Since 1995

Volume 31(4), February, 2026

गेहूँ फसल स्वास्थ्य समाचार पत्रिका
Wheat Crop Health Newsletter

ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research
Karnal-132 001, Haryana, India
Available on: *www.iiwbr.org.in*

सारांश

फरवरी 2026 में , आईसीएआर-आईआईडब्ल्यूबीआर और एआईसीआरपी सहयोगी केंद्रों के वैज्ञानिकों ने भारत के कई प्रमुख गेहूं उत्पादक राज्यों , ने उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, हरियाणा, पंजाब, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और पश्चिम बंगाल सहित में गेहूं की फसल के स्वास्थ्य का व्यापक सर्वेक्षण किया। सर्वेक्षण में फसल की अवस्थाएं बाली निकलने, फूल आने और दाना भरने तक की थीं। फरवरी 2026 में किए गए क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षणों से पता चला कि फसल की समग्र स्थिति काफी हद तक संतोषजनक रही, केवल कुछ ही स्थानों पर रोगों और कीटों के प्रकोप की सूचना मिली। दिनांक 11 फरवरी 2026 को जिला रूपनगर (रोपड़) के श्री आनंदपुर साहिब ब्लॉक के गाँव दुकली में गेहूँ की किस्म HD2967 पर पीला रतुआ रोग की प्रथम घटना दर्ज की गई, जहाँ रोग की तीव्रता ~60S तक पाई गई। इसके अतिरिक्त, 20 फरवरी 2026 को हरियाणा राज्य के जिला जींद के बुदनपुर क्षेत्र में भी पीला रतुआ रोग का स्थानीय प्रकोप देखा गया। इस अवसर पर रोग के नमूने एकत्र किए गए तथा किसानों को रोग के लक्षण पहचानने और समय पर प्रबंधन उपाय अपनाने के लिए परामर्श दिया गया। उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात और पश्चिम बंगाल में गेहूं की फसलें आमतौर पर स्वस्थ थीं और अधिकांश सर्वेक्षणों के दौरान पीला रतुआ का कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रकोप नहीं देखा गया। हालांकि, कुछ क्षेत्रों में भूरा रतुआ, एफिड का जमाव, पत्ती झुलसा रोग के लक्षण, दीमक का प्रकोप और गुलाबी तना छेदक का प्रकोप जैसी छोटी-मोटी समस्याएं पाई गईं। सर्वेक्षण किए गए क्षेत्रों में गेहूं की फसल की समग्र प्रगति अच्छी रही और किसानों को अनुकूल मौसम की स्थिति में संभावित प्रकोपों को रोकने के लिए नियमित रूप से खेतों की निगरानी करने और अनुशंसित रोग प्रबंधन पद्धतियों को अपनाने की सलाह दी गई। राज्यवार विस्तृत रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध हैं::

Summary

In February 2026, scientists from ICAR–IIWBR and AICRP centres conducted extensive wheat crop health surveys across major wheat-growing states of India, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. The crop stages ranged from booting to flowering, and grain filling across locations. Field surveys conducted during February 2026 indicated that the overall crop condition remained largely satisfactory, with only localized incidences of diseases and pests. First incidence of yellow rust was reported in village Dukli on varieties HD 2967 (upto 60S) from Sh Anandpur Sahib block, of district Ropar on 11th February, 2026. Also a localized occurrence of yellow rust was detected in Budanpur area of Jind district in Haryana on 20th February 2026 where samples were collected and farmers were advised regarding symptom identification and timely management. Minor Incidence of leaf rust was noticed in Anewadi, Udtare, Pachwad, Kadegaon and Wai villages in Satara district Satara district of Maharashtra. In Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and West Bangal, wheat crops were generally healthy and no significant incidence of any type of rust was observed during the surveys. However, minor issues such as leaf rust, aphid buildup, leaf blight symptoms, loose smut, termite infestation, and pink stem borer infestation were reported in some areas. Farmers are advised to integrate chemical and cultural measures for effective pest management. Overall, the wheat crop across surveyed regions was progressing well, and farmers were advised to maintain regular field monitoring and adopt recommended disease management practices to prevent potential outbreaks under favorable weather conditions. Detailed state-wise reports are available below: ,

