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Wheat Crop Health Newsletter

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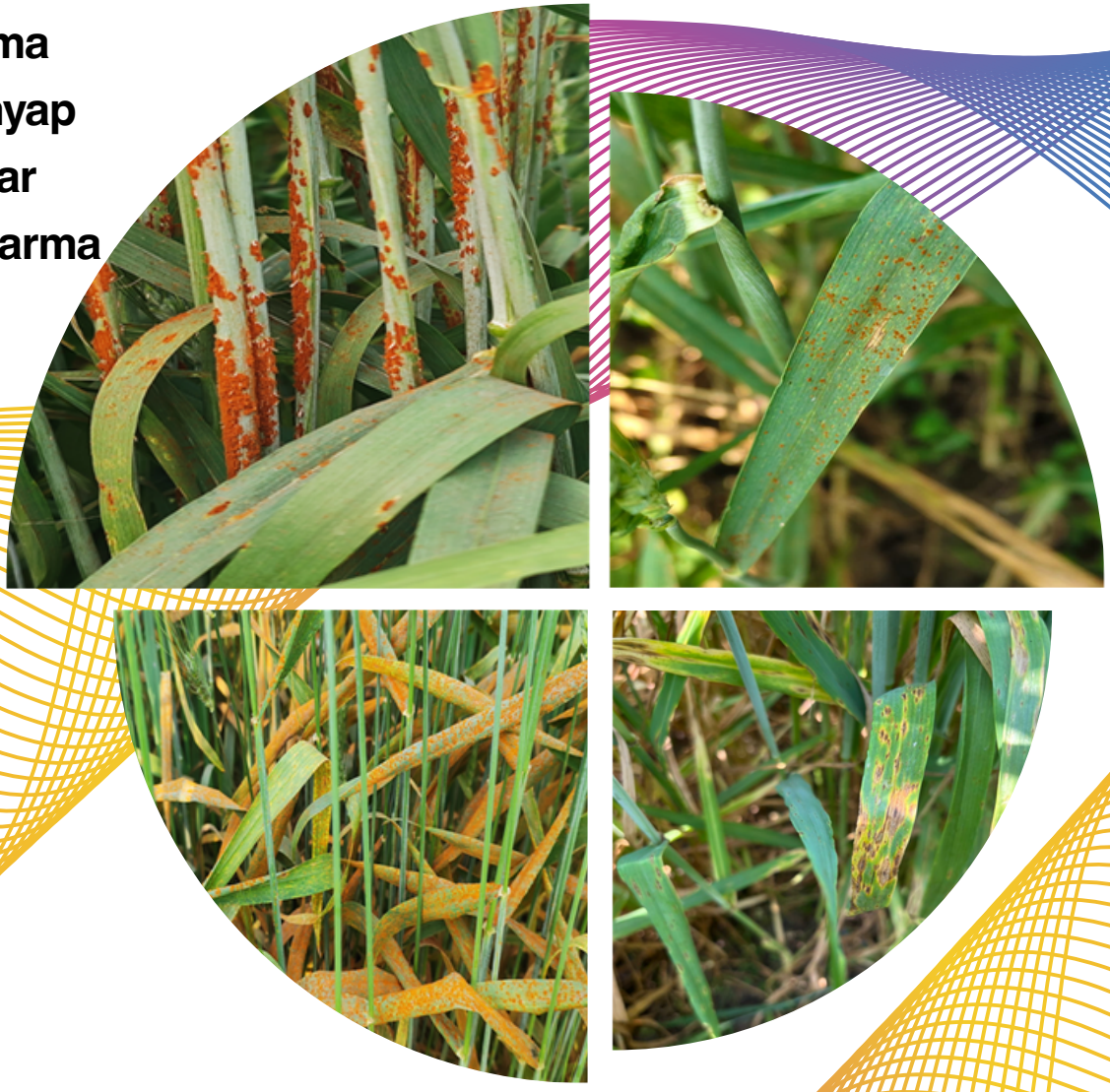

