

## FAO-ICARDA Letter of Agreement (PO 319501) on

# Training and Surveillance Support for Wheat Rust Diseases in Central Asia and Near East

### Activity 2: Field-based assessment of wheat rust pathogenic variability (Trap Nurseries)

Pathogenic variability of cereal rust pathogens is traditionally investigated at the seedling stage using rust differential sets. This needs to be conducted under standard and controlled environmental conditions. In most of the countries in CWANA, there is a paucity of comprehensive understanding of pathogenic variability of cereal rusts because of a lack of standard greenhouse rust facilities, expertise and associated continual financial support.

To facilitate and have a better understanding of the field responses of rust resistance genes and to some extent variation among rust populations, wheat lines carrying specific rust resistance genes can be planted under natural infections in field conditions and their responses to infections can assist in understand if the exposed genes are effective under field conditions or not. It will also help to track the behavior of the rust resistance genes over time and space.

The first evidence of experimental field surveys of pathogenic variation of stripe rust was by Zadoks (1984) who established an “International Yellow Rust Trials Project” in the autumn of 1955. The project comprised the sowing and observation of experimental varieties in several locations in and outside of Europe. Over the last 10 years, in collaboration with CIMMYT, the University of Sydney and FAO, three international wheat rust trap nurseries have been distributed annually to more than 32 countries by ICARDA. Rust trap nurseries are valuable tools for early detection of pathogenic changes in rust pathogen populations particularly in wheat growing areas in developing countries where laboratory facilities and/or skilled staff are not available. Although this cannot be claimed to be the best tool in population genetic analysis, in places where race analysis is not possible, the trap nurseries have been considered helpful in assessing pathogenicity and changes. Furthermore, the rust trap nurseries are useful practical open-source training instruments for early career scientists to learn and practice field scoring of rust resistance genes under the field conditions assisting rust resistance screening of breeding germplasms. Sampling from trap nurseries also facilitates postulation of emergence of new rust races through comprehensive race analysis where facilities are available.

Running of the trap nurseries is simple and does not require sophisticated facilities and comprehensive knowledge of host - pathogen genetic interactions. Both race-specific seedling or all-stage resistance genes, adult plant resistance sources and leading varieties can be included in trap nurseries for evaluation under natural conditions over a range of sites. Because of the monogenic nature of most of differential genotypes included in these nurseries, field scoring and assessment of effectiveness of rust resistance gene can be achieved easily in presence of rust infection. In Figure 6, clear differentiation can be observed for *Yr5* with resistance response and *Yr6*, which is fully susceptible to yellow rust.



Figure 1. Field susceptible and resistance responses of Avocet near isogenic lines of *Yr6* (left) and *Yr5* (right) under field conditions to yellow rust.

Through the current LoA project, 132 sets of International Rust Trap Nurseries of yellow, stem, and leaf rusts were distributed to the 10 supported countries (Table 1). During the training workshop, field-note taking of the responses of these genotypes was practiced at the RCRRC in Izmir (Figure 2). The wheat rust trap nurseries comprised of standard differential sets for yellow, stem, and leaf rusts, rust monogenic-single gene lines, commercial and historical cultivars from the region and also source of adult-plant resistance genes which can only be assessed at adult-plant stage (Table 2, 3, and 4). Depending on the appearance of rust infections, national collaborators have collected field response data of the differential genotypes and commercial cultivars. These data show differences or similarities in field responses of rust resistance genes in different locations, which may imply the similarity or difference between the rust populations in different geographical locations. This has been complemented in some of the countries with the support of race typing at national rust laboratories and the support of the current collaboration with the GRRC at the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Trap Nurseries were evaluated under natural infection and during the growing season. The planted genotypes were scored for rust reaction and disease severities. The rust disease severities were recorded based on Modified Cobb's scale for disease severity (0-100) and for resistance responses (R=Resistant, MR= Moderately Resistant, MS= Moderately Susceptible, S= Susceptible) based on the methods described by Roelfs et al 1992.

Table 1. List of distributed International yellow (10th IYRTN-16), stem (11th ISRTN-16), and leaf (7th ILRTN-16) rust trap nurseries distributed to supported countries through FAO-ICARDA agreement.

Country Name	Nursery Name			Total set
	10th IYRTN-16 (80)	11th ISRTN-16 (85)	7th ILRTN-16 (85)	
Azerbaijan	4	4	3	11
Egypt	5	5	5	15
Eritrea	3	4	2	9
Iran	4	4	4	12
Iraq	3	2	2	7
Morocco	5	3	5	13
Pakistan	12	12	12	36
Tajikistan	3	3	3	9
Turkey	3	3	3	9
Uzbekistan	5	3	3	11
<b>Total sets</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>132</b>



Figure 2. Wheat rust training course Izmir 2016. Field note-taking of yellow rust trap nursery.

