

**Workshop on Contingency Planning for Management of Wheat Rust Diseases in Morocco**  
*Atelier sur la planification d'urgence pour la gestion de rouilles du blé au Maroc*

**16 – 17 April 2013, Rabat - Morocco**



Yellow rust infected wheat crop and shrivelled grains due to the disease

***Wheat rust diseases: Planning is the key for management***

Wheat rust diseases are among the major constraints of wheat production in Morocco as in many other wheat producing countries in the region and other parts of the world. Rust diseases can spread over borders and cause significant yield losses over large areas and integrated management approaches are essential to minimize their impacts.

Appropriate policies, technical capacity and coordination among the institutions, as well as international collaboration, play an important role in management of wheat rust diseases. Prevention is the key element of wheat rust management and in this regard Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promotes and supports preventive approaches in context of the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) through the global wheat rust disease programme. Development of effective strategies, awareness raising, contingency planning, preparedness, capacity building and promotion of international collaboration are essential components of this programme.

To support the efforts for the management of wheat rust diseases in Morocco, a workshop is organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and FAO on ``Contingency Planning for Management of Wheat Rust Diseases in Morocco`` on 16 – 17 April 2013 at INRA in Rabat.

The event will bring together experts and officers working in institutions in related fields such as research, crop protection, seeds and extension to facilitate exchange of views on issues related to management of wheat rust diseases. The participants will discuss ways of improving collaboration and coordination among the institutions and formulate recommendations for short and medium term actions with the aim of preparing a contingency plan for management of wheat rust diseases in the country.

The discussions will cover various topics such as the status of rust diseases, coordination, research, surveillance practices, seed systems, extension, coordination and planning approaches. The workshop will elaborate on a draft contingency plan and in this context formulate recommendations on the following:

- Assessment of the capacities, strengths, weaknesses and requirements for more effective management of wheat rust diseases,
- Evaluation of institutional arrangements and coordination approaches,
- Medium and short term action plans for management of wheat rust diseases,
- Procedures to be followed for emergency responses,
- Validation of the contingency plan.

The workshop is supported by the Italy–FAO Cooperative Programme and will be conducted by The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Morocco and FAO in premises of INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Avenue Ennasr) in Rabat, Morocco.

**Venue:** Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Avenue Ennasr, Rabat – Morocco

**Time :** 16 – 17 April 2013; 09.15 am – 18.00 pm

**Further information:**

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**Workshop Program**

	<b>Day 1 (Tuesday 16 April)</b>
08.30-09.15	<b>Registration</b>
09:15- 10:40	<b>Session 1- Inaugural Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcoming remarks</li><li>- Introductory presentations</li></ul>
10.40- 11:00	Break
11:00- 13:00	<b>Session 2- Tools and approaches for management of wheat rusts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Seed system in Morocco</li><li>- IPM and Farmer Field Schools</li><li>- Surveillance and early warning</li><li>- Approaching farmers for rust management: Role of ONCA</li></ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-17:30	<b>Session 3- Contingency Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of a draft contingency plan</li><li>- Working group discussions</li></ul>
	<b>Day 2 (Wednesday 25 April 2013)</b>
9.00 – 10.30	<b>Session 4- Round up of discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of the reports of working groups</li></ul>
10.30-10.50	Break
10.50 -12.30	- Discussions and Validation of the Contingency Plan
12.30 – 13.00	<b>Session 5- Closing session</b>