

Islamabad Gold: A Promising Maize Variety



Maize Variety Gold at NARC



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Contributors:

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Challenge

- Practically very little breeding research has been conducted explicitly for northern areas of high elevation.
- The cultivar released for other agro-ecological zones of the country is comparatively late maturing; hence do not fit in to this shorter growing season of the northern mountainous area.
- The challenge was to develop high yielding, early maturing maize genotype with cold and disease tolerance.

Interventions

- Innovative approaches used for development of maize variety fit in double cropping zone of the northern areas and as a result Islamabad Gold has been developed for the purpose.
- In 1999 it was initiated and pop-5030 acquired from CIMMYT, Mexico. Local maize variety "Kashmir gold" well adapted but low yield was used as female in crossing with pop-5030 as male.
- Fulsib families recombination, single row progeny method was performed and at the end uniform lines was bulked.
- After attaining homozygosity, the bulked lines were tested under preliminary, on farm, agronomic, multi-location and adaptability yield in different agro-ecologies of maize cropping of the country.

Out come

- Maize variety "Islamabad Gold" a case is ready for approval while for registration during spring 2012 sample seed was sent to registration authority.
- Its grain is flint and yellow in colour and stay green at harvest.
- Medium maturity in 105 to 110 days and its dry matter production is 15 to 20 tons /ha, produced grain yield at farmer's field 7.0 tons/ha.

Way Forward

- During autumn 2012, 8000 kg seed were produced and distributed to farmers' community.
- Development contractual seed production helps for rapid and easy approachable to farmers as certified seed