



Appreciation

BLK-Balaji: Improved High-Yielding Wheat Variety

Bajrang Lal Kasva
Nagaur, Rajasthan
Scout: Swabhiman

Bajrang Lal Kasva (33) is a young progressive farmer known for developing an improved high-yielding wheat variety: BLK-Balaji. The variety yields 60-70q/ha with good grain quality. It is a nutrient-rich variety with high protein (13.2%) content and is resistant to rust disease.

BLK- Balaji was developed from a commercially released variety SRW-688 through pure line selection method beginning in 2011. The selection of best plants and rejection process continued till 2015 when the variety was stable for its selected traits and named it BLK-Balaji. The variety is characterized by superior economic yield, high number of effective tillers, good grain quality, and is rich in protein, iron, and zinc. It has a strong lodging tolerant stem and is resistant to stem and leaf rust diseases.

Regional Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, under the SKN Agriculture University, Jobner, Rajasthan, evaluated the variety's performance during 2018 -2020 and

found it significantly superior over state and national checks. The Biochemical profiling of the BLK Balaji variety conducted at Anand Agricultural University, Anand and Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat, reported higher protein (13.2%), Zinc (15-16 ppm), total carbohydrates (67.6 %), and dry gluten (8.45 %) content as compared to checks. The ICAR- Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research reported that the variety was resistant to stem rust and mildly resistant to leaf rust/brown rust. During 2015 – 2021, the On-farm trials of the variety were conducted by NIF in 10 states. The variety received a positive response from the farmers, with the highest yield of 65 q/ha reported at Gorakhpur and Basti, Uttar Pradesh and Fazilka, Punjab. The variety was preferred for its lengthy spike, bold grains and biomass of the plants. The innovator sells an average of 10 quintal seeds annually through farmer to farmer network. The application for registration under PPV&FR Act, 2001 has been submitted to the PPVFR Authority, New Delhi.

