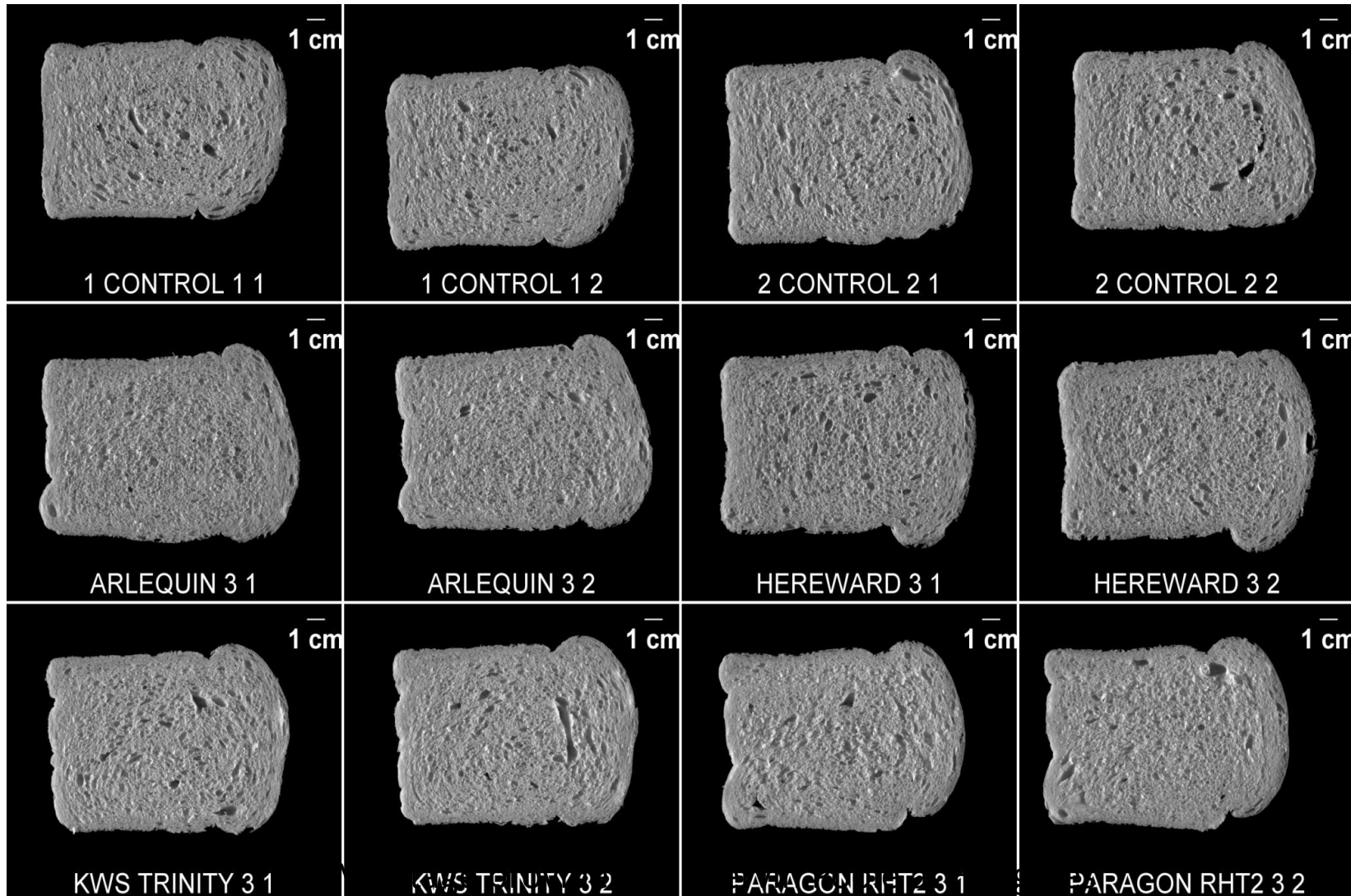




# Test Baking



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Montage provided  
by Mervin Poole at  
Heygates



# Progress



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Integration of the large data sets

Second year analysis 30 varieties

Year three 20 varieties

microGWAS



# Acknowledgement



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**Abby Wood**

Zhiqiang Shi

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Yongfang Wan

Andrew Riche

Malcolm Hawkesford

**Peter Shewry**



John Innes Centre

Simon Griffiths



Clothilde Baker

Simon Penson



Carlos Guzman



Ellen Mosleth

## Funding



## Industry Partners

