



## Improved varieties of wheat, paddy and pigeon pea

*Consolation*

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#### Background

Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi (47 years), an enterprising farmer, has developed numerous high yielding varieties of wheat, paddy and pigeon pea. He has studied up to ninth standard. He lives in a joint family along with his parents, his wife, six children and a brother. Two of his brothers are also farmers while the one living with him owns a seed company and sells seeds developed by Prakash Singh.

Raghuvanshi has three and a half acres of agricultural land on which he cultivates wheat, paddy and pigeon pea. His family members help with farm work. All his children are studying.

#### Genesis

Prakash Singh was inspired to develop new varieties by Dr. Mahatim Singh, former Vice Chancellor, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) and retired Professor of Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.).

#### Innovation

Raghuvanshi has developed a number of improved high yielding wheat, paddy and pigeon pea varieties, which are resistant to major pests and



diseases and have bold seeds with good flavour and taste.

#### Characteristics features of the improved varieties of wheat

The three wheat varieties, *Kudrat 5*, *Kudrat 9*, *Kudrat 17* were developed from *Kalyan sona* and *RR21* varieties.

The plant height of *Kudrat 9*, *Kudrat 5* and *Kudrat 17* is 85-90 cm, 95-100 cm and 90-95 cm respectively, where as the length of the spikes is 9cm, 6cm and 10 cm, weight of 1000 seeds is 70-72 grams, 58-60 grams, 60-62 grams and the yield per acre is 20-25 quintals, 15-20 quintals and 22-27 quintals respectively.

#### Characteristics features of the improved varieties of Paddy

The three varieties *Kudrat 1*, *Kudrat 2* and *Lal Basmati* of paddy were developed from *HUVR-2-1* and *Pusa basmati* varieties.



The number of days to maturity in cases of *Kudrat 1*, *Kudrat 2* and *Lal basmati* varieties are 130-135 days, 115-120 days and 90-100 days respectively while the yield per acre of each (mentioned in order) is 25-30 quintals, 20-22 quintals and 15-17 quintals.

#### **Characteristics features of the improved varieties of Pigeon pea**

The three Pigeon pea varieties, *Kudrat 3*, *Chamatkar*, *Karishma* were developed from *Asha* and *Malviya 13* varieties.

*Kudrat 3* is a perennial variety while the other two are annuals. The number of pods per plant in cases of *Kudrat 3*, *Chamatkar* and *Karishma* are 500-1000, 400-600 and 450-650 respectively while the yield per acre is 12-15 quintals, 10-12 quintals and 10-12 quintals respectively.

Raghuvanshi is an innovative farmer and has participated in a number of *Kissan melas* and Agriculture fairs across northern India. He has distributed his seeds of wheat varieties to the farmers of Varanasi, Allahabad in U.P, Jabalpur, Narsingpur, Khargaon, Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Raipur, Bhilai, Dhamtari in Chattisgarh, Jalgaon, Yawatmal, Amrawati and Pune in Maharashtra and Kota, Bharatpur, Jaipur and Sikar in Rajasthan from where the feedback has been encouraging.

His new crop varieties have received appreciation in a *Kissan mela* (Farmer fair) and from *Banasthali Vidyapith*, Rajasthan, which tested his wheat varieties.

He was invited to NIF's informal Research Advisory Committee meeting in May 2006 to interact with fellow innovators and also given a chance to participate in the traditional food festival, *Saatvik*, organized by SRISTI-NIF in November 2006, where he got a good response for his variety.

The farmer wishes that every farmer of the country should get good quality seeds of high yielding varieties of crops so that it can be beneficial for the country as well themselves.