

Canola Pre-breeding for Heat Tolerance in Australia

Sheng Chen¹, Rajneet Uppal², Suman Rakshit³, Aldrin Cantila¹, John Quealy¹,
John Bromfield², Kadambot H. M. Siddique¹ and Wallace A. Cowling¹

¹The UWA Institute of Agriculture, The University of Western Australia

²Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, NSW Dept Primary Industries

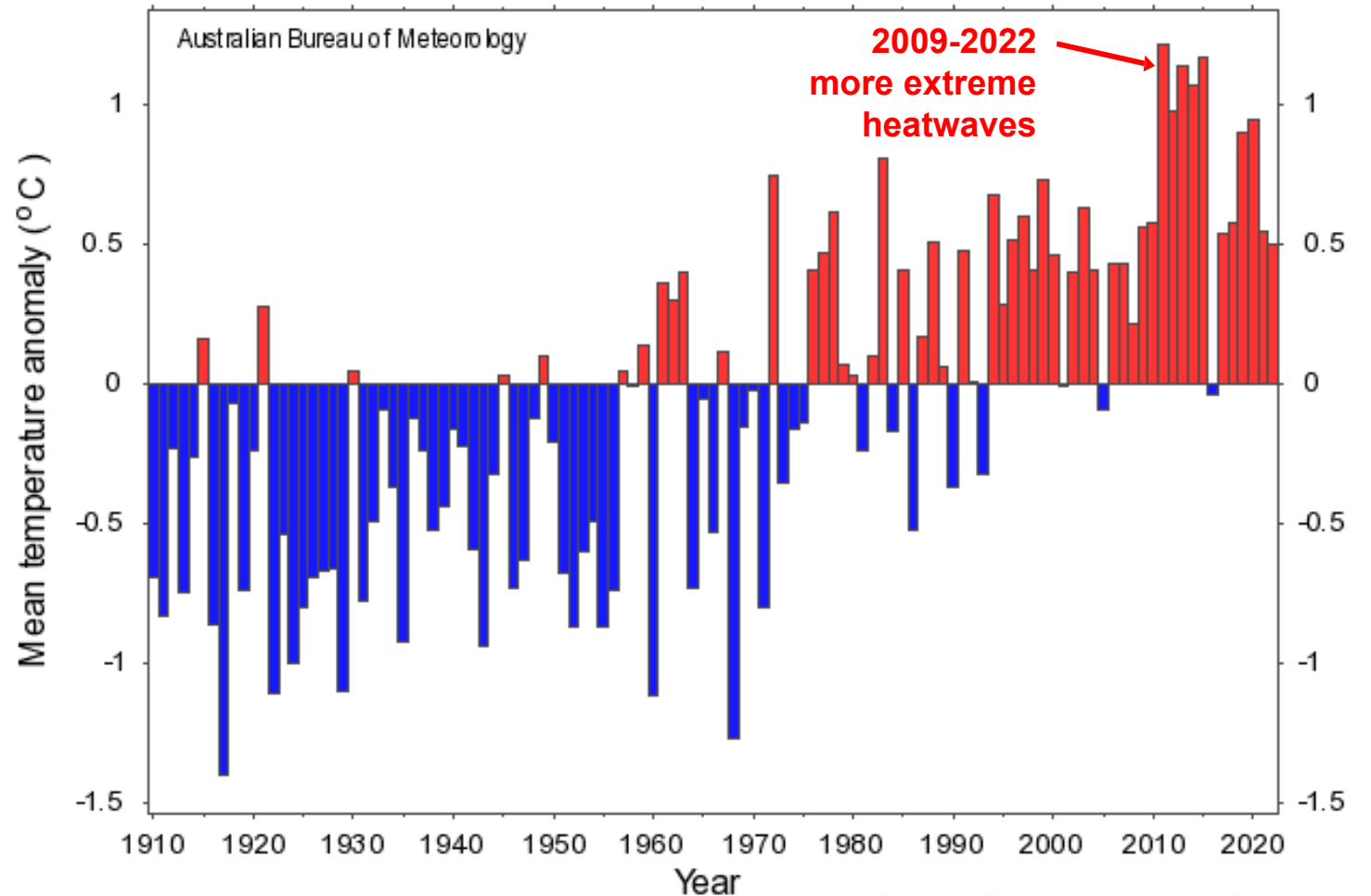
³Statistics for the Australian Grains Industry, Curtin University