Table 2. List of genotypes and yellow rust resistance genes (Yr) included in the 10th international yellow rust trap nursery (10th IYRTN-16)

Ent.	Cultivar/ genotype	Yr-gene	Ent.	Cultivar/ genotype	Yr-gene
1	<b>Triticale</b>		41	Spaldings Prolific	(W;YrSP)
2	<b>Morocco</b>		42	Avocet 'R'	YrA
3	Yr 1/ 6* Avocet S	Yr1	43	Inia 66	YrA
4	Yr 1/6* AvS	NIL 1	44	Avocet 'S'	-
5	Chinese 166	(W;Yr1)	45	Tres/6* AVS	-
6	Chinese 166	Yr1	46	Yr 18/ 3* Avocet S	Yr18
7	Kalyansona (S)	Yr2	47	Jupateco 'R'	Yr18+
8	Heines VII	(W;Yr2+?)	48	Jupateco 'S'	-
9	Vilmorin 23 (W;Yr3a, 4a+other)	(W;Yr3a, 4a+)	49	Anza	YrA, Yr18
10	<b>Morocco</b>		50	<b>Morocco</b>	
11	Hybrid 46 (W;Yr4)	(W;Yr4)	51	Cook (S)	APR
12	Yr 5/ 6* Avocet S	Yr5	52	Lemhi	Yr21
13	<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Yr5	53	TP 981	-
14	Yr 6/ 6* Avocet S	Yr6	54	TP1295	Yr25
15	Heine's Kolben	(S; Yr6+1)	55	YR27/6*Avocet S	Yr27
16	Heine's Peko	(S; Yr6+?)	56	Ciano 79	Yr27
17	Fielder	Yr6, Yr20	57	ATTILA CM85836-50Y	Yr27+?
18	Yr 7/ 6* Avocet S	Yr7	58	OPATA 85	Yr27+Yr18
19	Lee (S;Yr7)	(S;Yr7)	59	Avocet-YRA*3/3/ALTAR .	Yr28
20	<b>Morocco</b>		60	<b>Morocco</b>	
21	Reichersberg 42	(W;Yr7+?)	61	Lal Bahadur/Pavon 1B L	Yr29
22	Thatcher	Yr7	62	AVOCET-YRA*3/PASTOR	Yr31
23	Yr 8/ 6* Avocet S	Yr8	63	PASTOR	Yr31+APR
24	Compare	(S;Yr8)	64	Pollmer 2.1.1(Triticale)	
25	Yr 9/ 6* Avocet S	Yr9	65	Cham 1	DW
26	Fed.4/Kavkaz	Yr9	66	Cham 4	
27	Clement	(W;Yr9+Yr2+?)	67	Cham 6	
28	Federation	-	68	Cham 8	Yr27
29	Yr 10/ 6* Avocet S	Yr10	69	Gobustan	
30	<b>Morocco</b>		70	<b>Morocco</b>	
31	Moro (W; Yr10)	(W; Yr10)	71	Sardari	
32	Yr 15/ 6* Avocet S	Yr15	72	Alamout	
33	YR17/6*Avocet S	Yr17	73	Bohouth 6	

34	Strubes Dickopf	(W;2-more?)	74	Gereck 79	
35	Suwon 92xOmar	(W, YrSu)	75	Hugenoot	
36	Nord Desprez	(W;YrND)	76	Gun 91	
37	Yr32/6*Avocet S	Yr32	77	Dustlik	
38	Carstens V	(W, Yr32)	78	TATARA CM85836-50Y	
39	YrSP / 6* Avocet S	YrSP	79	<b>Suwon 92/Omar</b>	YrSu
40	<b>Morocco</b>		80	<b>Triticale</b>	

Table 3. List of genotypes and stem rust resistance genes (Sr) included in the 11th international stem rust trap nursery (11th ISRTN-16)

Ent.	Name	Sr-gene	Ent.	Name	Sr-gene
1	Triticale		44	Trident Sr38	<i>Sr38</i>
2	ISr5-Ra CI 14159	<i>Sr5</i>	45	Trident	<i>Sr38</i>
3	ISr6-Ra CI 14163	<i>Sr6</i>	46	RL 5711 Kerber	<i>Sr39</i>
4	Na 101/6*Marquis	<i>Sr7a</i>	47	RL 6087 Dyck	<i>Sr40</i>
5	ISr7b-Ra CI 14165	<i>Sr7b</i>	48	TAM 107	<i>Sr1RS-Am</i>
6	CI 14167/9*LMPG-6	<i>Sr8a</i>	49	Amigo	<i>Sr24, 1RS-Am</i>
7	Barleta Benvenuto	<i>Sr8b</i>	50	Siouxland	<i>Sr24, 31</i>
8	ISr9a-Ra	<i>Sr9a</i>	51	Roughrider	<i>Sr36, 6</i>
9	Prelude*4/2/Marquis*6/Kenya	<i>Sr9b</i>	52	Sisson	<i>Sr6, 31, 36</i>
10	ISr9d-Ra	<i>Sr9d</i>	53	Fleming	<i>Sr6, 24, 36, 1RS-Am</i>
11	Vernstein	<i>Sr9e</i>	54	Chris	<i>Sr7a, Sr12, Sr6</i>
12	Chinese Spring*7/Marquis	<i>Sr9g</i>	55	CsSSrTmp	<i>SrTmp</i>
13	W2691Sr10	<i>Sr10</i>	56	Bt/Wld	<i>SrWld-1</i>
14	Lee/6*LMPG-6	<i>Sr11</i>	57	Pavon 76	<i>Sr2 comp.</i>
15	Chinese Spring*5/Thatcher	<i>Sr12</i>	58	Einkorn	<i>Sr21</i>
16	Prelude*4/2/Marquis*6/Khapstein	<i>Sr13</i>	59	Seri 82	<i>Sr31</i>
17	W2691*2/Khapstein	<i>Sr14</i>	60	Morocco	
18	Prelude*2/Norka	<i>Sr15</i>	61	PBW343 = Attila with Sr31	<i>Sr31</i>
19	Thatcher/CS	<i>Sr16</i>	62	Kubsa = Attila	<i>Sr31 absent</i>
20	Morocco		63	Chamran = Attila	-

