South Asia: An update
India, Nepal & Bangladesh

Arun K. Joshi
a.k.joshi@cgiar.org
Land of 1.5 billion people. For half of them, wheat is a staple crop.
They are self-sufficient except Bangladesh – annual import ~ 4 m t

Daily calorie
37% Pakistan
20% India
13% Nepal
7% Bangladesh
Wheat production 2016 and 2017 (forecasted)

In current cycle, area under wheat increased by 1.5 m ha in India
Wheat varieties: what was new?

High Zn wheat varieties released in 2016 in India and Pakistan
Biofortified wheat in 2016

India (NWPZ)
Two sister Mayil lines (+6 ppm Zn)
WB 2 and HPBW01

India (private sector)
Zinc Shakti; Extra-early, +14 ppm Zn (40% increase)

Pakistan
Zincol 2016; +6 ppm Zn
2000 tons of seed sown in 2016-17

Source: Ravi Singh and Govindan Velu
New varieties released with better resistance

PBW 658, PBW 677, HD 4728

Yellow rust races virulent on *Yr17* and *Yr8* showed increased aggressiveness in India

**ME1: NW India & Pakistan**
What made big news in 2016?

**Wheat Blast in Bangladesh**

*March 07, 2016*

*Photo: Paritosh Malekar, Bangladesh*
Wheat blast locations and wind trajectories, Feb 2016
Chowdhury et al., 2017 (Map by Amit, CIMMYT Delhi)
Wheat Blast Vulnerable Areas in South Asia

India-CIMMYT-Bangladesh-Latin America collaboration

Source: Kai Sonders
India
Doubling farmers income by 2022

Nepal
National action plan to eradicate hunger by 2025

Some ambitious announcements in 2016
A variety from abroad can be registered for marketing after one year of multi-location testing. Can save 4-5 years.

Pre-release multiplication and marketing allowed after varietal identification of national varieties. Saves 2 years of time.
Bangladesh

- Ready for - Fast track release of varieties
Borlaug 100 – Tolerant to wheat blast

It has 9% grain yield superiority over one of the best check DPW621-50 (Roelfs) in India

75 Kg of Borlaug 100 is under multiplication in Bangladesh and 25 Kg in Nepal for fast track release and dissemination
Summary

• There could be a record wheat production in South Asia
• First release of Biofortified wheat
• Policies improved in favour of farmers
• New challenges emerged – wheat blast, aggressive race of yellow rust
Thank you for your interest!

www.CIMMYT.org