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Comparative performance of wheat cultivars in Muktsar district of Punjab

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■ BALKARAN SINGH SANDHU AND NIRMALJIT SINGH DHALIWAL¹

AUTHORS' INFO

Associated Co-author :

¹Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SRI
MUKTSAR SAHIB, (PUNJAB)
INDIA

Author for correspondence:

BALKARAN SINGH SANDHU
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SRI
MUKTSAR SAHIB, (PUNJAB) INDIA
Email: balkaransandhu@pau.edu

ABSTRACT : A field experiment was conducted during *Rabi* 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sri Muktsar Sahib (Punjab), to find out the best suitable wheat variety for the area. The district has slightly high salinity soils and high water table area. Nine different wheat varieties were tested *i.e.* PBW 725, PBW 677, HD 3086, WH 1105, HD 2967, PBW 621 and PBW 550 were timely sown and PBW 658 and PBW 59 were late sowing varieties. Varieties HD 3086, WH 1105 and PBW 550 take comparatively less days for maturity as compared to other varieties. Due to the short duration of these varieties the climate change has less effect in terms of yield. From all timely sown varieties HD 3086 (51.5 q/ha) produced significantly higher grain yield, which was statistically at par with PBW 725 (51 q/ha) and WH 1105 (51 q/ha) as compared to lower grain yield recorded with PBW 677 (48.75 q/ha), HD 2967 (46.25 q/ha), PBW 621 (49 q/ha) and PBW 550 (48.25 q/ha). Among late sown varieties PBW 658 produced comparatively more yield than PBW 590 variety. Grain yield of HD 3086, PBW 725, WH 1105 varieties were higher due to higher number of effective tiller per unit area and higher number of grains per ear of respective variety. These varieties are most suitable for the area as these were less affected due to salinity.

KEY WORDS : Cultivar, Effective tiller, Punjab, Wheat, Yield

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