

ICARDA News
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On-farm Demonstration, Production Delivers Results in Uzbekistan

Aleppo, Syria (27 June): On-farm production and demonstration of wheat and barley is paying off in Uzbekistan, where a winter wheat variety has been fast-tracked for multiplication and distribution to farmers.

'Dostlik,' due to be released in Uzbekistan in 2002, was confirmed to be high-yielding and resistant/tolerant to key diseases and insect pests when it was demonstrated last year in various locations throughout the country. As a result, ICARDA was asked to provide basic seed for multiplication, which this year is expected to yield 100 tonnes of seed for distribution to farmers in Uzbekistan's central provinces.

Now in its second year, the on-farm production and demonstration program was organized by the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management (MAWM) in collaboration with the Uzbek Scientific Production Center for Agriculture (USPCA) and ICARDA. On 16-18 May, the program brought together 60 agriculturists for a traveling workshop on establishment of production and demonstration plots.

Some 24 plots were established in 2001-2002 in a range of agro-ecological zones to find the most suitable released and promising varieties of wheat and barley.

At the workshop's opening session in Tashkent, MAWM First Deputy Minister Mr Saydulla Begaliev said that the on-farm plots and traveling workshops are an important part of Uzbekistan's strategy for food security. He gave the program a high assessment and expressed appreciation for ICARDA's contributions.

In remarks read at the opening session, Dr Raj Paroda, Regional



Sixty agriculturists participated in a traveling workshop on establishment of production and demonstration plots, 16-18 May, in Uzbekistan. Some 24 plots were established in 2001-2002 throughout the country to determine the most suitable released and promising varieties of wheat and barley in each location.

Coordinator of ICARDA's program in Central Asia and the Caucasus, cited 'Dostlik' as an example of the benefits of on-farm production and demonstration, which he said is an important part of the work of ICARDA and other CGIAR centers active in the region.

A breeder might need 8-10 years to develop a new variety. The on-farm program allows the testing and release of existing varieties, developed by ICARDA or other international centers, within 3-4 years, said Dr Paroda in his presentation read by Dr Zakir Khalikulov, a scientist from ICARDA's Tashkent office. Dr Paroda was unable to attend the opening session.

In his address to participants, Dr Sherali Nurmatov, Director General of USPCA, stressed the importance of the on-farm program and encouraged Uzbek breeders to work hard toward the goal of food security.

Later, Prof Amir Amanov, Main Consultant to the Presidential Administration, briefed participants on plots established in 2001, and expressed gratitude to Acad. Victor Shevtsov, former ICARDA Cereal Breeder in Tashkent, who was an

initiator of the on-farm production and demonstration program in Uzbekistan and elsewhere in the region.

The participants went on to appraise and select promising varieties in four provinces. Among the varieties selected were two high-yielding, drought tolerant varieties at the Galla-Aral Branch of the Uzbek Grain Research Institute. The varieties, 8023.16.1/Kauze and Ok82282//BOW//NKT, received from the Turkey/CIMMYT/ICARDA Winter Wheat Program, will be submitted for consideration to the State Committee for Variety Releasing.