

## Proceedings of the virtual meeting to finalize the crop improvement work plan (2021-22)

<b>Chairman</b>	Dr. GP Singh, Director ICAR-IIWBR
<b>Co-Chairman</b>	Dr. Gyanendra Singh, PI, Crop Improvement
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Drs. Charan Singh, Mamrutha HM and Vikas Gupta

The virtual meeting to finalize the work plan (2021-22) of crop improvement was organised on 03.08.2021 at ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal. The meeting was attended by the contributors, trial conducting centres and all the AICRP cooperators from funded as well as voluntary centres across the country. Dr. Gyanendra Singh, PI, Crop Improvement welcomed participants of the meeting to discuss and finalise work plan and recommendations. Dr. GP Singh, Chairman congratulated all wheat workers and farming community for the record wheat production in the last five years in the country. He also informed the participants about the financial situation in the present EFC and he opined about putting strict yardsticks for better trial conduction and reporting. Dr. Gyanendra Singh, Principal Investigator (Crop Improvement) submitted that utmost care has been taken in compiling and analysing the AICRP data and accordingly entries have been promoted. He also asserted that due weightage has been given to entries having wheat blast resistance and superiority for quality traits in promotion of entries. He then informed that tentative work plan (2021-22) of Crop Improvement was uploaded on the website on 16-07-2021 for the suggestions/ comments from the cooperators. All the possible changes were considered in light of the published guidelines and accordingly updated version was once again uploaded and shared through email on 02-08-2021. The updated version was then taken up for trial wise presentation made by Dr. Satish Kumar. The presentation highlighted trial conducting centres, constitution, entries promoted, checks included, sowing plan, seed rate and all other details for NIVTs, AVTs of all five zones and special trials followed by the discussion.

### NIVTs

1. Dr. Surya Parkash (BAU-Ranchi) raised point regarding the dates of sowing for irrigated timely sown trials in NEPZ, but Dr. GP Singh asked him to plan in advance and being funded centre make sure to plant all the timely sown trials as per dates of sowing as all the RI trials are also planted in the same window.
2. On the request of Dr Rudrasain Singh (Sagar), chairman agreed to allot TS and LS trials to Sagar centre.
3. Hisar and Udaipur centre asked to allot more entries above allotted quotas in different trials but the same was not agreed as it is difficult to include new entries now.
4. Dr. Rajvir Yadav raised the issue of dropping Jammu centre data in NIVT-1A and asked to analyse the data according to BLUP. Dr. Ajay Verma responded to him and explained the advantages and dis-advantages of BLUP analysis in case of balanced data and mentioned that the BLUP analysis is more used in-case of unbalanced data for prediction analysis. Moreover, further analysis of only one trial after decoding is not permissible. However, Chairman agreed to suggestion of looking into merits of BLUP and accordingly will analyse NIVT-1A and NIVT-1B data next year using BLUP analysis on trial basis along with the current analysis approach for comparing both the method of analysis.

### NHZ:

5. Dr. Lakshmi Kant requested to continue all ongoing trials in NHZ, but keeping in view of all the constraints including limited area covered under NHZ varieties, breeder seed indent and more area in NHZ being occupied by NWPZ varieties, chairman suggested to work more on strategic research to checkmate rust diseases and not to focus on varietal programme. Dr. DP Walia and Dr. Vijay Rana also emphasised the need of RI-LS trial in NHZ to support the small and marginal farmers in NHZ. Dr. GP Singh agreed to continue the said trial subject to no contingency support by ICAR-IIWBR Karnal for the same. Dr. GP Singh asked Drs. Lakshmi Kant, DP Walia and Vijay Rana to send the commitment letter for contingency arrangement to voluntary centres in NHZ.

NWPZ:

6. Dr. VS Sohu raised the query regarding non-inclusion of proposed entry on MABB basis in PBW175 background. Dr. Gyanendra Singh informed that the said entry was not meeting the SOP of MABB trial as PBW175 is more than 15 years old and also not figuring in seed chain.

NEPZ:

7. The workplan of NEPZ was discussed and approved by the house.

CZ:

8. The work plan of CZ was discussed and approved by the house.

PZ:

9. Dr. Gyanendra Singh informed the house that on their request, Kolhapur and K-Digraj locations have been discontinued from this crop season. Dr. Dodke requested to shift trial from K-Digraj to Dhulia and was agreed. Dr SS Dodake was asked to send email request to PI (CI) for this change along with complete postal address of proposed centre.
10. The work plan of PZ was discussed and approved by the house.

**Special Trials:**

SPL-HYPT:

11. Dr. VS Sohu requested to continue Gurdaspur location for SPL-HYPT and NIVT-6A and the same was agreed by the house. Work plan was approved as proposed.
12. SPL-SAT/ALK and SPL-Dic trials/ nurseries have been discontinued from this crop season and the promising entries if any, will be evaluated in the ongoing AVTs in respective zones and comparisons will be made with the corresponding best check.

**National and International nurseries**

13. MLHT, DHTSN and SDN have been discontinued from this crop season. Few centres (Kalyani, Vijapur and Shillongani) have asked for some National & International trials/ nurseries and the same was agreed subject to set availability.
14. The updated work plan of national and international nurseries was approved by the group as proposed.

**Remarks by PI-CI**

PI-CI informed the co-operators to look into the revised DOS, site mean and also to harvest gross plot in all the coordinated trials.

**Concluding remarks of chairman**

The chairman appreciated the efforts of PI, Crop Improvement and staff who contributed to compiling, tabulation, reporting and uploading of progress report well in time. He also pointed out that few centres are planting their test entries in AICRP yield trial blocks/ fields. For coded trial testing system, such violations will be taken very seriously and all the trials of that centre are liable to be rejected. Keeping in view of the COVID-19 situation, the decision was taken that from 2020-21 onwards all the AICRP trials will be constituted and dispatched by the ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal, hence the obligations and contingency support to zonal coordinators stands withdrawn. The Chairman also reiterated that all the decisions are taken in a transparent and unbiased manner for the betterment of AICRP and he wished that next year also we will achieve higher production with the concerted efforts of all co-operators and farming community.

The meeting was ended with formal vote thanks by Dr. BS Tyagi and the proceedings are issued with the approval of the Chairman.