Uttarakhand

A survey was conducted by Dr. Navin Chander Gahtyari and team of ICAR-VPKAS, Almora on 11.02.2026. The survey was done at Jhankat, Naukulia and nearby wheat growing areas of Sitarganj, district Udham Singh Nagar. The crop was at booting to early heading stage. At village Jhankat (Latitude: 28°949056°, Longitude 79°791728°) and Nakulia (N 28°58.832', E 79°42.876'), Sitarganj, around 35.0 ha area has been planted with different VL wheat varieties like VL Cookies, VL *Gehun* 2014, VL *Gehun* 2028, VL *Gehun* 953 and VL *Gehun* 967 and the crop was at booting to early heading stage. In these fields, no yellow rust symptom was observed. Also, rust was not observed in the other adjacent fields with local wheat varieties. Overall, the wheat crop was in good conditions except a few fields where high *Phalaris minor* infestation was observed. Fields with barley crop were also observed in the region for yellow rust symptoms and no incidence of disease was observed for barley yellow rust as well. Another survey during the month was conducted by a team comprising Dr. Navin Chander Gahtyari and Dr. Devender Sharma, Scientist on 24.02.2026 at Village-Dhanpau, Kalsi, Dehradun, Uttarakhand (N 30°53.396', E 77°96.113). The wheat crop surveyed in the region, entirely rainfed in nature, and was at booting to early heading stage. In the observed fields, no yellow rust symptom was observed.

Himachal Pradesh

The surveillance was conducted on 10.02.2026 in Agriculture Development Block Nagrota Bagwan of District Kangra, covering the areas of Lakha Mandal, Muhalkhar, Chahri, and Kawari by Team Scientists from HPKV, Palampur and State Agriculture department staff. The surveillance was undertaken to ensure timely detection of disease and pest outbreaks and to facilitate appropriate advisory and control measures for safeguarding wheat production during the Rabi season. Farmers were advised to cultivate resistant wheat varieties such as HPW360, HS542, WH1270, DBW303, DBW327, PBW872, DBW371, and DBW372 to reduce disease incidence and minimize fungicide use. For eco-friendly control, the biological agents *Trichoderma viride* or *Trichoderma harzianum* should be applied at 5 g per litre of water, with applications repeated every 10–15 days when infestation levels are up to 10%. Farmers were also advised to regularly monitor their fields for early symptoms such as yellow stripes on leaves that release yellow powder, to ensure timely disease management.

Haryana

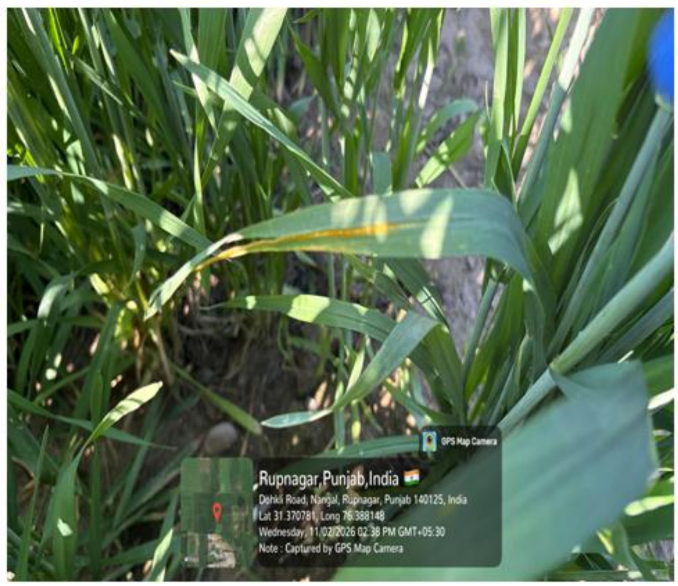
A comprehensive crop health survey was conducted on 10th February 2026 to assess the incidence of yellow rust and other important diseases and pests in wheat. The survey was carried out by a multidisciplinary team comprising Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Principal Scientist and PI (Crop Protection) and Dr. Arun Gupta, Principal Scientist and PI (Crop Improvement) from ICAR–Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (ICAR-IIWBR), Karnal. Wheat fields in Naraingarh and YamunaNagar districts of Haryana were surveyed. During the survey, wheat fields of several farmers were visited across different locations, including Radour, Chachrauli, Bilaspur, Tunda Bag, Khadri, Pheruwala, Bakana, Domanwala, and Ganauli, with officers from the State Agriculture Department. The crop at all locations was carefully examined for the presence of yellow rust (stripe rust), other foliar diseases and pests. No incidence of yellow rust was observed in the surveyed fields. The wheat crop across locations was found healthy and well maintained, with no visible signs of major disease infestation at the time of inspection. However, foliar aphid buildup was noticed in a few farmers' fields. In view of the prevailing congenial weather conditions, which were favorable for the development and rapid spread of yellow rust, farmers were advised to keep regular and strict vigilance on their fields. In addition, farmers were cautioned against the continuous cultivation of the same wheat varieties over prolonged periods, as this practice may increase vulnerability to diseases due to the breakdown of resistance. The adoption of recommended, diversified, and disease-resistant wheat varieties was emphasized as an important component of integrated disease management. Overall, the health status of the wheat crop in the surveyed areas was assessed to be good, with no immediate disease threat observed.

