

ICARDA News
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Minister Waves off ICARDA Seed Shipment to Afghanistan



H. E. Mr. Sayed Hussain Anwari (fourth from left), Minister of Agriculture, Afghanistan, who visited ICARDA from 31 July to 3 August, waved off an ICARDA seed shipment of 53 tonnes to Kabul. Here, he is seen with Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy (center, right), Dr Tony van Gastel (third from left), Head of Seed Unit, and members of the Afghanistan delegation who accompanied the Minister.

Aleppo, Syria (15 August): On 1 August, H.E. Mr Sayed Hussain Anwari, Minister of Agriculture, Afghanistan, in the company of Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, DG, waved off an ICARDA seed shipment of 53 tonnes from Tel Hadya to Kabul. It was a happy coincidence that the Minister was on a visit to ICARDA (see *The Week 731*) when the seed shipment was being prepared for dispatch. Drs M.C. Saxena, ADG (At-Large), Willie Erskine, ADG (Research), and Tony van Gastel, Head of Seed Unit, were also present to witness the important event.

The seeds were produced at Tel Hadya and comprised a large number of varieties of wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, and vetch. The varieties had been selected in the past by breeders for their adaptability to the agroecological conditions in Afghanistan. They had either been released in Afghanistan or had performed well in neighboring countries with similar agroecologies. Part of the shipment consisted of 41 different barley landraces.



The seed shipment leaving Tel Hadya for Sharjah.

The seeds were loaded into three trucks to be transported to Sharjah. From there the shipment will be transported to Kabul by air. In Afghanistan, the seed of non-released varieties will be used for wide-scale testing and evaluation, while that of released varieties will be used for seed production.



Checking last-minute details: Drs M.C. Saxena (left), ADG (A-L), Willie Erskine (right), ADG (Research), and Tony van Gastel, Head of Seed Unit, were present to supervise the loading of seed bags into trucks.