

PARC Develops Wheat Straw Chopper-cum-Blower



Bullocks Treading



Combine Harvesting



Burning of Wheat Straws



Wheat Straw Chopper in Operation

Contributors:

Dr. Nadeem Amjad,
Muhammad Tahir Anwar,
Mr. Abdul Waheed Zafar,
and Mr. Ghufraan Shahzad

Challenge

- Although combine harvesters help in timely harvesting of wheat, but they collect grains only, leaving the stubbles standing in the field.
- Due to non-availability of proper technology to clear the fields for sowing of subsequent crop, farmers are compelled to burn these stubbles. It raises following issues:
 - environmental pollution associated with fire hazards;
 - loss of precious soil organic matter; and
 - loss of wheat straw “bhoosa” a valuable cattle-feed.
- Challenge was to develop a wheat straw chopper to harvest the standing stubbles and chop them into “bhoosa”.

Interventions

- In 2000 - 2001, PARC developed a tractor mounted wheat straw chopper-cum-blower and tested it in various field operations.
- At the same time, a *bhoosa* collection trolley was also developed.
- In 2002, extensive field testing and demonstrations were conducted. The machine was further improved to enhance its efficiency and reliability.
- For its indigenous production, PARC provided technical assistance to private manufactures of Daska, Lahore, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Faisalabad and Multan.
- In 2003, PARC signed agreements with five local manufacturers for its commercialization.

Outcomes

- Currently, >15 private manufactures are producing this machine.
- Around 5,000 units were in operation during 2012.
- It is benefiting the country worth Rs.820 million annually.
- Straw chopper is helping reduce environmental pollution.
- Saves 500 kg/acre of wheat straws for cattle feeding.

Way forward

- Up-scaling the production of machine
- Incorporating the straw bailing mechanism into the machine