Curriculum Vitae

Waqar Ali

Complex Biosystems
Center for Plant Science Innovation
Department of Agronomy & Horticulture
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Employment

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture — 2023-Present

Evyol Group, Certus Seeds,
Technical Seed Executive *(Interim)* — 2021-2022

Education

PhD Complex Biosystems (Integrated Plant Biology) (Mentor: James Schnable) — 2023-2027
University of Nebraska Lincoln

Master of Science (Hons.) (Mentor: Zaheer Ahmed) — 2017-2019
University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Bachelor of Science (Hons.) — 2013-2017
University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Selected Honors and Awards

US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor Scholar Award — 2023-2027

Punjab Educational Endowment Fund Award — 2017-2019

University of Agriculture Faisalabad Merit Scholarship — 2017

Publications

3. **Ali W**, Grzybowski M, Torres-Rodriguez JV, Li F, Shrestha N, Mathivanan RK, Bernardeaux Gd, Hoang K, Mural RV, Roston RL, Schnable JC, Sahay S (2025). Quantitative genetics of photosynthetic trait variation in maize. Journal of Experimental Botany doi: 10.1093/jxb/eraf198

2. Mathivanan RK, Pedersen C, Turkus J, Shrestha N, **Ali W**, Torres-Rodriguez JV, Mural RV, Obata T, Schnable JC (2025). Transcripts and genomic intervals associated with variation in metabolite abundance in maize leaves under field conditions. BMC genomics doi: 10.1186/s12864-025-11580-3

1. Torres-Rodriguez JV, Li D, Turkus J, Newton L, Davis J, Lopez-Corona L, **Ali W**, Sun G, Mural RV, Grzybowski M, Zamft B, Thompson AM, Schnable JC (2024). Population level gene expression can repeatedly link genes to functions in maize. The Plant Journal doi: 10.1111/tpj.16801

Presentations

5. From Genes to Fields: Genomic strategies to enhance maize yield stability across environments, Corteva visit, Iowa, USA 2025
4. Quantitative genetic analysis of photosynthetic and biochemical traits in temperate adapted maize association panel. Maize Genetics Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, USA (poster) 2025
3. Quantitative genetic analysis of photosynthetic and biochemical traits in temperate adapted maize association panel. Plant Science Innovation (PSI) retreat, University of Nebraska Lincoln (student talk) 2024
2. Quantitative genetic analysis of photosynthetic and biochemical traits in temperate adapted maize association panel. International Plant Phenotyping Symposium 8^{th} (student talk) 2024
1. Quantitative genetic analysis of photosynthetic and biochemical traits in temperate adapted maize association panel. Maize Genetics Meeting, Raleigh, NC USA (poster) 2024.

Service

Presentation and Awards Committee Nebraska Plant Science Symposium (NPSS) 2024