



Government of Pakistan  
PBRR, Pakistan

Plant Breeders' Rights Registry

## Plant Breeders' Rights Journal



Official Journal of Plant Breeders' Rights Registry, Pakistan

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# **PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS JOURNAL**

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of

**Plant Breeders' Rights Registry  
Ministry of National Food Security and Research  
Government of Pakistan**

Plant Breeders' Rights Registry G-9/4,  
Mauve Area, Islamabad, Pakistan

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## **EDITORIAL**

Plant Breeders' Rights Registry is improving its functionality. The focus is to extend its services and increase the number of crops/plant species protectable in Pakistan. The scope of the Registry has been extended not only to Crops and Vegetables but also for Fruit plants as well. Date Palm, Peach, Pear, Mango, Lentil, Sorghum, Tomato, Onion, Oats and Mung bean are included in the extended list of the protectable plant species.

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## **NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **REVISION OF WHEAT SUPPORT PRICE**

The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) urged the Punjab government to consider increasing the wheat support price to Rs 3,900 per mound from the current Rs 3,000 per mound for the 2023 procurement season.

### **WHEAT SOWING TARGETS SURPASSES TO 102.67%**

Food Security Commissioner Imtiaz Ali Gopang has said that sowing goals for the ongoing season (2023-24) have been set at 22.22 million acres, with cultivation reaching 102.67 percent above the target.

### **PAK CHINA COOPERATION**

The collaboration between Pakistan and China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has led to the significant plantation of the HC-021C canola variety from the Chinese seed company Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng in Pakistan. This newly introduced variety has features of reduced growth cycle, enhanced resistance to diseases, and optimized high-density cultivation. Additionally, HC-021C produces yield 5% greater than that of local varieties, which aids in boosting Pakistan's edible oil production, reducing import expenditures, and raising farmers' income levels. Furthermore, the higher oil content and price of HC-021C make it a more beneficial option compared to other indigenous canola varieties.

### **SUPPORT PRICE FOR COTTON**

Pakistan is facing a notable drop in cotton output, with its yield per acre only reaching 50% of that of its neighboring countries because of multiple factors like farmers are opting for more profitable crops such as rice, maize, and sugarcane. This reduction raises concerns among economic planners, who are contemplating the establishment of a support price system for cotton. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research is exploring the wheat and sugarcane pricing model as a potential framework for cotton support pricing. The Ministry observes that cotton production is declining while the area used for planting is also decreasing, though Pakistan could produce as much as 15 million bales to satisfy the needs of the textile sector but adverse climatic changes like the recent catastrophic floods have severely impacted the cotton harvest, resulting in only 4.76 million bales produced compared to a target of nine million bales. Discussions have taken place with stakeholders to formulate a proposal for a

cotton intervention price, with farmers recommending an intervention price of Rs 7,000-8,000 for every 40 kg

## **PAKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREA JOIN FORCES ON AEROPONIC TECHNOLOGY**

Pakistan and South Korea are working together on a project to cultivate potato seeds using aeroponic technology. This collaborative initiative intends to enhance productivity, decrease post-harvest losses, encourage processing at the farm level, cultivate human resources, and generate employment opportunities. More than 30% of Pakistan's need for potato seeds can be fulfilled by tissue culture laboratories at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC). The project plans to establish more greenhouses at NARC to generate 400,000 nucleus seed potatoes, leading to the production of 4,000,000 first-generation seed potato tubers for large-scale farming. This effort will assist in lessening Pakistan's yearly potato seed imports and reducing the import expenses. The aim of the project is to produce 150,000 tons of high-quality fourth-generation seed potatoes over five years.

## **PBRR PUBLICATION**

### **SEED MARKET ANALYSIS/ IMPLEMENTATION OF PBRR**

Seed is the primary input for agriculture and plays a key role in enhancing the farm productivity. Seed helps to attain the main Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) of Zero Hunger and Poverty Alleviation. Therefore, seed is one of the main factors of food security and public welfare. To attain better farm production certified seed is the primary factor for successful harvesting. It is the need of the hour to focus on the quality of the seed produced. In Pakistan seed market is projected to be USD 0.88 billion in 2024, with expectations to grow to USD 1.14 billion by 2029, achieving a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.30% over the period from 2024 to 2029.

To tackle the increasing mismatch between food demand and supply in the country, a rise in the use of hybrid seeds across various crops is anticipated. The continual growth of the population and the reduction of arable land has led to a decline in per capita arable land. These elements, compounded by low crop yields, are likely to put strain on the country's food supply.

The seed industry in Pakistan is marked by conflicts between outdated regulations and the aspirations of entrepreneurs entering the expanding market. All significant aspects of the sector, including the licensing of seed producers, procedures for releasing new varieties, access to public germplasm, quality assurance, intellectual property rights (IPRs), and import-export

regulations, are controlled by regulations established decades ago when public enterprises dominated the landscape. Nonetheless, liberalization of the seed sector through reforms in seed laws and establishment of new regulations to support biotech seeds may enable the private sector to play a significant role in improvement of the seed sector.

Pakistan is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and thus must establish a system to protect plant varieties. Additionally, Pakistan is part of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which acknowledges farmers' rights to save, utilize, exchange, and sell seeds that they have preserved. In line with this, Pakistan has implemented the Plant Breeders' Rights Act aimed at promoting the development of new plant varieties and safeguarding the rights of breeders, thereby attracting both local and foreign investment in seed research, technology, and development. The act also honors the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange, and sell their farm produce, which is crucial for the agricultural structure and the primary means through which farmers obtain resources in many developing nations.