A survey was conducted on 12.02.2026 by team Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Principal Investigator (Crop Protection) and colleagues, visited wheat fields in Jind district and adjoining villages including Ardhana, Dhatrath, and Bahri for crop health monitoring. The survey revealed healthy crop stands, with no incidence of yellow rust observed.

Dr Man Mohan from CCS HAU Hisar visited the village Budanpur, Narwana, district Jind on 20.02.2026 and noticed prevalence of yellow rust on wheat upto 40S in HD2851. The monitoring team collected sample and sent the sample for pathotype analysis. Farmers were educated about the characteristic symptoms of yellow rust, including the appearance of yellow, elongated stripes on leaves and leaf sheaths, and the presence of a yellow powdery mass of spores that rubs off easily upon touching infected plant parts.

Punjab

Dr Jaspal Kaur and team from PAU, Ludhiana conducted wheat crop health survey especially for yellow rust in villages of Sh Anandpur Sahib block, of district Ropar on 11th February, 2026. The incidence of stripe rust was observed on almost 3 acre area in village Dukli on varieties HD 2967 and unknown local wheat variety. 3-4 foci with disease severity of 80S on unknown variety and 60S on HD2967 were noticed while in rest of the field severity varied from 10S-40S. The incidence of leaf rust (20S) and powdery mildew (shady areas) was also observed in the same field. Secondary spread of yellow rust was also observed on variety PBW826 in the adjoining field (10S). The disease was also observed in villages Chandpur and Hariyal on varieties HD3086, DBW222 and some unrecommended wheat varieties. But severity in these villages was around 10-20S. The farmers of all the fields were contacted and advised to spray immediately with recommended fungicide.



Bihar

A field survey was conducted by Dr. Deepak Baranawal, Dr. Seema Prajapati, and Dr. Shraddha Bhaskar Sawant of BAU, Sabour on 28th February, 2026 and visited wheat fields in Deekshapuram village, Babupur to assess the health and condition of the wheat crop and engage with local farmers regarding their cultivation practices. At Deekshapuram village, the crop was generally in satisfactory condition; however, symptoms of leaf blight were observed in some areas, while no symptoms of rust were found. The scientists advised farmers to adopt suitable management strategies at the early stages of disease development to prevent further spread. They were also encouraged to use quality and certified seed in future sowing to avoid varietal mixtures and ensure better crop performance. The visit concluded on a positive note, with farmers expressing their willingness to follow the recommended practices.

Uttar Pradesh

The team from Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology (ANDUAT), Ayodhya conducted a field survey across wheat and barley-growing areas in Uttar Pradesh. The survey findings indicated that foliar blight of wheat was present in traces in farmers' fields. However, no incidence of rust diseases has been reported so far. Additionally, aphid infestation was observed in barley fields, which is likely associated with the prevailing cloudy weather conditions.

A field survey was conducted in selected wheat and barley growing areas of Uttar Pradesh by Dr. Vijay Kumar Yadav, Professor & Sr. Wheat Breeder, C. S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur. The survey was carried out on 9th February 2026 in the villages of Uttaripura, Shivrajpur, and Dilip Nagar. Overall, the wheat and barley crops were found to be in generally good condition in the surveyed areas. During the field observations, no incidence of rust diseases was detected in either wheat or barley crops. However, covered smut incidence was observed in a few barley fields. In addition, mild termite infestation was recorded in some wheat fields. Leaf blight symptoms were also observed in certain barley fields, although the severity appeared to be limited at present. The current observations indicate that, despite minor occurrences of certain pests and diseases, the general crop health status remains satisfactory.

Continuous monitoring is recommended to detect any potential increase in disease or pest incidence under changing environmental conditions.

Gujarat

Dr. R. J. Chaudhari, Associate Research Scientist (Pl. Path) and Dr. R. V. Thakkar Assistant Research Scientist (Pl. Path) visited farmers field's of Deesa, Palanpur and Dantiwada taluka of Banaskantha district in Gujarat on 11th February 2026. There was no disease-pest incidence observed at any of the surveyed farmer's field of wheat. Another survey was conducted on February 20-21, 2026, and it was observed that some plants were drying at certain intervals. However, at first glance, no specific disease-pest symptoms were noticed. Farmers were advised to immediately consult wheat scientists, plant pathology experts, or extension personnel in case of any suspected symptoms, as leaf yellowing may also occur due to nutritional deficiencies or abiotic stresses, and accurate diagnosis is essential before taking control measures.