Heat waves are occurring more frequently in Australia

Canola yield is reduced by heat waves during flowering

Heat tolerance: genetic crop insurance against global warming

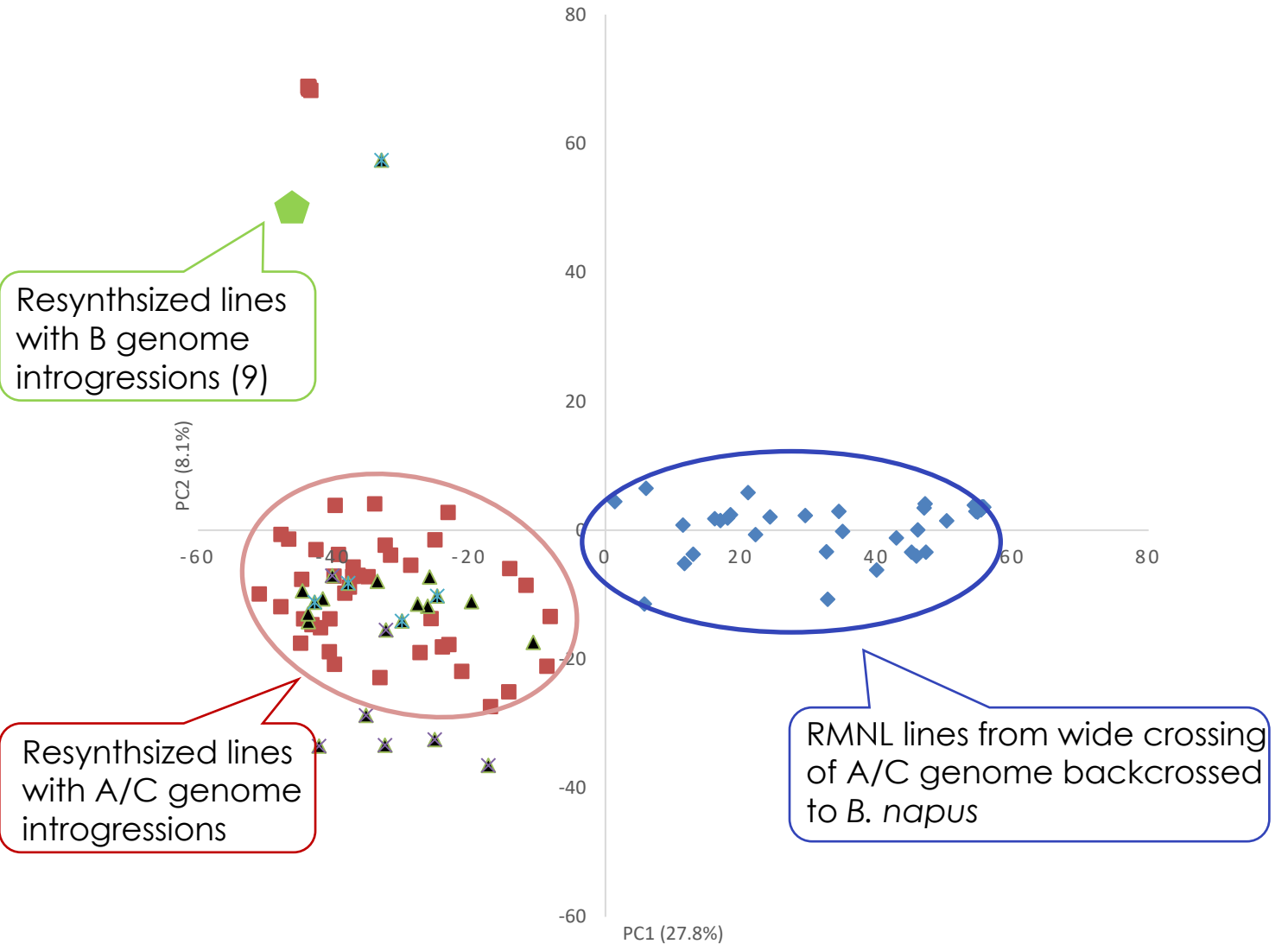
Annual mean temperature anomaly
Southwestern Australia (1910 to 2022)



Genomic analysis reveals large diversity in germplasm from India and China

ACIAR/GRDC Project CIM-1999/072
“Oilseed Brassica improvement in
China, India and Australia” (2004-2009)

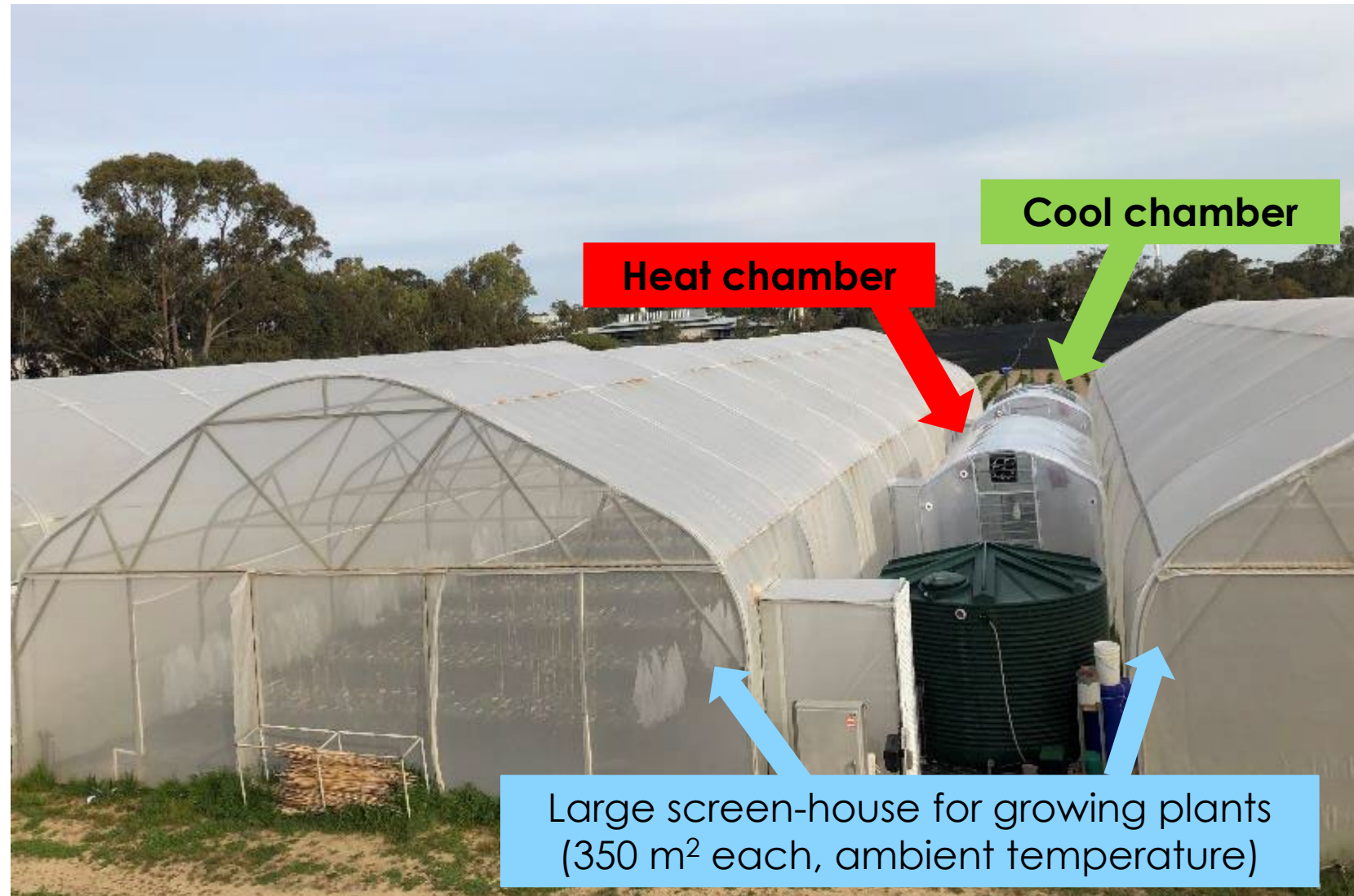
GRDC project UM0045 “Expanding
Brassica germplasm base through
collaboration with China and India”
(2012-2017)



