

ICARDA
Office of Deputy Director General-Research (DDG-R)
Biometrics and Statistics Section (BSS)

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A report of my trip to Marrakesh, 17-23 April 2016

By Murari Singh

i) Purpose of travel (A statement)

- To participate in the ICP 2016, 18 - 20 April, 2016 and jointly present the three posters
- To visit Marchouch Research Station, ICARDA Morocco Platform to familiarize with the ongoing trials

ii) Principal contacts with address (for a program database)

- Many leaders in science and education including Drs Rattan Lal, The Ohio State University, USA; KHM Siddique and W Erskine, University of Western Australia; Bert Vanderberg, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; BB Singh, ICAR; PK Joshi (IFPRI); RK Varshney and HD Upadhyaya, ICRISAT.

iii) Summary of the visit (2-3 paragraphs on the main activities of your visit only)

- Attended most of the possible sessions at the ICP2016 and had discussions with scientists. My trip was covered by Dr Yashpal Saharawat from one of the Afghanistan projects.
- The following jointly prepared posters were displayed. I was available for any queries and comments on:
 1. Surendra Barpete, Aakash Goyal, Aladdin Hamwieh, Vivek Singh Tomar, V S Gautam, Murari Singh and Ashutosh Sarker (2016). Genetic variability and heritability of agronomic traits of selected chickpea genotypes in India (*Cicer arietinum*) lines. Poster #27
 2. Rind Balech, Murari Singh and Fouad Maalouf (2016). Identification of faba bean lines tolerant to high dosage of Glyphosate. Poster #33.
 3. Aladdin Hamwieh, Murari Singh, Chandrashekhar Biradar, Muhammad Imtiaz, Rajinder Malhotra and Suhaila Arslan (2016). Responsiveness of chickpea to climate change. Poster # 78 (not displayed as Aladdin, the main presenter could not get the visa).
 4. Zalmai Alokzai, Wazir Gul Rasoli, Naveen Safi, Abdul Rahman Manan, Javed Rizvi, Srinivas Tavva, Murari Singh, Yashpal Singh Saharawat (2016). Participatory on-farm demonstrations on food legumes in Afghanistan: Role in enhancing food and nutrition security. Poster # 139
- Two areas of in-depth interactions discussed were: enhancing breeding progress through selection in F1s and resulting crosses/selection, and combining mini-core with FIGS approach.
- A biometrician from INRA, Morocco was keen in having ICARDA conduct a specialized training course in Biometrics and Statistics exclusive for the North Africa region.
- Visited Marchouch research station and ICARDA laboratories on 21 April; oriented with the field trials on heat and drought stress on chickpea, and breeding and germplasm evaluation in lentil, chickpea, faba bean, bread and durum wheat and barley.

iv) Implications for ICARDA

- The two topics of research could be:
 - simulation study to examine breeding value enhancement through selection in F1s and crossing
 - combining mini-core and FIGS approaches and examining the genetic diversity.