A field survey was also carried out on 29th January, 2026 by Dr. I. B. Kapadiya, Research Scientist (Wheat), JAU, Junagadh, and Dr. C. A. Babariya, Assistant Research Scientist, in the wheat-growing areas of Jamnagar district. The overall crop condition in the surveyed area was observed to be good. In this region, most of the wheat crop was sown during the second week of November. No major symptoms of diseases or insect pests were observed during the survey. The area was found to be free from both leaf rust and stem rust infections. Farmers were advised to monitor the crop and adopt appropriate nutrient management practices wherever required. Overall, the wheat crop in Jamnagar district is progressing well under the current conditions.

West Bangal

An extensive survey was conducted in the wheat growing belts of Nadia and Murshidabad districts on 28.02.2026 for surveillance of general pests and diseases in wheat crops with a special emphasis on blast disease of wheat. The team members comprised of Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Principal Scientist & Head of the Crop Protection Division, Dr. Satish Kumar , Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement Division, IIWBR, Karnal; Dr Sunita Mahapatra and Dr. Raghunath Mandal, Assistant Professor, Dept of Plant Pathology, BCKV, Dr. Anirban Maji, Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding & In-charge of AICW&BIP, BCKV, Nadia conducted the survey. The officials from the office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture; Tehatta- I block, Govt. of West Bengal and Border Security Force of Betai border outpost

also facilitated the survey. During the survey, the crop was found to be in the ripening stages in different locations. No symptoms of blast disease were observed in the field surveyed. However, the team found traces of spot blotch, loose smut and stems borers infestation in some of the visited fields.

Maharashtra

The survey of wheat crop was conducted in the month of February 2026 by Dr. M. A. Sushir, Junior Wheat Pathologist, Dr. V. M. Sali, Junior Plant Pathologist and Dr. D. S. Kadam Asstt. Prof. RWRRS, Mahabaleshwar. Normal sown wheat crop was in flowering to milking stage whereas, late sown wheat crop was in heading stage. Incidence of leaf rust observed in farmers field on improved varieties upto TS to 10S at area nearby Satara district. Whereas stem rust was not observed. However, infestations of black aphids were recorded in various fields, for which standard control measures were suggested to the farmers.

Table 1: Date-wise field survey observations on wheat crop stage, disease symptoms, and pest incidence in Maharashtra

Date of Survey	Name of Village	Crop Stage	Disease Symptoms	Pest infestation
11/02/2026	Neera, Chouphula, Morgoan, Supe, Daund villages of Pune district	Flowering to milking stage	1. Leaf and stem rust was not observed. 2. Fusarium head blight like disease was observed in traces.	Aphid infestation 5 to 10 % observed in wheat field.
13/02/2026	Devgad phata, Wadala, Zalta, paragon villages of Chh.Sambhajinagar district	Flowering to milking stage	Leaf and stem rust was not observed.	Aphid infestation was observed in traces.
28/02/2026	Anewadi, Udtare, Pachwad, Kadegaon, Wai	Flowering to milking stage	Leaf rust was observed upto 5S to 10S in some improved wheat	Aphid infestation was observed in some locations upto

	villages in Satara district.		varieties.	5 %.

A roving survey was conducted on 20th February 2026 by Prof. B. M. Mhaske, Wheat Specialist, ARS, Niphad, and Mr. C. B. Beldar, Support Staff, Department of Plant Pathology, ARS, Niphad, to monitor the crop health status in Chandwad, Malegaon, Satana (Baglan), Kalwan, and Dindori tahsils of Nashik district. The villages covered under the survey were Shelu, Chinchve, and Umrane (Chandwad tahsil), Malegaon, Zodage, Dabhadi, and Aghar Bk. (Malegaon tahsil), Pratappur, Vithewadi, and Navi Bhendi (Satana–Baglan tahsil), Kalwan Kh. and Chandipur (Kalwan tahsil) and Khedgaon (Dindori tahsil). During February month, the climatic conditions were favorable for the growth of the wheat crop. The maximum temperature ranged from 28.0 to 34.5°C, while the minimum temperature ranged from 9.1 to 15.5°C, with an average minimum temperature of 12.41°C. No unusual rainfall or hailstorms were recorded during this period.

The major wheat varieties grown in these areas included Lok 1, Ajit 102, Kanak Sona, and other private varieties. Survey observations indicated that most of the fields were in the milk to half-dough stage. Leaf rust was observed at village Dabhadi (Malegaon tahsil) on variety Lok 1 up to 20S severity, and at village Aghar Bk. (Malegaon tahsil) on variety Kanak Sona (private) up to 40S severity and on Lok 1 up to 20S severity. Leaf rust was also observed at village Pratappur (Satana–Baglan tahsil) on a private mixed variety up to 40S severity.

Stem rust was not observed during the survey. However, leaf blight symptoms were noticed in some fields. Aphid infestation ranged from heavy to medium intensity, while no stem borer infestation was observed. Overall, the crop condition was found to be good in the surveyed areas.

Issued by: Crop Protection Programme, ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal- 132001

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