21	Prelude/8*Marquis*2/2/Esp	Sr17	64	Cham 6	-
22	Little Club/Sr18Mq Marquis "A"	Sr18	65	Cham 8	Sr31
23	94A 236-1 Marquis "B"	Sr19	66	Cham 10 = Kauz//Kauz/star	Sr31?
24	94A 237-1 Marquis "C"	Sr20	67	Bacanora = Kauz's'	Sr31
25	McNair 701	SrMcN	68	Cook	Sr36
26	<i>T. monococcum</i> /8*LMPG-6	Sr21	69	Coorong ( Triticale)	Sr27
27	Mq*6//Stewart*3/RL 5244	Sr22	70	Satu	SrSatu
28	Exchange	Sr23	71	SrNin	SrNin
29	LcSr24Ag	Sr24	72	Karim	Durum
30	Agatha (CI 14048)/9*LMPG-6	Sr25	73	Imillo	Durum
31	Eagle Sr26 McIntosh	Sr26	74	Altar	Durum
32	WRT 238-5 (1984)R.	Sr27	75	EL Nielain	
33	Kota RL471	Sr28	76	Hidhab	
34	Prelude/8*Marquis/2/Etirole..Choisy	Sr29	77	Gemmeiza 9	
35	Selection from Webste	Sr30	78	Giza-168	
36	Sr31 (Benno)/6*LMPG-6	Sr31	79	Arrehane	
37	ER5155 S-203 (1995)R.	Sr32	80	Morocco	
38	RL 5405 (1192) Kerber	Sr33	81	Debeira	
39	RL 6098 (1997) Dyck	Sr34	82	Aguilal	
40	Morocco		83	Thatcher	
41	RL 6099 (1995) Dyck	Sr35	84	Guard	-
42	W2691SrTt-1 CI 17385	Sr36	85	Triticale	
43	Prelude*4/Line W	Sr37			

Table 4. List of genotypes and leaf resistance genes (*Lr*) included in the 7<sup>th</sup> international leaf rust trap nursery (7<sup>th</sup> ILRTN-16)

Ent.	Variety / Line	Pedigree / Origin	Ent.	Variety / Line	<i>Lr</i> -gene/s
1	Triticale		44	Morocco	
2	Morocco		45	Thatcher	<i>Lr22b</i>
3	Cham 4	Syria	46	TC*6/Centenatrio (RL6003)	<i>Lr1</i>
4	Cham-6	Syria	47	TC*6/Webster (RL6016)	<i>Lr2a</i>
5	Cham-8	Syria	48	TC*6/Carina (RL6019)	<i>Lr2b</i>
6	Cham-10	Syria	49	TC*6/Loros (RL6047)	<i>Lr2c</i>

