

# Bajra Super-1: A Promising Millet Variety



BAJRA Super-1 at NARC



BAJRA Super-1 heads at grain filled stage

## Contributors:

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf & Mr. Muhammad Naeem (Retired) (breeding /variety development, Dr. Habib Iqbal Javed (Entomology), Dr. Rashid Saleem and Dr. Abdul Shakoor (Retired) (Agronomy)

## Challenge

- Ignored crop and unavailability of improved high yielding variety for rainfed area of the country.
- Low grain yield (2-3 ton/ha)
- Low stalk yield with low dry matter.
- Challenges were to develop a high yielding variety with desired traits like drought tolerance, disease and insect pest tolerance and resistance to lodging.

## Interventions

- Research for development of millet variety was initiated in 2000 when 120 accessions acquired from ICRISAT, India and evaluated at NARC for their adoption under local conditions.
- After the completion of adaptability, seed setting and characterization of the potential accessions, shuttle breeding (an Innovative approaches) was adopted to minimize the time for variety development.
- The selected material was tested under preliminary, on farm, agronomic, multi location and adaptability yield trials conducted at different agro-ecologies of the country. It took about 10 year for release for commercial cultivation.

## Out come

- Millet variety “Bajra Super-1” tall stature with high tillering was released in 2006 for rainfed areas of all provinces of the country.
- Its heads are compact with grey glumes and good girth, spindle shaped and light grey grain color.
- Matured in 115 to 120 days and its dry matter production is 15 to 18 tons /ha, produced grain yield at farmer’s field 4.5 to 5.0 tons/ha

## Way Forward

- During autumn 2012, 2000 kg seed were produced and distributed to the farmers’ community.
- Development contractual seed production helps for rapid and easy approachable to farmers as certified seed