

INTERNATIONAL WINTER WHEAT TRAVELING SEMINAR

20-25, 2013 May, Uzbekistan

International Winter Wheat Traveling Seminar was organized by the International Winter Wheat Improvement Program (IWWIP) in cooperation with FAO SEC and the Uzbek National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), 18–25 May, 2013, in Uzbekistan. The objective of the seminar was to bring together the cooperators of the Program, breeders and plant pathologists, observe the breeding activities, learn about the national and international breeding programs on breeding of high yielding, good grain quality and disease resistant varieties, visit the national agricultural research institutes, communicate and discuss the status of collaborations as well as to give directions for the future and the work plan.

The seminar brought together more than 40 participants from 12 countries represented by the Central Asian and the Eastern European wheat breeders and plant pathologists and FAO, CIMMYT and ICARDA staff. Moreover, the event was attended by the FAO national consultants on cereal pathology who carry out monitoring and surveillance of cereal pest, diseases and weeds in SEC countries.

The seminar participants visited the wheat breeding program trials in three research institutes; Kashkadarya Research Institute of Breeding and Seed Production of Cereal Crops in Karshi, Gallyaoral Branch Research Institute of Grain and Legumes Crops in Jizzak and Plant Industry Institute in Tashkent. The breeders jointly assessed the trials and selected advanced materials resistant to diseases. The workshop participants also learned about the infrastructure and research activities carried out at the institutes.

The seminar participants also attended the Gallaoral Grain Research Institute's 100th anniversary celebrations.

The FAO-SEC Plant Production and Protection Program planned a sub-regional training on the methods of pest surveillance, survey and control. Taking the opportunity of the presence of the cereal pathologists from the region, it was agreed with the organizers of the travelling seminar to conduct this training during the travelling seminar. In this context, Prof. Murat Koyshibayev gave the field trainings on cereal pest, diseases and weeds and their surveillance, which were attended by the FAO national consultants on cereal pathology. Prof. Murat Koyshibayev also presented guidelines on monitoring and surveillance of cereal pest, diseases and weeds. It was considered as a very useful tool for conducting, monitoring and surveillance of pests and diseases. The trainings stressed the importance of the exact geographical coordinates of surveillance and the importance of mapping the survey route by GPS in order to provide a better monitoring of occurrence and spread of diseases and pests.

The practical trainings on surveillance of cereal pest, diseases and weeds were very useful and the national consultants on cereal pathology had an opportunity to improve their knowledge on surveillance and better identification and scoring of pests, diseases and the weeds. In all trials of the institutes, the most common problem was wheat rusts. The severity of rust diseases was variable but seen almost in all varieties and high in most of them. The experts also mentioned that wheat rusts are the common

problem faced in their surveillance activities. Assessing the damage for varieties during the monitoring and surveillance can allow evaluating the efficiency of the national breeding programs.

In general, the travelling seminar was very useful and allowed participants to gain knowledge on wheat research and breeding activities covered by the IWWIP Program. The workshop enabled participants to improve their knowledge, communicate and discuss collaborations and strengthen international and regional cooperation.