

## **IARI , RS, Wellington organizes a seminar on wheat rust in March, 2010**

IARI, Regional station, Wellington is organizing a brainstorming one day seminar on the topic “Checkmating evolution of race group 77 of wheat leaf rust pathogen” during the first week of March, 2010. Pathotype 77 was originally identified in 1954 from Pusa (Bihar). Now, there are 13 other variants in this group making this as the largest single group of virulence in *Puccinia triticina* c.o. leaf rust of wheat. In this race, biotypes namely; 77, 77-1, 77-2, 77-3, 77-4, 77-5 (Most virulent), 77-6, 77-7 (virulent on *Lr9*), 77-8 (virulent on *Lr19*), 77-9, 77-10 (virulent on *Lr28*, identified recently), 77A and 77A-1 have been identified. It is a well known fact now that pathotypes of this race group are the most predominant and devastating in all parts of the Indian sub continent. The important effective rust resistance genes *Lr1*, *Lr9*, *Lr10*, *Lr19*, *Lr23*, *Lr26* and *Lr28* have become susceptible during these years. In absence of functional alternate hosts, new pathotypes are known to arise due to mutation, somatic recombination and parasexuality. But, *It has always remained a curiosity and a question, why 77 group has more variability than others. Remarkably, some of these variants evolved in Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu where IARI's wheat research station, Wellington is also located. To have a common consensus and collective wisdom on future research strategy for holding back the frequently evolving new virulences of race group 77, this seminar is envisaged to be held at IARI, Regional Station, Wellington in the first week of March, 2010.* It is hoped that deliberations of this seminar will help in setting future research directions leading to an adequate deployment of resistance genes which will not only avert the huge yield losses in future but will also check the frequent arisal of new variants in 77 group of races in particular and wheat rust pathogens in general. Top wheat rust researchers of national and international fame have been invited as speakers.

Keeping in view your contributions and interest in wheat improvement programmes, on behalf of the Director, IARI, New Delhi, I take privilege in inviting you as participant in the seminar. You may display your research findings/observations related to the topic as poster presentation. Please submit your abstract of poster to the undersigned by email positively by 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 so that it is included in the advance printed proceedings of the seminar.

Please convey your consent for participation by 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 to the undersigned by email. A nominal amount of Rs. 1000/- (One thousand only) will be charged as registration fee on the counter itself.

During the seminar period, you will also get opportunity to observe rust reactions ( black, brown and yellow) in the IPPSN, PPSN and other DWR nurseries at Wellington location (in case applicable to you). Already excellent artificial epiphytotics have initiated in all these nurseries.

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*Please see next page for tentative programme*

## **Tentative Programme**

**Seminar topic** : checkmating evolution of race group 77 of wheat leaf rust pathogen  
*Puccinia triticina*

**Venue** : IARI, Regional Station, Wellington

**Date**: 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 ( likely to be rescheduled but within first week of March)

**Chief guest** : Dr. H. S. Gupta, Director, IARI, New Delhi

**Chairman of lecture sessions** : Dr. K. R. Koundal, Joint Director (Research), IARI

**Stage Secretary**: Dr. Jagdish Kumar, Head, IARI, RS, Wellington

**Guest of honour** : Dr. S. S. Singh, Project Director, DWR, Karnal

**Special guests**: Dr. ADG (PP), ICAR and Dr. A. K. Joshi, CIMMYT Wheat breeder

### **Invited Speakers:**

Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairman PPVFRA

Dr. R.P. Singh, CIMMYT, Mexico

Dr. Harbans Bariana, University of Sydney, Australia

Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Head, Genetics, IARI, New Delhi

Dr.M. Prashar, DWR, Flowerdale, Shimla

Dr. S.C. Bhardwaj, DWR, Flowerdale, Shimla

Dr. R.G. Saini, Prof. Emeritus, PAU, Ludhiana

Dr. S.M.S. Tomar, Prof. Emeritus, IARI, New Delhi

Dr. T.R. Sharma, NRCPB, IARI, New Delhi

Dr. Jagdish Kumar, IARI, RS, Wellington

Dr. M. Sivasamy, IARI, RS, Wellington