7	Hidhab	Algeria	50	TC*6/Democrat (RL6002)	Lr3
8	Aguilal	Morocco	51	TC*6/Aniversario (RL6007)	Lr3Ka
9	Arrehane	Morocco	52	Bage/8*TC (RL6042)	Lr3Bg
10	Salamoni	Syria	53	Transfer/6*TC (RL6010)	Lr9
11	Roomy	West Asia	54	TC*6/Exchange (RL6004)	Lr10
12	Florance Aurour	North Africa	55	Kussar (W976)	Lr11
13	Potam	North Africa	56	Exchange/6*TC (RL6011)	Lr12
14	Nesma	North Africa	57	Manituou	Lr13
15	Serie 82	-	58	Selkirk/6*TC (RL6013)	Lr14a
16	PBW 343	-	59	TC*6/Maria Escobar (RL6006)	Lr14b
17	Bohouth 6	-	60	TC*6/Kenya1483 (RL6052)	Lr15
18	Bohouth 8	-	61	TC*6/Exchange (RL6005)	Lr16
19	Babaqa	-	62	Klein Lucero/6*TC (RL6008)	Lr17
20	Mexipak	-	63	TC*7/Africa 43 (RL6009)	Lr18
21	Cham4/CA8055	-	64	TC*7/Tr (RL6040)	Lr19
22	Morocco	-	65	Thew (W203)	Lr20
23	Cham 1	Syria	66	TC*6/RL5406 (RL6043)	Lr21
24	Cham 3	Syria	67	TC*6/RL5404 (RL6044)	Lr22a
25	Cham 5	Syria	68	Lee 310/6*TC (RL6012)	Lr23
26	Safra maan	-	69	TC*6/Agent (RL6064)	Lr24
27	Oued Zenati	Algeria	70	Transec (Awned)	Lr25
28	Senatori Cappelli	North Africa	71	TC*6/ST-1-25 (RL6078)	Lr26
29	Chili	Tunisia	72	Gatcher (W3201)	Lr10, Lr27+Lr31
30	Karim	Tunisia	73	CS2D-2M	Lr28
31	Geruftel-1	ICD95-1302	74	TC*6/CS7AG#11 (RL6080)	Lr29
32	Tunsyr-2	ICD95-0169..	75	TC*6/Terenz10 (RL6049)	Lr30
33	Geromtel-1	ICD95-1174..	76	TCLR32 (RL5497)	Lr32
34	Icasyr-1	ICD95-0169..	77	TC*6/PI58548 (RL 6057)	Lr33
35	Sebou	-	78	TC*6/PI58548 (RL 6058)	Lr34
36	Belikh-2	-	79	RL5711	Lr35

37	Atlas - 1	-	80	E84018	Lr36
38	Ammar - 3	-	81	TC*6/ VPM ( RL 6081)	Lr37
39	ICA Rasha - 1	-	82	TC*6// CARINA ( RL 6051)	Lr B
40	Aghram	-	83	WL711	Lr13
41	Bohouth 9		84	Morocco	-
42	Bohouth 11	-	85	Triticale	-
43	Otb-6 (DW Check)	-			-

The findings of this activity indicated wide spread occurrence of yellow rust in almost all supported countries at various degrees and disease severities. Collected data from 33 locations for yellow rust indicated that the susceptible checks were infected in almost all locations. This is considered an indication of the wide presence of yellow rust inoculum but due to unfavorable environmental conditions, the disease could not develop due to high severity in most locations. Disease severity of important Yr-genes is used in graphical presentations of effectiveness of Yr-genes at testing sites (Figure 8). In general, and based on obtained data, virulence for Yr5 and Yr15 was not observed in any locations and or the disease severity was very low. Virulence for Yr2, Yr6, Yr7, and Yr9 was fixed in all locations and based on high infection on Yr27 sources, still the dominant race of yellow rust in this region is the Yr27 virulent race that is adapted to warm areas and has been responsible for recent epidemics in many countries in CWANA.

Increasing virulence for Yr1, Yr3, YrSp, Yr32, and Yr17 in some of the locations indicates widespread of a Warrior race first found in Europe 2011. This race appeared in northwest Turkey first in 2014, following its wide occurrence and effect in Europe, and is now present almost in all wheat growing areas in Turkey. Seedling race analysis of collected samples from Edirne and Adapazari confirmed the presence of the Warrior race in 2015 but in 2016 yellow rust was at a very low level in these provinces and race analysis did not confirm the presence of Warrior race in this year (Nazari, unpublished data). The same race has been reported in North Africa in the last few years. In 2016 high infection for the key diagnostic genes of Warrior (Yr1, Yr3, Yr4, Yr32, Yr17) planted as trap nurseries was reported from Egypt indicating possible migration of the Warrior race, perhaps from North African countries to Egypt. Although the pathogenic variability of stripe rust is high for most of Yr-genes, still the Yr27 is considered a dominant race followed by the Warrior race which may replace the Yr27 race being a major threat for mega wheat cultivars in CWANA.

Obtained data from 28 locations of where ILRTN was planted indicated increasing frequency and severity of leaf rust (Figure 4). High diversity of virulence for most Lr-genes was observed within testing sites. In presence of yellow rust epidemics and the fear of devastating epidemics of stem rust, the importance of leaf rust has been almost forgotten in many countries. The trend of widespread, higher disease severity and also increasing virulence factors in leaf rust populations and particularly in warm and humid areas in this region is alarming. Although certain varieties developed recently performed well in terms of yellow rust, stem rust and leaf rust in most of major wheat growing areas, the spread of leaf rust and emergence of its new races has to be monitored and taken into consideration in rust surveys and hence breeding for durable resistance.

