



Narrowing the skill and knowledge gaps of young researchers on pest surveillances, diagnostics and integrated pest and disease management on wheat and food legumes in East Africa and CWANA regions



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RATIONAL

Many young researchers working in plant protections lacks skills and knowledge on pest and disease surveillances, identification, disease/pest measurements, pest and disease dynamics, Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) options and different aspects of conducting plant protection research and generating quality results. Skill and knowledge gaps are pronounced mainly on emerging and new diseases, new pathogen pathotypes and races affecting food legumes. In addition, the training help researchers to evaluate breeding lines together with breeders in their respective countries. The training in 2023 cropping season included supporting MSc and PhD students to conduct parts of their Theses Research, internship and tailor-made group training to NPPOs, young researchers from countries in East Africa and CWANA regions.

OBJECTIVE

To improve the capacity of young agricultural researchers and plant protection practitioners in managing pests and diseases of food legumes.

OUTPUTS

As cross cutting activities, all training provided by the two work packages (WP2 & WP3) during 2023 are reported under WP3-OP3. The internship opportunities were given to young students who recently finished their studies in plant protection. A total of nine graduate students (one MSc and 8 PhD) from three countries are doing parts of their theses research at ICARDA research platforms in Morocco, Lebanon and Ethiopia (Table 1 and Figure 1). The Theses research focuses on parasitic weeds, detection and management of viruses, and insect pests of food legumes. The knowledge generated from the graduate students will be useful in managing pests and diseases of PHI targeted pests on key staple food crops. In addition, 27 NPPOs experts (16 females) from Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Uzbekistan attended a training course for 1-2 weeks on the pests and diseases management, and techniques applied for detection and identification of wheat and food legumes diseases.

Table 1. Number of trainees from different countries under different categories

Country	No. of NPPO experts trained			No. of graduate students					
	Female	Male	Total	MSc		PhD		Total	No. of Universities
				Female	Male	Female	Male		
Ethiopia						1	3	4	3
Lebanon	5	4	9						
Morocco	4	2	6			1	1	2	2
Syria					1		1	2	2
Tunisia	2		2			1		1	1
Uzbekistan	5	5	10						
Total	16	11	27		1	3	5	9	8



Figure 1. Graduate students and individual trainees working in glasshouse and field research activities in Lebanon and Morocco.