

<b>TITLE OF REPORT :</b>
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NAME : Belay Ayele

AFFILIATION : University of Manitoba

DATE: DD/MM/YY

The host of my JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship was Dr. Mitsunori Seo, a leader of the Dormancy and Adaptation Research Unit at RIKEN Yokohama Campus, and the visit took place between November 14, 2019 and December 13, 2019. One of the main activities performed during my JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship was to conduct experiments related to a project focused on abscisic acid transport. This project was initiated as a collaborative project with Dr. Seo. In addition to performing the experiments, I took part in the weekly meetings of Dr. Seo's lab members. During this weekly lab meeting, the lab members present progress report on their research projects in the form of seminars. I made a seminar presentation on December 10, 2019 on "Hormonal regulation of abiotic stress tolerance in wheat".

While doing experiments for the proposed research project in Dr. Seo's lab at RIKEN Yokohama, I have used some of the times available during my BRIDGE Fellowship to travel and visit research labs at different Japanese Universities. During my visit of the labs of different Japanese researchers, I presented research/teaching seminars, discussed potential collaborative research projects, and explored student exchange opportunities.

During my BRIDGE Fellowship I visited the labs of the following Japanese researchers.

- 1) I visited Dr. Umehara's lab from November 25 to November 28, 2019, and the activities accomplished during my visit to Dr. Umehara's lab include the following:
  - Discussion on potential collaborative projects with Dr. Umehara
  - Performing experiments on extraction and quantitative analysis of plant hormones
  - Presented a seminar on "Biotechnology for improving agronomically important traits in cereal crops" to staff and students. Title of the seminar
- 2) I visited Dr. Kasahara's lab Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology on December 3, 2019.
  - Discussion on a collaborative research project
- 3) I visited Dr. Masanori Okamoto's lab at Utsunomiya University on December 2 to discuss about potential collaborative projects as our research programs are complementary. During my visit, Dr. Okamoto and I discussed about progress of research projects in our respective labs.

- 4) I visited Hiroshima University on December 9 to present a seminar upon the invitation of Dr. Jutarou Fukazawa. I presented a seminar on “Identification of molecular tools to enhance yield and quality in wheat” to staff and students of Dr. Fukazawa’s department. During my visit, I met all of his students, who made brief presentations on their on-going research activities.
- 5) I visited Dr. Naoto Kawakami and Dr. Yoshiya Seto labs at Meiji University at Ikuta Campus on December 12, 2019, and presented a seminar entitled “Gene discovery for enhancing seed yield and quality in wheat”. In addition to the seminar presentation, I had discussions with their respective students about their research project findings and future directions.

In addition, on December 10, 2019, I met with two staff members from International Policy Planning Division of JSPS to discuss about my experience with the JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship program and provide them my feedback on the program in the form of a report on December 18, 2019. The meeting was held at RIKEN Yokohama campus.

Overall, the BRIDGE Fellowship program has allowed my host, Dr. Seo, and I to strengthen our collaborative research activities. Furthermore, it provided me the opportunity to discuss potential future collaborations with six other Japanese scientists. It also provided the young Japanese researchers and students in the labs I visited the opportunity to discuss their project activities and findings either one on one or in a group with an international visitor.