A prototype heat screening facility (HSF) for canola breeders

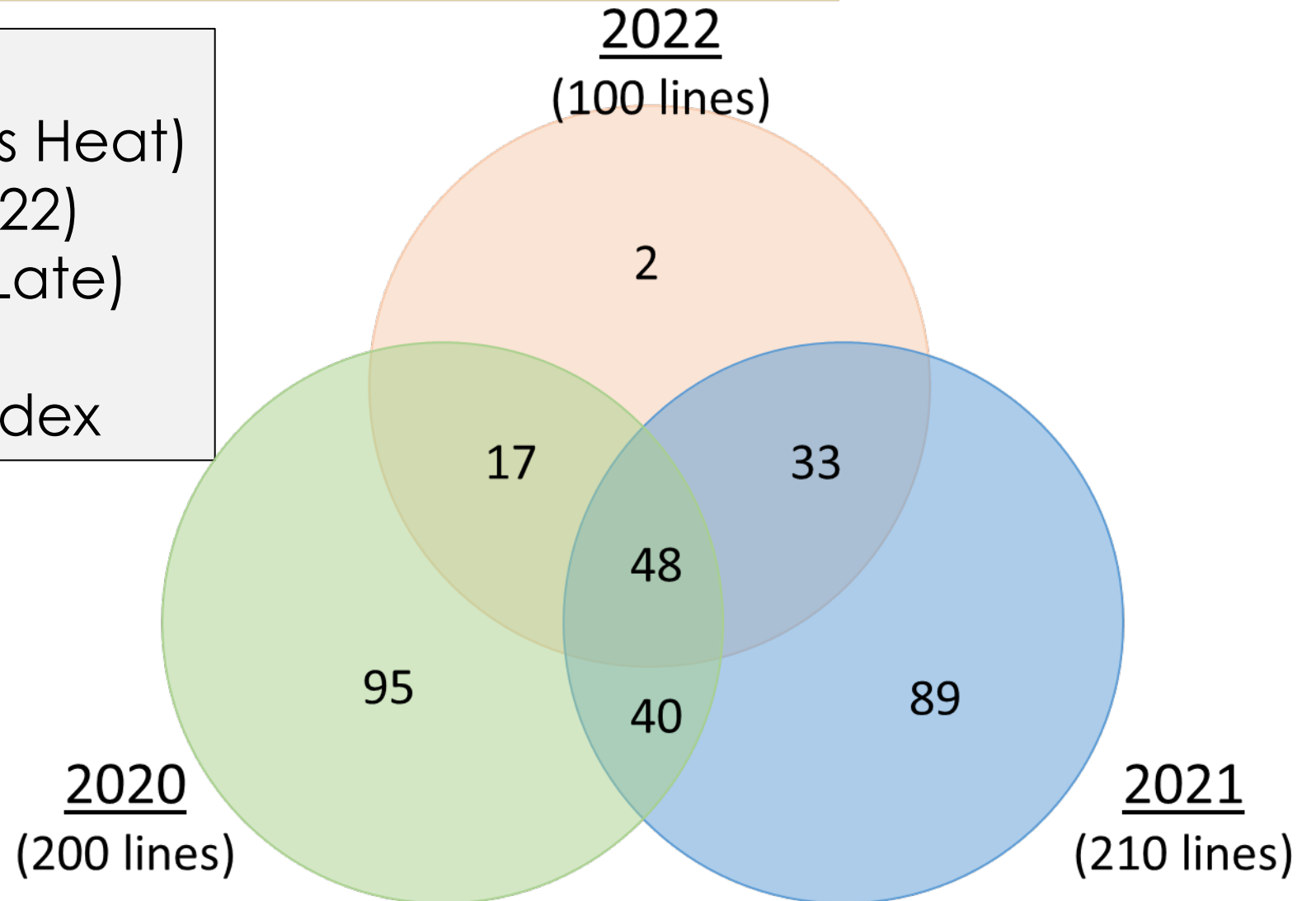
At UWA Field Station:

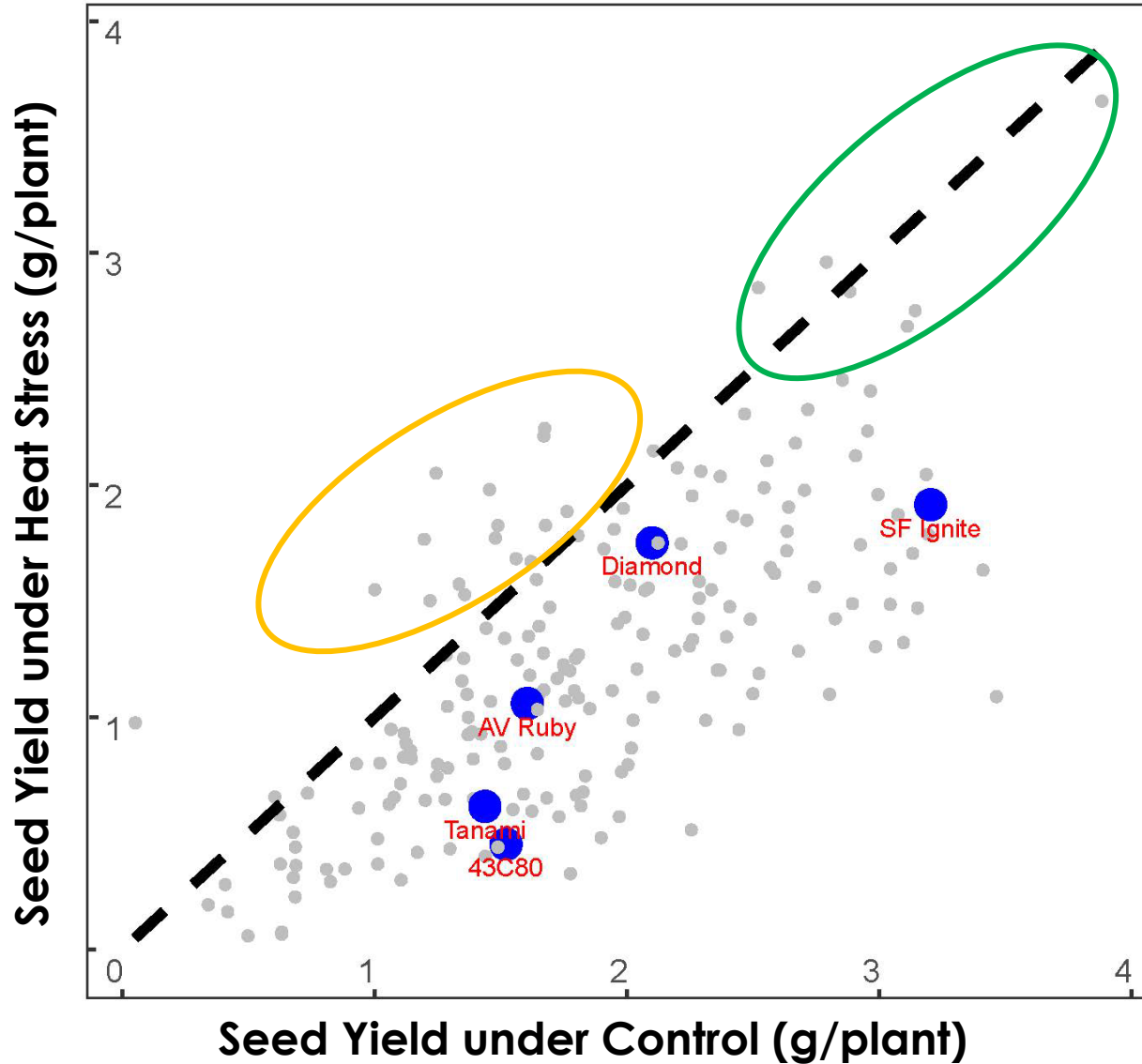
- Large screen-house for plant growth
- Move to chambers for **7 days at first flower**
- Cool chamber (25/15 °C)
- Heat chamber (32/22 °C)
- Temperature, ventilation, irrigation & fertilization are all centrally controlled



Phenotyping for heat tolerance using HSF

- ❖ 324 genotypes
x 2 treatments (Ctrl vs Heat)
x 3 years (2020, 21 & 22)
x 2 seasons (Early vs Late)
- ❖ 8 yield-related traits
x 2 heat tolerance index





Seed yield on main stem

High seed yield under control & heat stress (6)

Moderate seed yield under control & heat stress (20)

Trials 2020 & 2021:

12 lines x 3 treatments x
2-3 reps = 96 plots

Trials 2022 & 2023:

16 lines x 2 treatments x
3 reps = 96 plots

Treatments:

H0: No heat stress (Control)

