Trimming the Gap in Wheat Production and Demand in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan

Abstract: Abiotic stresses are major challenges to future wheat production in Pakistan and other wheat producing regions world-wide. Genetic improvement of wheat against abiotic stresses is difficult and often time consuming because of the complex inheritance of the various traits responsible for the final grain yield. As such, genetic increases in wheat yields under stress environments have not been as great as in the non-stress productive environments. The problem can be tackled through targeted breeding for stress environments. This presentation focuses on enhancing wheat production in Pakistan using 2-approaches; potential of introducing winter wheat as a dual-purpose crop for forage-plus-grain production in the northern region and genotypes selection strategy for the rainfed/unirrigated southern regions of Pakistan.