

## A Wheat Variety from Mexico Brightens the Prospects of Uzbek Farmers

A winter wheat variety developed at CIMMYT in Mexico was released to farmers in several provinces of Uzbekistan, in Central Asia, late in 2002. The variety, dubbed Dostlik, had shown a yield advantage of 14% over local checks in multi-locational trials. It is early-maturing and has good resistance to several diseases, including yellow rust. Due to its wide adaptation, it was previously released in Turkey and Afghanistan, and is currently being tested in Tajikistan.

Dostlik shows good water and nutrient use efficiency, which makes it well suited for cropping under full and supplementary irrigation. It is capable of yielding 8-9 t/ha and may substantially increase Uzbek farmers' yields and incomes.

Dostlik came to Uzbekistan via the International Winter Wheat Improvement Program (IWWIP), which distributes wheat nurseries in the region, and a sister center, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The IWWIP is a joint program conducted by the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, CIMMYT, and ICARDA.



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