H1: 8d heat stress from the
date of first flower

H2: 8d heat stress from the
date of 50% flowering



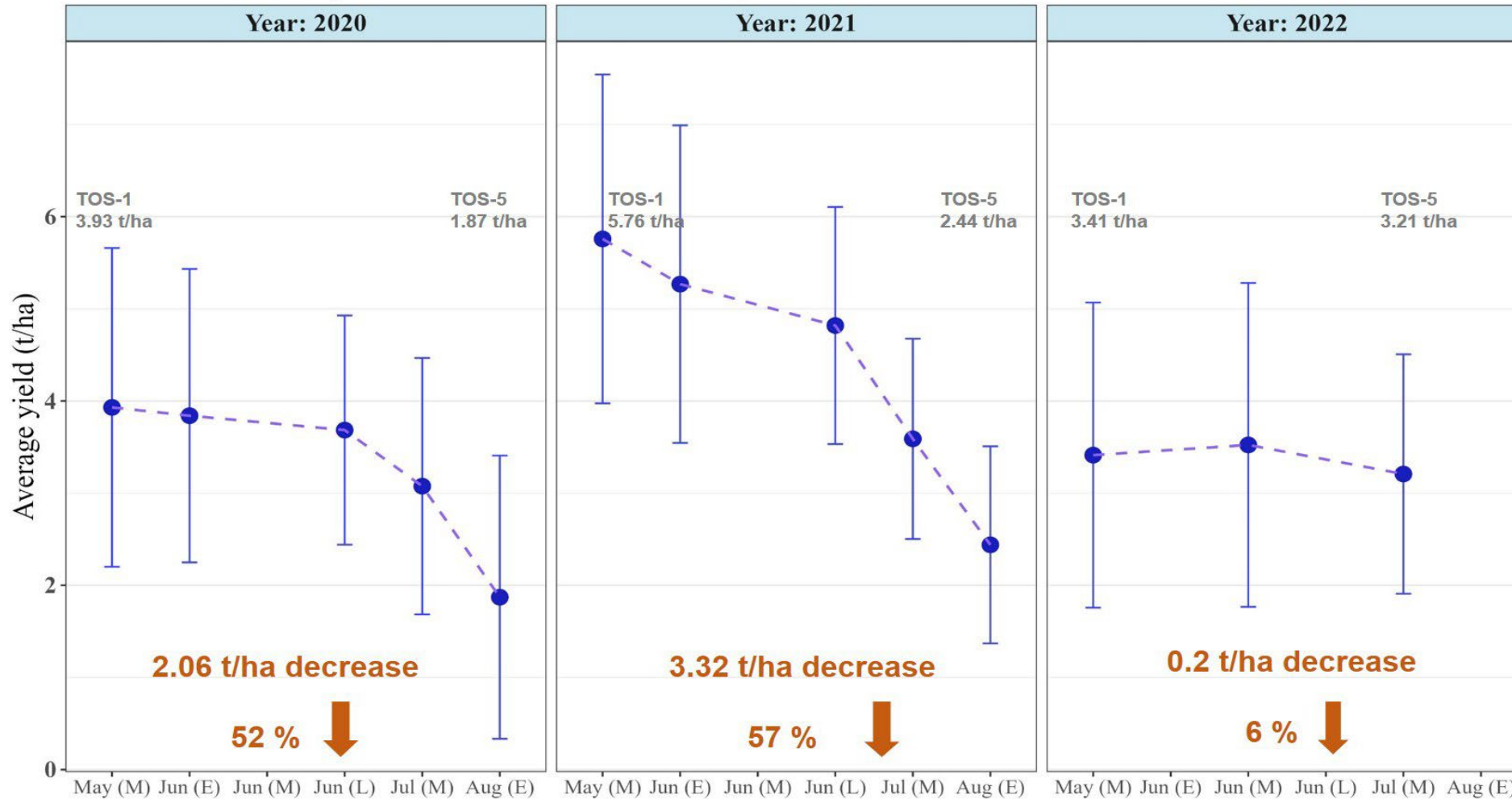
Validation of heat-tolerant germplasm in national field trials

2020 & 2021: 30 lines x 5 TOSs x 2 reps = 300 sample plots at 3-4 sites
2022 & 2023: 48 lines x 3 TOSs x 2 reps = 288 sample plots at 4-5 sites

