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ICAR 'wheats' appetite, Super 7 ready for release

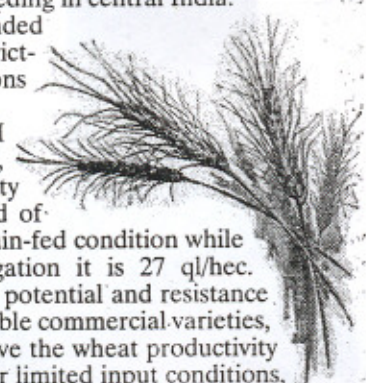
Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Sept. 19. — The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has identified seven new varieties of wheat and one variety of barley for release suitable to various climatic conditions in the country. This was decided at the recent 44th all India Wheat and Barley Research Workers' Meet in Dharwad, Karnataka. India is currently the second largest producer of wheat in the world after China.

HI 1531 wheat variety is the first early maturing semi-dwarf bread wheat variety ever evolved in the history of drought tolerance breeding in central India.

It has been recommended for rain-fed and restricted irrigation conditions of Central Zone.

Developed by IARI Regional Station, Indore, this variety gives an average yield of 25 q/hectare under rain-fed condition while under restricted irrigation it is 27 q/hec. Having superior yield potential and resistance to leaf rust over available commercial varieties, HI 1531 would improve the wheat productivity and profitability under limited input conditions, in Central Zone, by ensuring early arrival of best quality *chapati* wheat in the market.



DBW 16 wheat variety, developed by Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, is resistant to yellow and brown rusts and is amenable to late and very late sowings. It is better in resistance to leaf blight as compared to all the existing varieties and has been identified for North Western Plains Zone, which contributes to about 40% of the total wheat production of the country. It matures in 120 days with an average yield of 39 q/hec.

HD 2888 wheat variety, developed by IARI, New Delhi, is tolerant to drought/moisture stress as it has yielded the highest over all checks and qualifying varieties under rain-fed conditions. The variety has been identified for North Eastern Plain Zone. It carries a high degree of resistance to stem rust and moderate degree of resistance to leaf blight, which occurs in this region. The average yield is 23 q/hec and has high extraction rate (flour recovery) without disturbing the quality and micro-nutrient content.