



Yellow rust infected wheat crop and reporting through SMS system

Workshop on Wheat Rust Surveillance through SMS Network in Turkey 24 – 25 April 2013, Ankara - Turkey

Wheat rust diseases: Rapid surveillance is crucial for early response

Rust diseases are among the major constraints causing significant losses to wheat crops in many wheat producing countries around the world. These diseases include yellow, stem and leaf rusts and cause also significant losses in Turkey especially in years with suitable climatic conditions. Due to their air borne nature the spores can spread within countries and move across the borders and regions easily. Thus their management is difficult and require effective integrated management approaches including use of resistant cultivars and timely interventions in case of emergencies.

One of the key elements of management of these diseases at the national level is effective surveillance and monitoring system supported by timely information change and preventive actions. The success of these survey activities depends on coordination among the institutions, coverage, timely surveillance and most importantly rapid communication and information sharing. In order to improve wheat rust surveillance efforts, a pilot SMS system has been developed and established in Central Anatolia region of Turkey. The system is based on an SMS gateway tool, an operation unit and a network of extension offices in provinces and districts as well as Research Institutes. The system facilitates daily monitoring of status of wheat rust diseases in the districts involved and real time exchange of the observations among the institutions. It also has an alert function for the relevant authorities about the disease severity level in concerned provinces and districts. The system is flexible to be used for other agricultural purposes requiring rapid information exchange among the institutions located in distant locations.

The workshop is organized to introduce this SMS surveillance system to the participants facilitating discussions and evaluation of its functions. Participants will include, in addition to managers and operators, the officers from five districts in five provinces of the Central Anatolia region as well those from related Research Institutes.

The establishment of the system and the workshop have been supported by The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, FAO, IFAD and the Italian Development Cooperation programme. The workshop will be conducted in collaboration with the General Directorate of Food and Control and General Directorate of Agricultural Research and take place Central Research Institute for Field Crops in Ankara, Turkey.

Venue: Central Research Institute for Field Crops; Sehit Cem Ersever cad., No:9/11, Ankara, Turkey

Time: 25th April Thursday, 09.30 – 18.00

Workshop Programme:

09.30 – 10.30: Opening session and introductory presentations

11.00 – 12.30: Demonstration of the system

14.00 – 17.30: Practical session

17.30 – 18.00: Closing

Further information:

Fazil Dusunceli: E-mail: Fazil.Dusunceli@fao.org ; +393200341015

Plant Production and Protection Division / EMPRES: FAO, Rome, Italy

Hafiz Muminjanov: Hafiz.Muminjanov@fao.org ; +903123079500

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ivedik cad. No:11, Ankara, Turkey

Murat Sahin, E-mail: msahin46@gmail.com ; Tel: +903122587747

General Directorate of Food and Control, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and

Livestock of Turkey, Eskisehir Yolu, 9.km, Ankara, Turkey

Zafer Mert: mert_zufer@yahoo.com ; +903123431050/1317

Central Research Institute for Field Crops, Sehit Cem Ersever cad. No:9/11 Ankara, Turkey