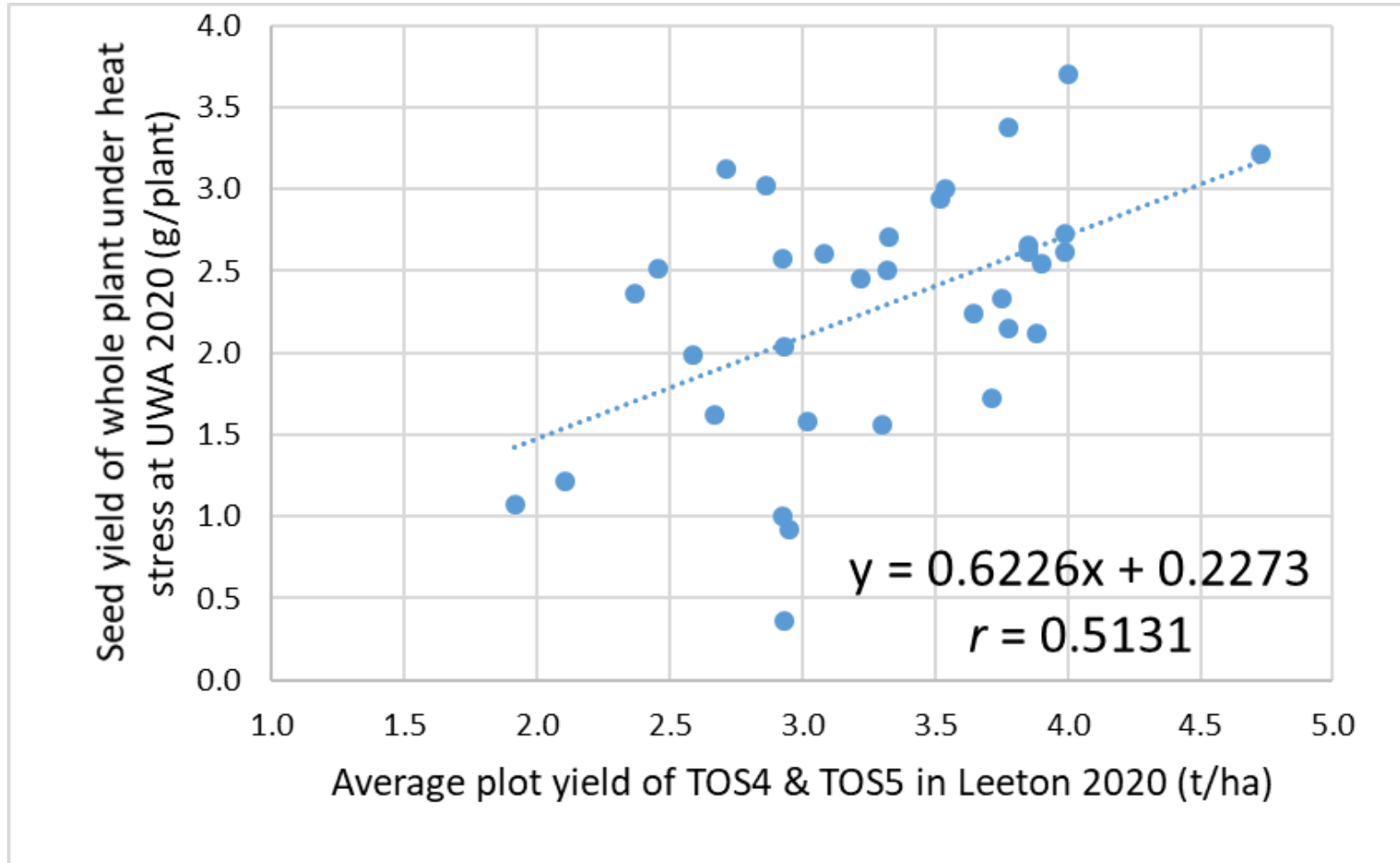


Yield performances over three years in Leeton, NSW

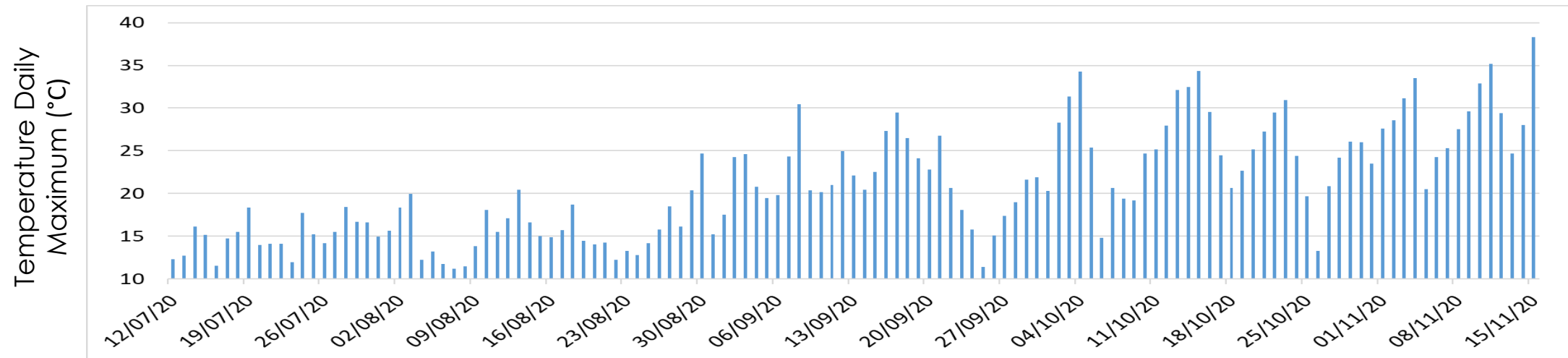
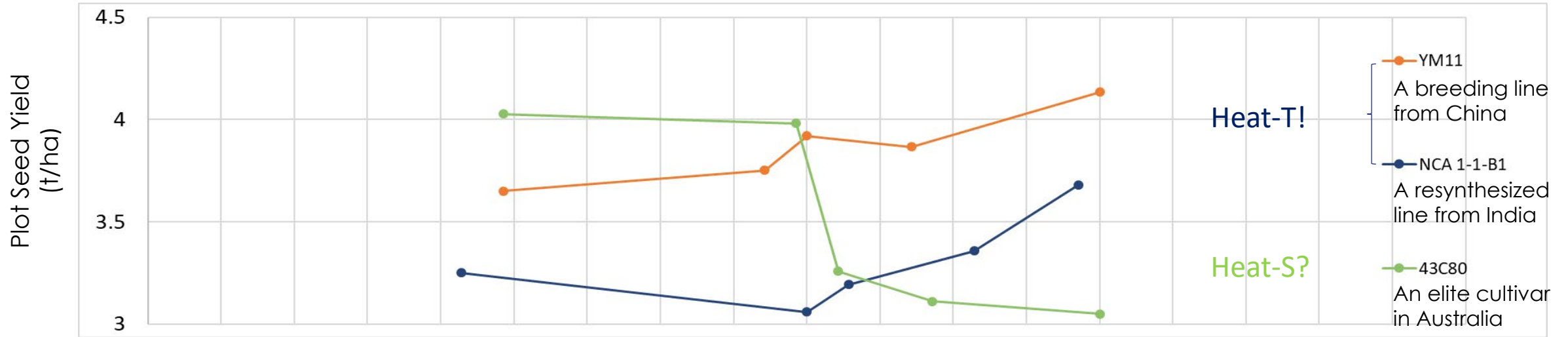
Leeton, NSW: mean yield with 95% CI across three years.