Trap nursery data for ISRTN was received from 25 locations (data from 12 locations with stem rust infection are presented), most of them with no stem rust infection (Figure 5). Except for sporadic presence of stem rust in a few countries, stem rust did not cause significant problems for farmers. Dry conditions coupled with planting resistant cultivars and early maturity are major factors in controlling stem rust. Despite the previous report of Ug99 in Iran and Egypt, collected data from sources for Sr31



did not show high infection rates in Iran and Egypt in 2016. Race analysis of stem rust samples collected from North-west of Iran reported presence of Ug99 but this needs to be further confirmed. Stem rust resistance genes *Sr31* and *Sr24* are still holding their position in CWANA and Near East. Although pathogenic variability can be observed for other stem rust resistance genes in stem rust trap nurseries, the use of race-nonspecific-adult-plant resistance genes with minor effect is the most recommended management strategies. Disease severity on these lines with less than 20% is considered as a source of resistance. However, if the disease severity, even at low infection, is observed with susceptible reaction, then the use of resistance genes has to be carefully revisited since the low severity of susceptible infection may be due to unfavorable environmental conditions and new virulence for that given gene might be on the increase.

The recent spread of local stem rust race TKTTF in Iran, Iraq, and Azerbaijan indicates the importance of local races. In recent years, a number of Ug99 resistant cultivars have become susceptible to this race, which has been known for in Iran, Syria, Turkey and Lebanon. The major difference of this race with Ug99 is the presence of virulence for *SrTmp* and avirulence for *Sr11*, *Sr24*, and *Sr31*. Stem rust trap nursery data shows the presence of virulence for *SrTmp* in testing sites, which imply the presence of this race. This race was the cause of recent stem rust outbreaks in Ethiopia known as “Digalu” race and is the cause of recent occurrences of stem rust in Europe.

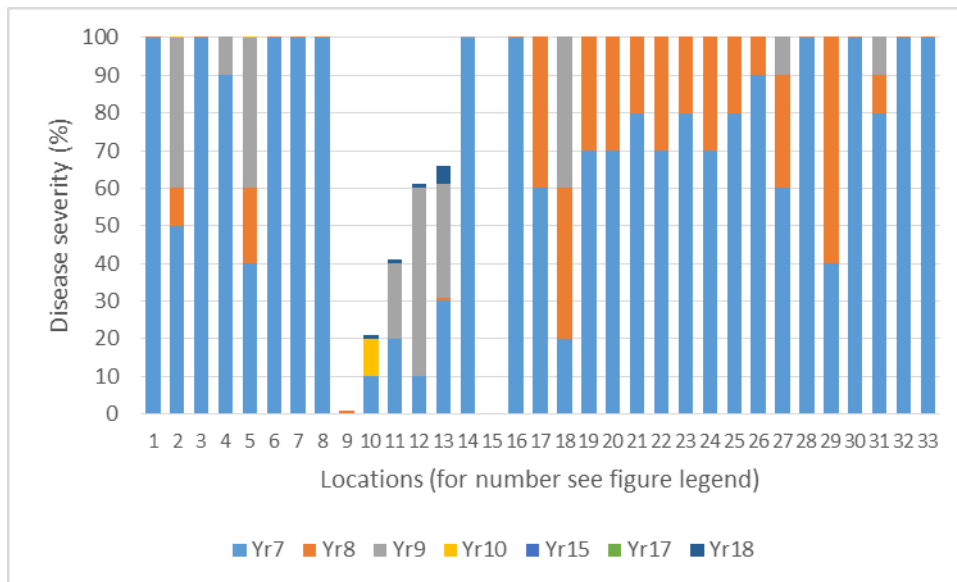
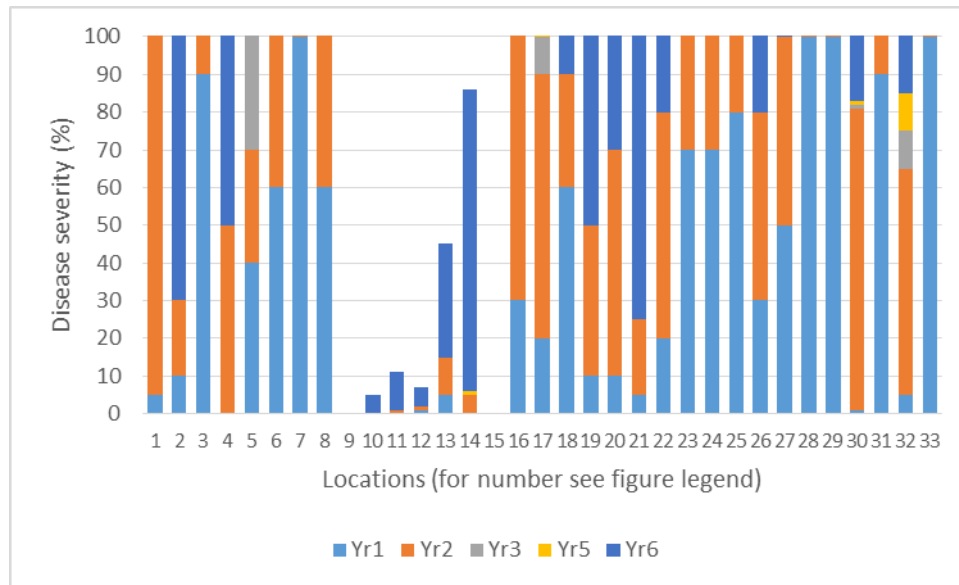
In general, the field data of trap nurseries indicated that despite the dry period, the rusts continue evolving and spreading. There is a shift in yellow rust populations, spread of local stem rust races, and increasing number of virulence in leaf rust populations. It appears that the Warrior race has spread to wider geographies including Egypt. Regarding stem rust, to date there is no indication of further expansion of Ug99 from Iran and Egypt. However, this might need to be further analyzed and followed up over the coming years.