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सारांश

गेहूँ फसल स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण, जिसे आई. सी. ए. आर.-आई. आई. डब्ल्यू. बी. आर. और ए. आई. सी. आर. पी. सहयोगी केन्द्रों के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा देश के प्रमुख गेहूँ उत्पादक क्षेत्रों में किया गया। हिसार (हरियाणा) में भूरा रतुआ, कंडवा रोग (लूज स्मट) और स्पॉट ब्लॉच या ब्लाइट रोग का प्रकोप सामान्यतः कम था, जबकि अंबाला के अलावलपुर में किसानों के खेतों में भूरा रतुआ की तीव्रता 40S तक दर्ज की गई। जम्मू और सांबा में ब्लाइट रोग तथा भूरा रतुआ का प्रकोप देखा गया, जबकि पंतनगर और फतेहगंज में किसानों के खेतों में चूर्णिल आसिता रोग (पाउडरी मिल्ड्यू) का संक्रमण पाया गया। मध्य प्रदेश (नर्मदापुरम) में ब्राउन रस्ट केवल लोक-1, स्थानीय मिश्रण तथा श्रीराम-111, श्रीराम-303 किस्मों पर देखा गया। उत्तर प्रदेश में समय पर बोई गई तथा देर से बोई गई गेहूँ फसल में शूट फ्लाई का प्रकोप 8–10% तक पाया गया, साथ ही जौ की विभिन्न किस्मों में भूरा रतुआ पाया गया। 07 मार्च 2026 को भूरा रतुआ की पहली घटना खारचिया, औरल में दर्ज की गई। पश्चिम बंगाल के मुर्शिदाबाद जिले (डोमकल और जलंगी ब्लॉक, बांग्लादेश सीमा के निकट) में स्पॉट ब्लॉच और फ्यूजेरियम हेड ब्लाइट जैसे रोग पाए गए। महाराष्ट्र में उन्नत किस्मों पर भूरा रतुआ रोग की तीव्रता 5S तक रही तथा सतारा जिले के गाँवों में एफिड का प्रकोप लगभग 5% दर्ज किया गया। निफाड़ क्षेत्र में फुले समाधान (20S) तथा निजी किस्मों जैसे श्रीराम-303, वैभव, दफ्तरे चमक, लोक-1 और स्थानीय मिश्रित किस्मों पर भूरा रतुआ रोग की तीव्रता 20S से 60S तक दर्ज की गई, जबकि एफिड का प्रकोप अल्प से मध्यम स्तर तक और धामोरी (कोपरगाँव) में स्टेम बोरर का प्रकोप 1–2% तक पाया गया। किसानों को रासायनिक एवं सांस्कृतिक उपायों को एकीकृत कर प्रभावी कीट प्रबंधन अपनाने, नियमित खेत निरीक्षण करने तथा अनुशंसित रोग प्रबंधन पद्धतियों का पालन करने की सलाह दी गई ताकि अनुकूल मौसम परिस्थितियों में संभावित प्रकोप को रोका जा सके। समग्र रूप से, सर्वेक्षित क्षेत्रों में गेहूँ फसल की स्थिति संतोषजनक रही और विस्तृत राज्यवार रिपोर्ट अलग से उपलब्ध है।

Summary

The wheat crop health survey conducted by scientists from ICAR-IIWBR and AICRP cooperating centres across major wheat-growing regions revealed generally low incidence of leaf rust, loose smut, and spot blotch in Hisar, Haryana, though up to 40S severity of leaf rust was recorded in Alawalpur (Ambala). Leaf rust and leaf blight were prevalent in some fields of Jammu and Samba, while powdery mildew infestations were observed in Pantnagar and Fatehgunj. In Madhya Pradesh (Narmadapuram) brown rust appeared on old varieties such as Lok-1 and local tall mixtures, as well as in Shriram-111 and Shriram-303. In Uttar Pradesh, shoot fly infestation ranged between 8–10% in both timely and late-sown wheat, with leaf blight noted in barley varieties. The first incidence of brown rust was reported on 07 March 2026 in Kharachia at Aural. In West Bengal (Murshidabad district, Domkal and Jalangi blocks near Bangladesh), moderate severity of spot blotch and Fusarium head blight like disease was observed. In Maharashtra, leaf rust severity reached up to 5S on improved varieties, with aphid infestation around 5% in Satara district; at Niphad, leaf rust was noted on Phule Samadhan (20S) and private varieties such as Shriram-303, Vaibhav, Daftare Chamak, Lok-1, and mixed local types, with severity ranging from 20S to 60S across locations, while aphid infestation varied from scanty to medium and stem borer incidence was 1–2% in Dhamori (Kopergaon). Farmers were advised to integrate chemical and cultural measures for effective pest management, maintain regular field monitoring, and adopt recommended disease management practices to prevent potential outbreaks under favorable weather conditions. Overall, the wheat crop across surveyed regions was progressing well, with detailed state-wise reports available separately.