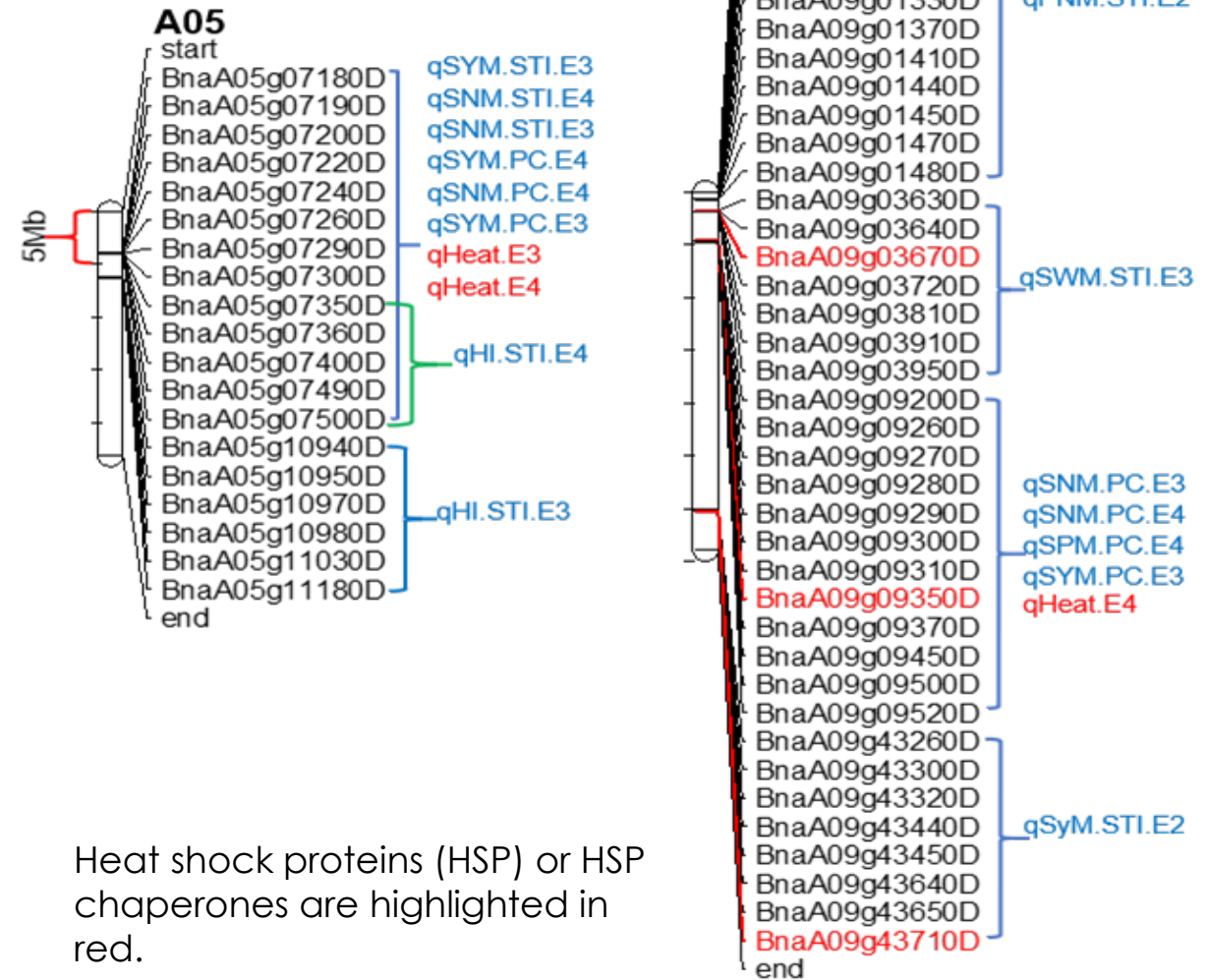
Seed yield under heat stress Controlled env. vs Field env.



Validation of heat-tolerant lines in field trials (Leeton 2020)

