



Wheat Summer Nursery e-Newsletter



Regional Station, Directorate of Wheat Research, Dalang Maidan,
Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh - 175140

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Director General (ICAR) visited Regional Station, DWR, Dalang Maidan, Lahaul-Spiti

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) visited the Regional Station, Directorate of Wheat Research at Dalang Maidan, Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh on Oct 16-17, 2013. Dr. Ayyappan appreciated the role of this station in wheat improvement programme of the country.



Dr. S. Ayyappan remarked “It was a long desired visit to Dalang Maidan, a unique facility not only of the DWR, but of the entire Indian national agricultural system. The opportunities that this station provides for off season wheat nursery, also for barley, lentil, pea and mustard, and further for new initiatives of Doubled Haploid are amazing. I would like to complement all colleagues at DWR led by Project Director, both at Karnal and here for the innovative and enthusiastic efforts, especially under such difficult conditions.”

Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Sharma, Project Director, DWR, Karnal apprised him about the various activities and facilities developed at the station. She highlighted that more than 43,000 lines of wheat and barley were grown at the station for generation advancement. Every year about 15,000 lines are being screened for yellow rust and several crosses are being attempted by various wheat improvement centers. The station serves as one of the national wheat and barley repository,



maintained under the natural conditions in a cost-effective manner. At present, about 9,000 wheat and 2,000 barley accessions are conserved and the accessions have germination capacity of desired level even after 10 years of conservation in the natural conditions. New initiatives such as development of Doubled Haploids and Winter x Spring wheat hybridization are being undertaken at the station.

Dr. Ayyappan interacted with farmers of Lahaul valley and emphasized on training and exposure of farmers on improved crop production technologies. Dr. SP Sharma (Director of Research), Dr. YS Paul (Director of Extension Education), CSKHPKV Palampur and Dr. Vinod Sharma (Project Coordinator), KVK, Bajoura also accompanied the DG (ICAR) during the visit.



Farmer-Scientist Interface Meet
at Dalang Maidan



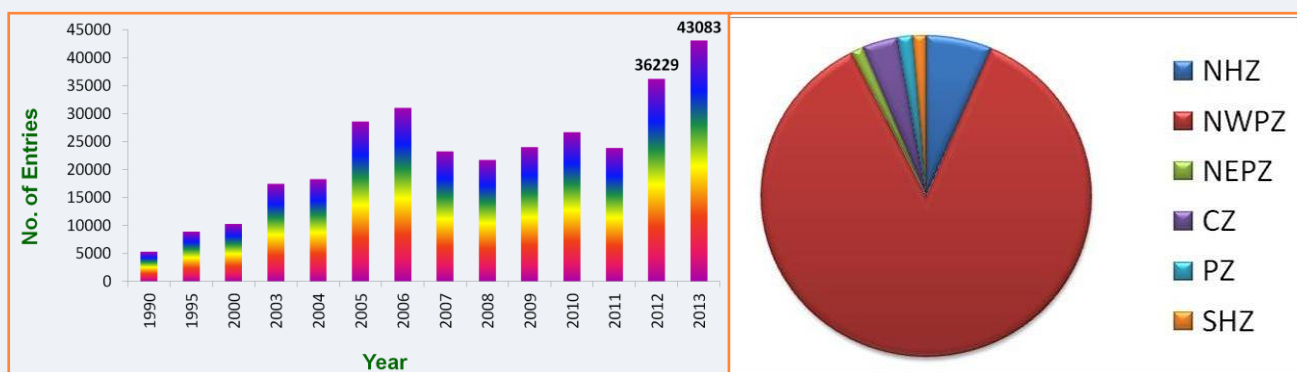
DG (ICAR) interacting with Regional
Station, DWR staff at Dalang Maidan

Progress Report of the Station

The DWR Regional Station located at Dalang Maidan, Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh act as a national service centre for providing various kind of support to wheat and barley researchers of the country. The progress made under different mandates during the year 2013 is presented under following heads.

Generation advancement of wheat and barley during off season (May-October, 2013):

During the period of May-October, 2013, about 43,000 lines of wheat, 500 lines of barley and 80 lines of lentil from 20 co-operators of different institutes were advanced at DWR regional station Dalang Maidan, which was maximum till date. The material from all the six zones was advanced at the station. The maximum material was obtained from North Western Plains Zone followed by Northern Hills Zone and Central Zone. Apart from this some wild species were also grown at the centre. All the research material was harvested and supplied to the respective researchers well in time.



No. of entries planted at Dalang Maidan in 2013

Zone wise distribution of wheat material planted at Dalang Maidan in 2013



A view of experimental material planted at Dalang Maidan in 2013

Corrective hybridization

During this season of year 2013 about 1000 corrective crosses were attempted by the researchers across the institutes. More than 50% crosses were attempted (555) by IARI New Delhi. A new initiative for doubled haploid production was initiated by the scientist of DWR in which 400 spikes of wheat were crossed with maize pollen collected from nearby areas.



Hybridization at Off Season Nursery

Screening important wheat and barley material against rusts

The station provided good location for screening for yellow rust and powdery mildew. Around 19000 lines were screened by various centers. The maximum lines were from IARI, New Delhi (7975) followed by DWR, Karnal (6935) and PAU, Ludhiana (1400). The PAU also screened their material for powdery mildew. This season also showed that it can also act as screening centre for powdery mildew.



Yellow rust at Dalang Maidan

Natural repository for wheat and barley germplasm

The Regional Station acts as natural repository for wheat and barley germplasm and at present 9000 wheat accessions and 2000 barley accessions are being conserved and maintained here under natural conditions.

Seed multiplication of important cultures/varieties

The multiplication of the entry HPW 349 was done for CSKHPKV Malan and seed was supplied to the respective centre.

Centre for high altitude wheat and barley varietal trials

During the year under report 07 entries were evaluated in four replications under AVT TS VHA 2013 trial. All the ancillary and disease data were recorded successfully.