In Figures 3, 4 and 5 diversity of yellow, stem and leaf rust disease severities is presented for most of *Yr*, *Sr* and *Lr* genes in different locations.

Figure 3. Graphical presentation for pathogenic variability of yellow rust in few countries in CWANA

Figure Legend:

- 1 - Iran-Karaj, 2 - Iran-Moghan, 3 - Iran-Zargan, 4 - Iran-Sari, 5 - Azerbaijan-Abşeron, 6 - Azerbaijan-Cəlilabad, 7 - Azerbaijan-Qobustan, 8 - Azerbaijan-Tarter, 9 - Egypt-Sids, 10 - Egypt-Gemmeiza, 11 - Egypt-Itay El-Baroud, 12 - Egypt-Kafr Elhmama, 13 - Egypt-Sakha, 14 - Egypt-Nubaria, 15 - Eritrea, 16 - Morocco-Marchus, 17 - Morocco-Taz, 18 - Pakistan-Ghotki, 19 - Pakistan-Rahim Yar Khan, 20 - Pakistan-Bahawalpur, 21 - Pakistan-Faisalabad, 22 - Pakistan-Sailkot, 23 - Pakistan-Islamabad, 24 - Pakistan-Attock, 25 - Pakistan-Nowshera, 26 - Pakistan-Peshawar, 27 - Pakistan-Rawlakot, 28 - Tajikistan, 29 - Uzbekistan-Kashkadadarya, 30 - Turkey-Izmir, 31 - Turkey- Sakarya, 32 - Turkey-Adana, 33 - Turkey-Haymana