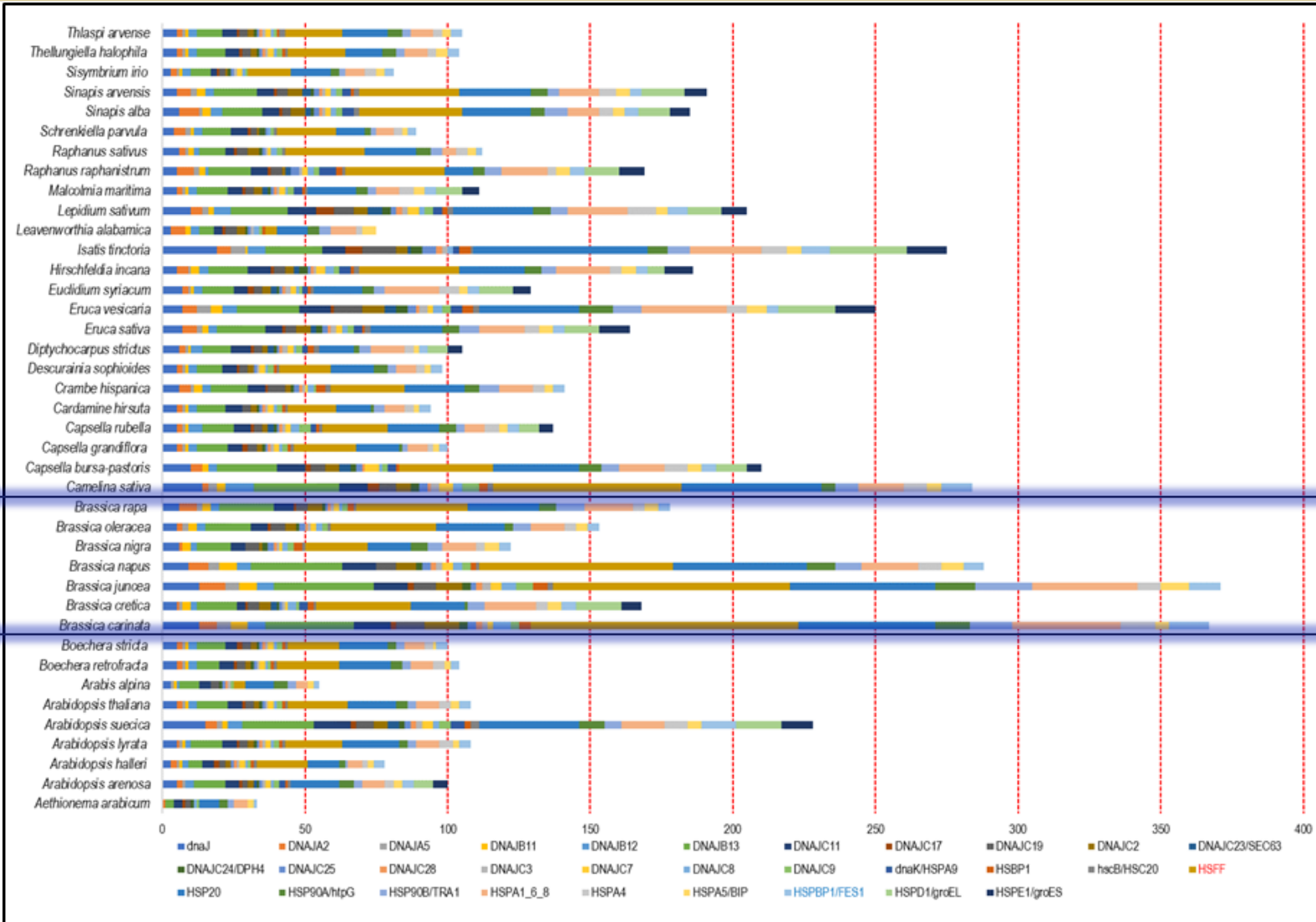


GWAS analysis of heat tolerance traits & Candidate genes in the regions



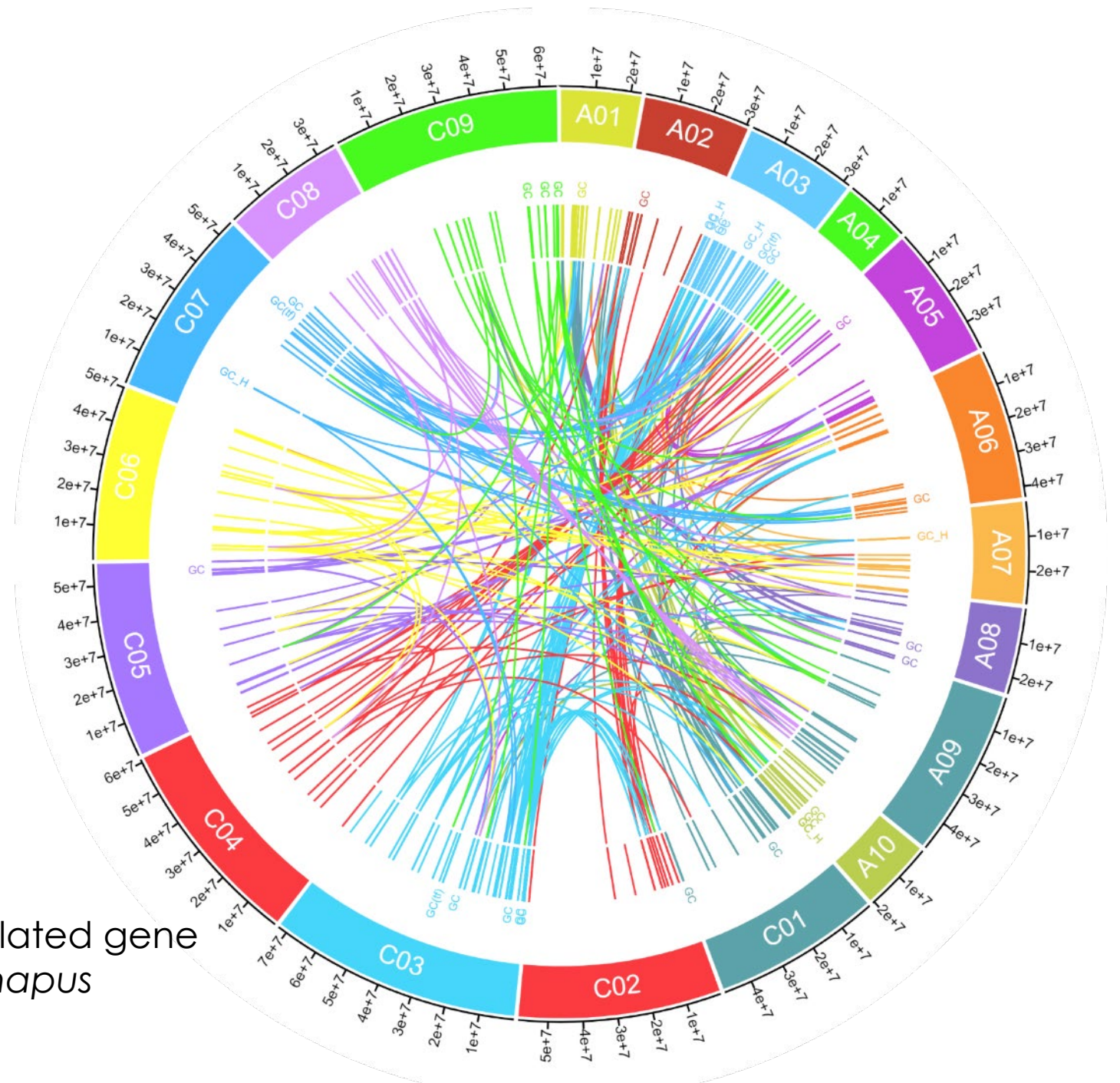
Heat shock proteins (HSP) or HSP chaperones are highlighted in red.

Heat-related gene domains across 40 Brassicaceae species



The number and distribution of DNAJ and HSP-related gene domains across 40 Brassicaceae species

High frequency of gene duplication in *B. napus*



DNAJ & HSP-related gene domains in *B. napus*