



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Project Highlights

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria and Turkey

Policy and technical support for national contingency planning in countries at direct risk of new virulent races of wheat rusts

Project code: GCP/INT/110/ITA

Donor: Government of Italy

Contribution: USD 185 000

Implementation: August 2010 to April 2013

Target areas: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria and Turkey

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PHOTO: SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN NEPAL, DECEMBER 2012

Objective: The objective of the project was to contribute to global food security by reducing the impact of the world's vulnerability to stem, yellow and leaf rust diseases of wheat and improving wheat productivity.

Key partners: Ministries of Agriculture, research and extension personnel, seed sector participants, beneficiary farmers, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and Cornell University.

Beneficiaries reached: The ultimate beneficiaries of the project were wheat growers in the project countries, who will benefited from a reduction in the risk of rust epidemics from newly emerging races. The direct beneficiaries were policy makers in the relevant ministries and government departments, whose abilities to develop and implement contingency plans have been enhanced.

Activities implemented:

- The project facilitated the preparation of contingency plans in Morocco, Syria and Nepal, and introduced the concept to South Asian countries.
- Organized a regional workshop in South Asia to introduce the concept of contingency planning and facilitate dialogue among the countries.
- Organized workshops at national level to support the development of contingency plans by the national institutions through a collective approach.

Impact:

- The project facilitated the identification of short-term emergency actions needed for the effective management of wheat rust diseases, as well as medium-term measures needed to improve institutional capacities.
- At the international level, as well as among national stakeholders, project activities increased awareness of wheat rust diseases and promoted their effective management. This was accomplished in part through the active participation and planning of the International Wheat Stripe Rust Symposium.