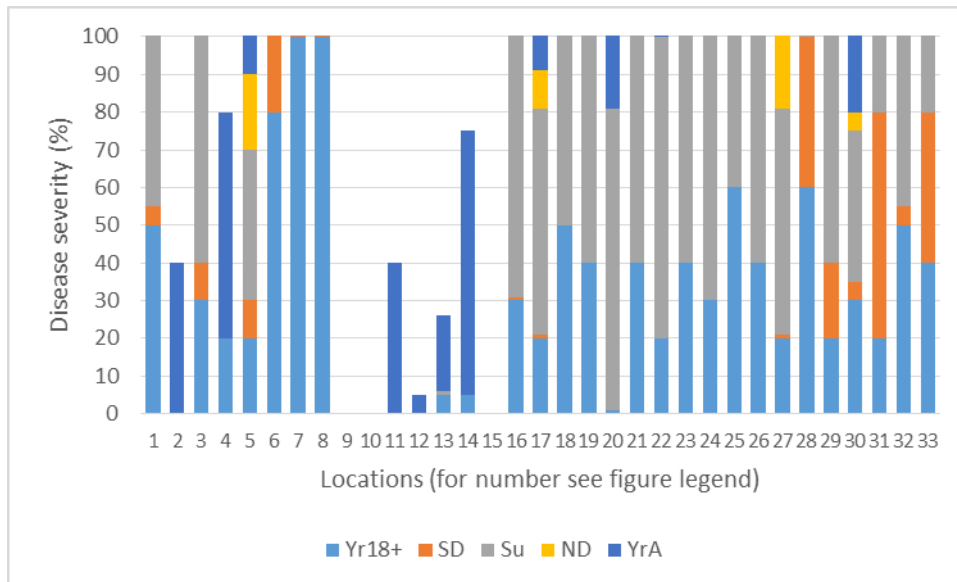
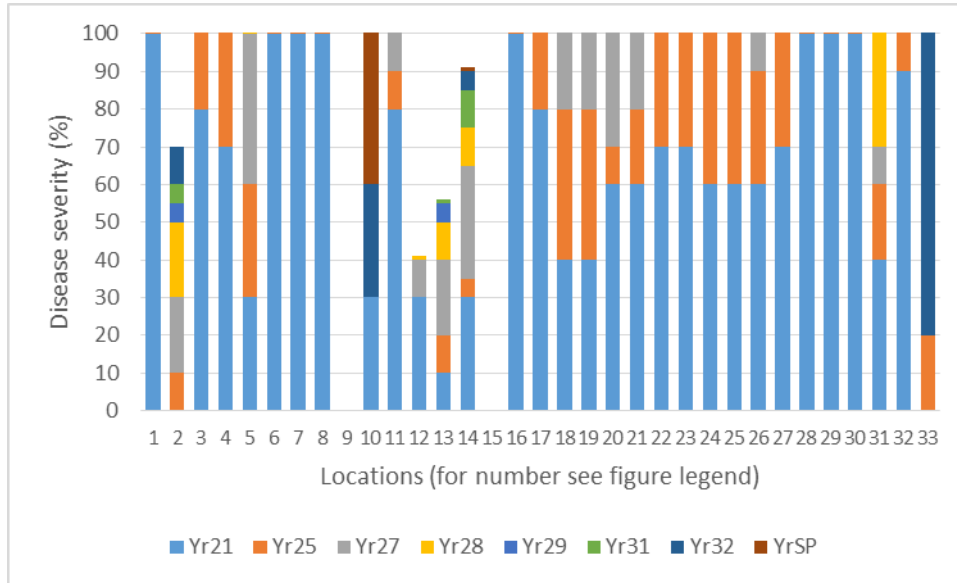
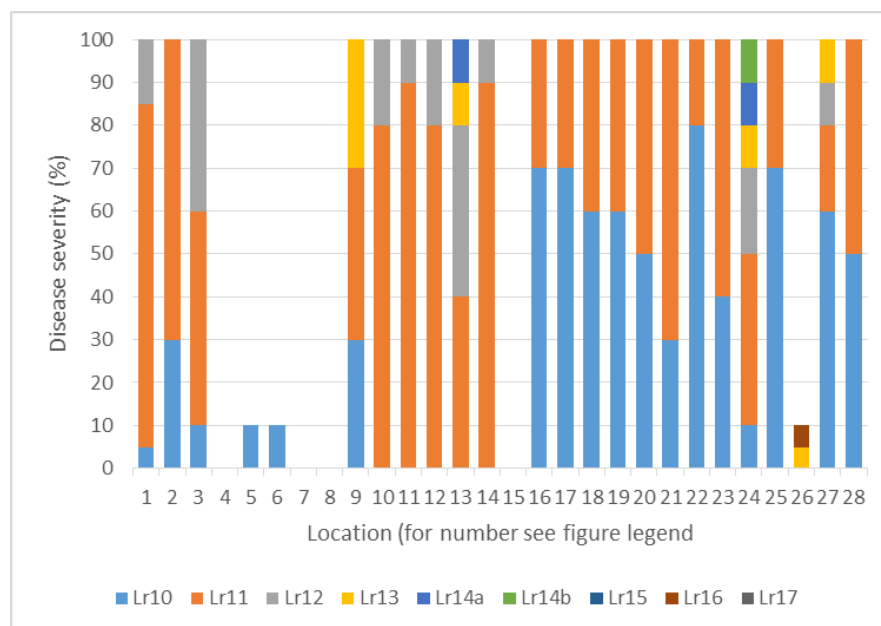
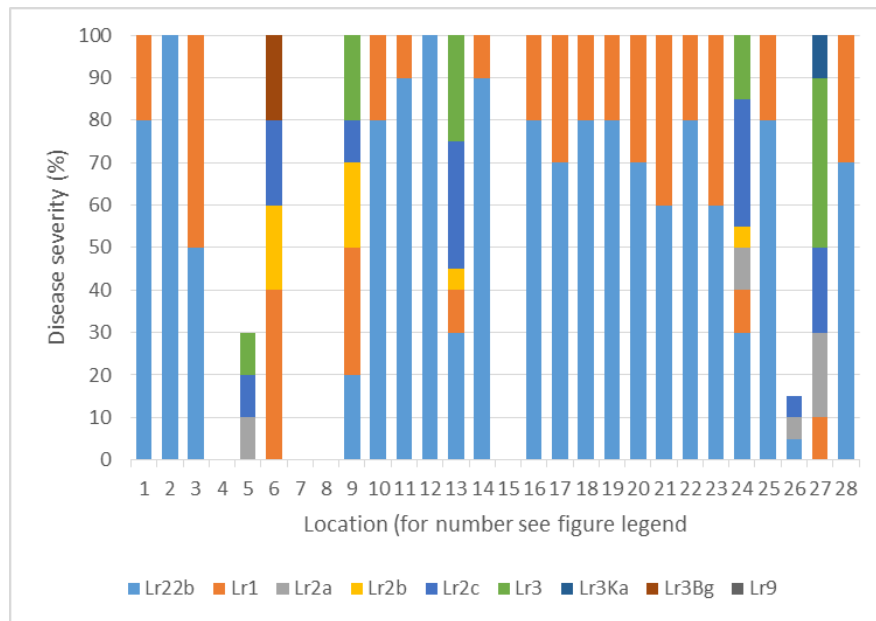


Figure 4. Graphical presentation for pathogenic variability of **leaf rust** in few countries in CWANA

Figure Legend:

