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ICAR identifies seven new varieties of wheat for release

Decision taken at the 44th All-India Wheat and Barley Research Workers' Meet

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has identified seven new varieties of wheat and one variety of barley for release in different agro-climatic conditions. This was decided at the 44th All-India Wheat and Barley Research Workers' Meet held recently in Dharwad, India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world after China.

The HI 1531 variety is the first-ever early maturing semi-dwarf wheat variety evolved for drought tolerance breeding in

central India. It has been recommended for rainfed and restricted irrigation conditions of the Central Zone. Developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) Regional Station, Indore, this variety gives an average yield of 25 quintals/hectare under rainfed condition. Under restricted irrigation, it yields 27 quintals per hectare. Having superior yield potential and resistance to leaf rust over the available commercial varieties, HI 1531 will improve wheat productivity and profitability.

The DBW 16 wheat variety, developed by the Directorate of

- Suitable for different agro-climatic conditions
- HI 1531 is the first-ever early maturing semi-dwarf wheat variety
- DBW 16 variety is resistant to yellow and brown rusts
- HD 2888 variety is tolerant to drought/moisture stress

Wheat Research, Karnal, is resistant to yellow and brown rusts and amenable to late and very late sowings. It is better in resistance to leaf blight as compared to all the existing varieties and has been identified for the North-Western Plains Zone, which contributes about 40 per cent of the total wheat production of the country. It matures in 120 days with an average yield of

39 quintals per hectare.

High extraction rate

The HD 2888 wheat variety, developed by IARI, New Delhi, is tolerant to drought/moisture stress. The variety has been identified for the North-Eastern Plains Zone. It carries a high degree of resistance to stem rust and moderate degree of resistance to leaf blight, which occurs

in this region. The average yield is 23 quintals per hectare. It has a high extraction rate (flour recovery) without disturbing the quality of wheat and micronutrient content.

For the Peninsular Zone, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and the plains of Tamil Nadu, NIAW 917 and PBW 533 varieties have been identified. While NAIW 917 is superior in yield (average yield: 43 quintals per hectare), disease resistance and quality, PBW 533 is resistant to both stem and leaf rust with an average yield of 37 quintals per hectare. The variety is developed by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, and has excellent chapatti, bread and biscuit quality. The AKDW 2997-16 wheat variety has also

been recommended for the Peninsular Zone under rainfed conditions. Developed by Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, this variety is expected to solve the problem of limited choice among farmers to have high yielding, good quality variety that will lead to enhanced productivity. The DDK 1025 Diccocum variety also has been recommended for this region since the average yield is 38 quintals per hectare with disease resistance to stem and leaf rust.

The Council has identified the RD 2660 variety for barley sowing in the North-Western Plain Zone. It is superior in yield and disease resistance as compared to the current variety in use. The average yield is 27 quintals per hectare.