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Wheat production management in Uzbekistan : current status and perspectives

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Introduction Sustainable crop production is the basic approach for agriculture in the 21st century . After independence big changes occurred in the cropping systems of Uzbekistan . They are associated with both development of food security policy of the independent state and transition to market economy . With the growth rates of population in Uzbekistan (2.4 percent per year) by 2010 it will reach around 35 million (presently 23-24 million) . This will sharply raise the demand in foodstuffs that requires significantly increasing the production of agricultural crops and livestock . In this regard , increasing wheat production is the most important objective of the agricultural research in this area . Because it is not only used as grain it is also used for animal feeding . Most of the arable area of the country suffers from elevated salinity to a various degree .

Crop production One of the most essential factors of developing the grain industry is to put into production highly productive grain varieties , resistant to diseases , unfavourable climatic conditions , and soil salinity as well as moisture deficit . The active development of plant biotechnology in the Republic of Uzbekistan allowed us for the first time to begin biotechnological research on wheat . Taking into account that the same varieties and crops in various soil-reclamation conditions display themselves differently , improvement of salt-resistance could be achieved through : creating salt-resistant wheat varieties , for of strong-saline regions of Uzbekistan ; selecting grain and leguminous crops in saline soils considering their biological adaptation through different regions of the republic ; creating and rapidly putting in operation advanced , pollution-free , and highly efficient industrial technology for cultivation of agricultural crops for various salinization degrees of soils . .

Laws and current conditions The Republic of Uzbekistan's Act of Achievements of breeding (August 30 , 1996) was approved for the purposes of regulating relations in the field of legal protection and usage of achievements of selection . Development of scientific research within priority state programs (basic , applied scientific and technical grants and grants for innovations) is in the course of The Center of Science and Technology of Uzbekistan . The high-yielding , disease- , drought- , and salt-tolerant varieties have been introduced and the principles of seed farming and agro-techniques have been developed .

Perspective and conclusion Implementing the conservation agriculture practices , scientifically proved crop rotation , would allow two yields of cereals and leguminous cultivars per year . Other need include the following :

- Complex study of the international nurseries and defining the initial materials for breeding of wheat production .
- Extending the scientific work in creation of new early maturing and ultra early maturing varieties
- developing the structure of seed production for cereal crops , providing the farms with elite and super elite seeds .
- Implementing the most rational crop rotations and their placement on the best preceding crops taking into account soil characteristics .
- Using the integrated management of protecting the plants from diseases , pests and weeds .
- Further development and widely introduction of biotechnology , agro-eco technology , and informational technology in the field of grain and farm production development .
- Organic inclusion of agrarian science into the training process of agricultural staff , integration of higher education , agrarian science and production .