1- Iran-Ahvaz, 2- Iran-Gorgan, 3- Iran-Sari, 4- IRAN-Kelardasht, 5- Azerbaijan-Absheron, 6- Azerbaijan-Jalilabad, 7- Azerbaijan-Gobustan, 8- Azerbaijan-Tartar, 9- Egypt-Sids, 10- Egypt-Gemmeiza, 11- Egypt-Itay El-Baroud, 12- Egypt-Kafr Elhmama, 13- Egypt-Sakha, 14- Egypt-Nubaria, 15- Eitrea, 16- Pakistan-NIA Tandojam, 17- Pakistan-WRI Sakrand, 18- Pakistan-Kunri, 19- Pakistan-Thatta, 20- Pakistan-Ghotki, 21- Pakistan-RY Khan, 22- Pakistan-Bahawalpur, 23- Pakistan-Faisalabad, 24- Pakistan-Sailkot, 25- Pakistan-Islamabad, 26- Pakistan-Attock, 27 – Turkey-Ankara, 28 – Turkey - Sakarya



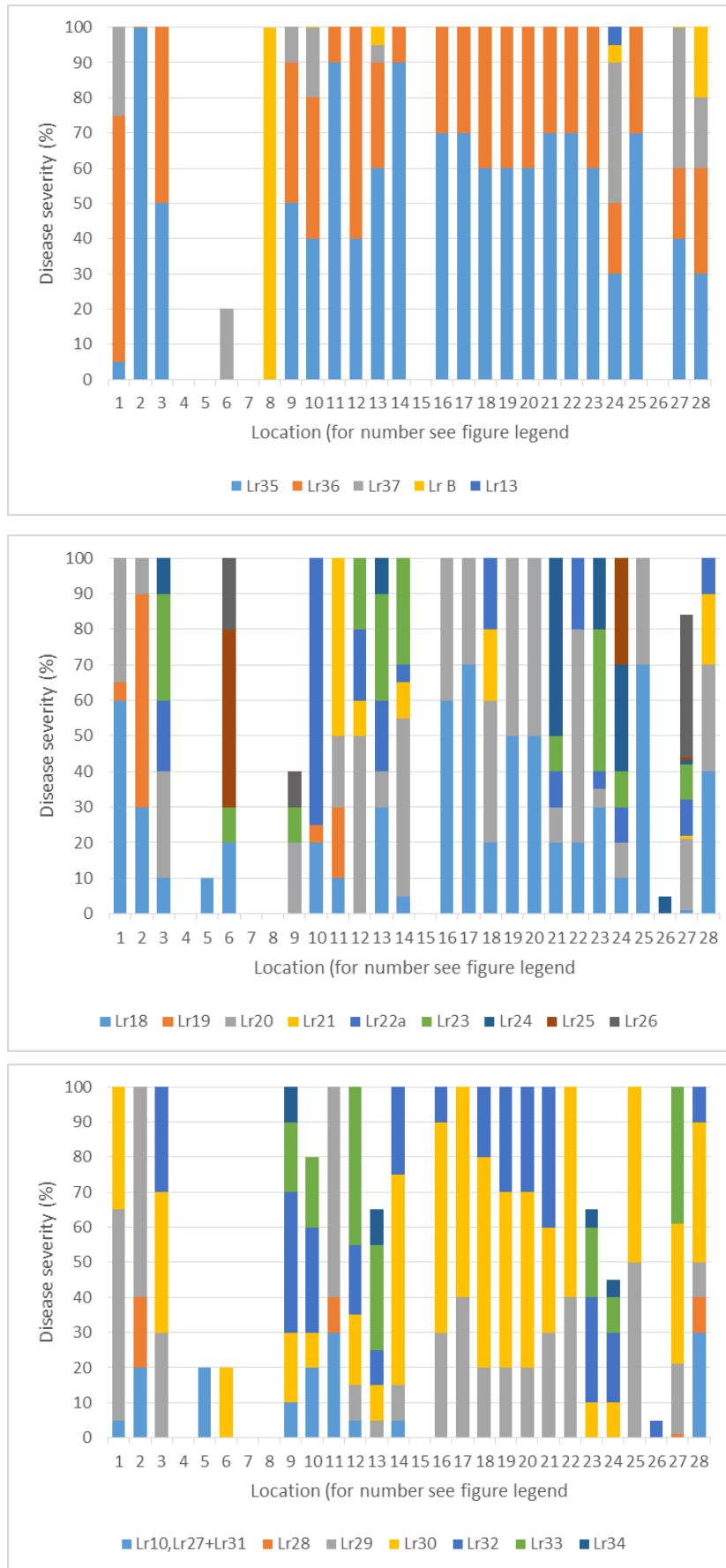


Figure 5. Graphical presentation for pathogenic variability of stem rust in few countries in CWANA

Graphical

**Figure Legend:**

1 - Azerbaijan-Absheron, 2 - Azerbaijan-Jalilabad, 3 - Azerbaijan-Tartar, 4 - Egypt-Sids, 5 - Egypt-Gemmeiza, 6 - Egypt-Itay El-Baroud, 7 - Egypt-Kafr Elhmama, 8 - Egypt-Sakha, 9 - Egypt-Nubaria, 10 - Iran-Kelardasht, 11 - Iran-Hamadan, 12 - Pakistan-Karachi

