Spring Bread Wheat in West Asia and North Africa: Research on Drought and Heat Stress. (Z03-abdalla030620-Oral)

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Abstract:

The main goal of CIMMYT/ICARDA joint spring bread wheat improvement program is to achieve sustainable improvement in wheat productivity, yield stability and end-use quality in West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. The breeding methodology followed emphasizes targeted crossing program to combine desired traits associated with productivity and yield stability in the different agro-ecological zones in WANA. Multilocation testing is widely used to expose the germplasm to the gradient of expected stress in its targeted environments. Land races, wheat wild relatives in addition to synthetic wheat are widely used to broaden the genetic base of wheat to the prevailing biotic and abiotic stresses in the region. To identify drought and heat tolerant germplasm empirical selection is practice and, in addition, analytical selection approach utilizing adaptive morphophysiological traits is adopted. Use of biotechnological tools, including doubled haploid technique and molecular markers have been initiated. In this presentation some of the achievements of this program are highlighted and future research thrusts are outlined.

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