

Proceedings of the meeting on “Evolving strategies for enhancing wheat production with special reference to management of wheat rust in Jammu & Kashmir state and revision in Action Plan of NFSM- Wheat for the year 2013-14” held at Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir on 25th October, 2013

A meeting was held on 25.10.2013 in the meeting hall of the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu, regarding “Evolving strategies for enhancing wheat production with special reference to management of wheat rust in Jammu & Kashmir state and revision in Action Plan of NFSM- Wheat for J&K state during 2013-14. The list of participants is annexed.

Director Agriculture, Jammu, Government of J&K welcomed all participants and briefed them about the wheat scenario in J&K State. He informed that about 161 hectares of wheat in four districts (Kathua, Jammu, Samba and Udhampur) of the state was affected by yellow rust last Rabi season. The incidence was observed in 1st Week of February from the border belt of RS Pura and Marh area. The state had taken several prophylactic measures to control yellow rust, like timely arrangement of fungicides, creation of awareness among the farmers and survey and surveillance by team of experts. These measures were helpful in controlling the spread of the disease in other areas and no loss to the crop was their due to the occurrence of the disease. He assured that in the coming rabi season as well, the state will make all necessary arrangements like 100% seed treatment with fungicide, discouraging cultivation of yellow rust prone varieties, arrangement of seed of yellow rust tolerance varieties, prepositioning of fungicides as recommended, timely survey and surveillance awareness cum training programme and publicity through Mass Media etc.

Addressing to the issues raised by the nodal Officer of the Scheme, the Project Director, DWR, Karnal suggested the following measures for better productivity and control of Yellow Rust in the state:-

1. The cultivation of improved wheat varieties as per different production conditions viz. timely sown irrigated, timely sown rainfed with high low and medium fertility conditions was highlighted. The Project Director was in conformity with the varieties planned by the Director Agriculture, Jammu for distribution during Rabi 2013-14. The cultivation of improved wheat varieties as per different production conditions viz. timely sown irrigated, timely sown rainfed with high low and medium fertility conditions was

highlighted. The recent releases viz HPW-349 (for NHZ) and WH-1105, DBW-71, HD-3059, PBW-644, HD-3043 were recommended.

2. Discarding of susceptible varieties from the seed chain in the States as already initiated should be completed within 2-3 years. Old varieties may be replaced with new varieties taking care to ensure that the total area under single variety should not exceed more than 30 per cent. Only the varieties recommended for state should be promoted in that state.
3. It was also recommended that different sets of varieties be put under cultivation in wheat growing areas to avoid to occurrence of yellow rust.
4. Crop health monitoring should be undertaken through roving surveys, trap plot nurseries, for timely detection of rust.
5. Trap nurseries should also be established near lower mid hills and along the border areas of the neighboring states to detect of inflow of yellow rust in the state. SAU of the state shall identify the areas and in coordination with State Department shall establish the trap nurseries.
6. Strategies to bridge the yield gap include popularization of new varieties, educating farmers, input availability, training and awareness, adoption of INM, scientific use of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, etc.
7. The spray schedule for control of yellow rust should include two-three fungicides instead of using a single fungicide or one particular fungicide continuously.
8. The spray schedule for control of Weed management (*Phalaris minor*) should be include two-three herbicides instead of using a single herbicide or one particular herbicide may be used in a particular area.
9. Popularizing the use of Zero till practices in basmati growing are of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts should be given a thrust by laying out large scale demonstration under the scheme in these districts.
10. For district of Leh and Kargil districts where the cropping season starts from March onwards the demonstration on farmers field and on departmental farms/SAU stations shall be laid by the SAU in collaboration with Chief Agriculture Officer Leh and Kargil to identified the varieties suitable for the area as per the requirement of the local populace.

Agriculture Commissioner desired that one meeting be held at Leh for Leh and Kargil districts before or at the time of start of the season in these districts to finalize the action plan and the strategies in consultation with the farming community/ SAU/ Agriculture Deptt.

Agriculture Commissioner stress that more of the coordination between the State Department of Agriculture and State Agriculture University for proper planning and to develop strategy for the management of wheat rust in state is required. He directed that the required inputs mainly the wheat seed varieties recommended for Leh and Kargil Districts should be stocked well before the start of the season.

Agriculture Commissioner also informed that the guidelines of the scheme are being revised for 12th Five Year Plan and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the States for valuable suggestion, so that the changes discussed in the meeting can be considered at the time of finalization of the revised guidelines

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants

1. Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Agriculture Commissioner, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Dr. Indu Sharma, Project Director, DWR, Karnal
3. Shri Ajay Khajuria, Director of Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
4. Dr. Randhir Singh, Principal Scientist, DWR, Karnal
5. Dr. Ajay Koul, Director Research, SKUAST, Jammu
6. Dr. S. S. Jamwal, Joint Director of Agricultur (Extn.), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
7. Shri S.K. Sahani, Joint Director of Agriculture (Inputs), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
8. Shri A. K. Malohtra, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extn.), Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir
9. Dr V. K. Razadan, HoD Plant Pathology, SKUAST-Jammu
10. Dr Bikram Singh, HoD Plant Breeding, SKUAST-Jammu
11. Dr D K. Kachroo, HoD Agronomy, SKUAST-Jammu
12. Dr. R. S. Chhokar, Senior Scientist, DWR, Karnal
13. Dr. M.A. Bhatt, Senior Scientist, Agronomy, SKUAST-Kashmir
14. Dr. S.C. Kashyap, Senior Scientist, SKUAST-Kashmir
15. Shri C.M. Sharma, Deputy Director (Central), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
16. Shri Sudesh Kaul, Deputy Director (Training), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
17. Shri Sonaullah Mir, Seed Pathologist, Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir
18. Dr. Ramakant Sharma, CAO, Samba, Jammu & Kashmir
19. Shri Bipan Samyal, CAO, Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir
20. Shri K. S. Samyal, CAO, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir
21. Mohd. Hussian, CAO, Leh, Jammu & Kashmir
22. Shri K. S. Samyal, CAO, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir
23. Mohd. A.K. Bhatti, Deputy Director (Planning), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
24. Dr. M.P. Gupta, State Consultant, NFSM, Jammu & Kashmir
25. Shri B. K. Zutshi, Plant Protection Officer, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
26. Shri. D. K. Kachroo, ASCO (I&P), Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
27. Shri R.L. Bhagat, DSCO, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
28. Shri S K. Bhagat, ASCO, Jammu
29. Shri Ajay Koul, Assistant Agrostologisarch, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu
30. Shri Vinod Ganjo, DAO (Ext.), Jammu
31. Dr. S. K. Yadav, STA (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
