



Research innovations on dual-purpose barley genotypes for green forage and grain feed

Farmers day organized at ICARDA Research Station, Marchouch in Morocco on 28 April 2019

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In Morocco, barley is a crop for dry regions with variable rainfall with poor crop management practices by small holder/marginal farmers. They are supporting their livestock for feed with grain and straw as well as for green forage using it like a dual-purpose crop for grazing and harvesting the remainder after regeneration for grain and straw for feed. In addition, it is an important food crop for human being in the region, being utilized in different products.

Spring barley program at ICARDA under CRP Livestock is addressing the improvement cultivars for these different uses and experimenting for higher biomass, higher grain yield and better regeneration capacity with faster growth, in addition of improving the nutritional quality of the feed/ forage.

In order to communicate the results to the ultimate clients “The farmers” spring barley ICARDA program, organized the “Farmers day” at ICARDA Research Station, Marchouch in Morocco on 28 April 2019, to make them aware about the research innovations of the barley program especially about the dual-purpose genotypes in the yield trials where the cut for green forage has been practiced. The promising genotypes with higher green forage yield and better regeneration capacity were shown to the farmers.

More than 100 farmers from Romani and Oued Zem region, which represents the major barley area around participated in the farmers day and many of them have shown keen interest in such dual-purpose barley varieties to get them cultivated. They were willing either to use them in grazing or stall feeding to their livestock especially in the dry areas where there is an acute shortage of the green forage. The resistance to the common foliar diseases of the region in the new genotypes in the demonstration plots was highly appreciated by farmers.

There was a great demand for the seed of these cultivars indicated by the farmers to make use and the involvement of INRA barley scientists would be helpful who are working in close cooperation with ICARDA.



Fig 1: The field trials on dual purpose barley at Marchouch during 2018-19 crop season, the genotypes without cut (back ground) and with cut (foreground) at 55 days after sowing for green forage in same genotype indicating regeneration capacity differences.



Fig 2: Farmers from different villages visited ICARDA Marchouch Station, in Morocco and were shown the field trials on dual purpose barley with and without the cut for green forage indicating regeneration capacity differences.

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