Wheat crop health was systematically monitored by scientists from coordinated centers through extensive field surveys. In addition, information technology tools were utilized to assess crop conditions, with data collected by contacting farmers and other stakeholders via mobile phones and WhatsApp. Overall, the wheat crop is in excellent condition, with no significant damage reported from diseases or insect infestations. The detailed state-wise report is presented below.

Haryana

A roving survey was conducted during 19th March 2026 to assess the status of the wheat crop and disease incidence in the major wheat-growing areas of Haryana by Dr Man Mohan and team from CCSHAU, Hisar. The survey covered villages in Hisar district (Umra, Sisai, Sorkhi), Rohtak district (Gijhi, Bhainsru Kalan, Hasangarh, Samchana, Rohna), and Sonipat district (Nashirpur, Harsana Kalan, Bainyapur, Rohat). Overall, the wheat crop condition in these areas was found to be good and satisfactory, with healthy plants showing uniform growth across most fields. Farmers were cultivating popular wheat varieties such as WH 711, WH 1105, DBW 303, HD 2967, and PBW 826. Disease incidence was generally low, with loose smut observed in traces, leaf rust (brown rust) at low levels, spot blotch recorded in scattered fields, and powdery mildew appearing with low intensity. Farmers were advised to adopt proper management approaches.

On 11 March 2026 survey was made along with State Agriculture officials at Village Alawalpur, Block Barara of district Ambala and found 40S leaf rust incidence in the farmers field.

A survey on 12.03.2026 was carried out by Dr Pradeep Sharma, PI (Crop Protection), Dr Sunil Saini, PI (Quality and Basic Sciences) and Dr OP Gupta, Sr Scientist of ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal at Danoda and nearby places of wheat field were visited and no incidence of disease was reported and crop was in good health.

On March 23, 2026, Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Dr. S.C. Gill, and Dr. Hanif Khan visited Gharaunda block and adjoining fields. Incidence of aphids was observed, while no disease symptoms were

recorded. Several wheat fields had reached physiological maturity, whereas the remaining fields were still in the grain-filling stage.

Jammu and Kashmir

Dr M.K. Pandey, Chief Scientist and team of SKAUST-Jammu conducted an intensive survey of wheat crop in various areas falling in the districts of Jammu and Samba on 31st March, 2026. The survey was conducted the route starting from via RS Pura, Bishna, Arnia, Nandpur, Hiranagar, Dayalacheck, Jangi Check and Miran Sahib. Prevalence of the leaf rust and leaf blight was observed in some fields with moderate to low severity. Yellow rust was observed in few fields with in traces and urediospore change into tilial stage due to higher temperature during March, 2026.

Uttarakhand

A wheat rust survey was conducted at Tarai/ Plains of Uttarakhand by a team comprised of Dr. Deepshikha, SRO on dated 11th March, 2026. The places visited between Pantnagar to Kashipur were Rudurpur, Khanpur, Bindu khera, Manimuriya, Kela khera, Fatehgunj, Ganeshpur, Beria Road, Tanda Mehmood, Patthar Kui, Maheshpurburanagar, Baridai, Kewalgunj, Gadarpur, Bajpur, and Kashipur. It was found that the surveyed wheat fields were free from yellow rust and other major diseases. The crop was in good health, but in Fatehgunj infestations of powdery mildew has been observed. During the interaction the farmers were provided with the information related to the identification and management of wheat diseases and they were advised to keep vigil on the disease appearance.

Punjab

No report received

Bihar

No report received

Madhya Pradesh

The crop health survey was conducted during first week of March 2026 by Dr. K K Mishra, Powerkhera. This survey work covered almost all major wheat growing 15 districts of Madhya Pradesh State. The district wise observations are as under:

Table1 : Survey conducted in MP during March 2026

District	Tehsils Covered	Villages/ Locations	Black Rust Status	Brown Rust Status & Host Varieties
Narmadapuram	Narmadapurum, Makhannagar, Sohagpur, Piparia and Bankhedi)	32	-	Brown rust on old varieties (lok-1, local tall mixture) and private company materials viz, Sriram-111,Sriram-303 and local wheat mix plants
Harda	3	24	-	local tall mixture plants
Betul & Pandurna	Betul, Pandurna)	14	-	Leaf rust at few locations, not widespread
Sehore	Shahganj, Budhani, Nasrullahganj)	16	Few locations	C-306, Lok-1, local tall mixture
Raisen	Obedullahganj, Udaipura, Bareli	16	-	C-306, Lok-1, local tall mixture
Bhopal	2	6	-	local tall mixture
Vidisha	Sanchi, Gyarspurganjbasoda, Tewara	10	-	C-306, GW 273, GW 322, local tall mixture
Satana	2	8	-	older varieties and local tall mixture
Rewa	2	12	-	C-306, GW 273, MP 3020, local tall mixture
Sidhi	2	12	-	C-306, GW 273, local tall mixture, private company materials

District	Tehsils Covered	Villages/ Locations	Black Rust Status	Brown Rust Status & Host Varieties
Narmadapuram	Narmadapurum, Makhannagar, Sohagpur, Piparia and Bankhedi)	32	-	Brown rust on old varieties (lok-1, local tall mixture) and private company materials viz, Sriram-111,Sriram-303 and local wheat mix plants
Singrauli	1	10	-	GW 273, GW 322, WH 147, local tall mixture, private company materials
Damoh	—	6	-	Leaf rust at few locations, not widespread
Jabalpur	2	10	-	GW 273, MP 3336, GW 322, GW 190, local tall mixture, Sriram 303
Narsinghpur	2	8	Few places	GW 273, MP 3336, GW 322, local tall mixture

Overall crop condition was very good and in most of the area crop was in milking to dough stage and in some areas of Harda, SehreSagar and Betul, crop was almost mature. Recent varieties viz., MP 1323, MP 3382, MP 1203, HI8759, HI1650, HI1544, HI 1634, HI 1605, MPO 12I5, DBW 303, DBW327, DBW187and GW 543 were found to be resistant. Brown rust inoculum of few races was present but due to adoption of newer varieties in major areas, there was no epidemic

Leaf rust showing typical symptoms

Black rust symptoms

outbreak. Moreover, temperature is increasing drastically and humidity is decreasing, hence possibility of further spread is almost not much.

Uttar Pradesh

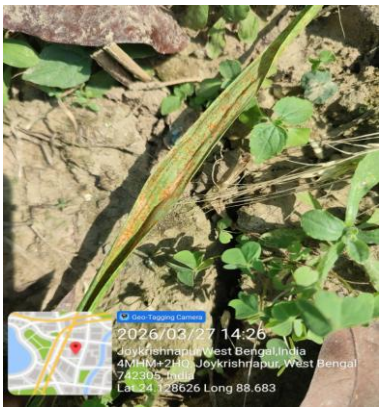
A field survey was conducted in selected wheat and barley growing areas of Uttar Pradesh by Scientists from, C. S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur. The survey was carried out on 07.03.2026. Wheat and Barley crop is generally good. Aphid infestation in wheat and barley field was not seen. In timely sown & late sown wheat crop, shoot fly infestation ranged 8-10%. Leaf blight observed in different barley varieties. The first incidence of brown rust was observed 07-03-2026 in Kharachia at Aural.

Gujarat

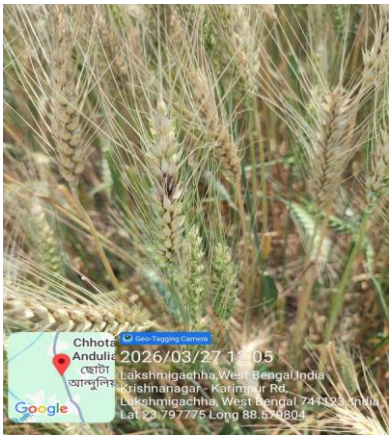
No report recieved

West Bangal

A survey was conducted on 27th March 2026 in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal by a team comprised of Dr. Raghunath Mandal, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology); and Dr Anirban Maji, Assistant Professor (Genetics and Plant Breeding) AICRPW&B, BCKV, Nadia to



underscore the disease and insect pest scenario at the present crop growth stage of wheat. Farmers' plots from Domkal and Jalangi block of Murshidabad district nearer to Bangladesh



border were covered in this survey. Most farmers were growing varieties of PAN Seeds Ltd. The crop of this surveyed area was almost in the harvesting stage but still incidence of spot blotch and *Fusarium* head blight diseases were observed in moderate severity. In some plots incidence of brown rust was observed in a local variety.

Maharashtra

A wheat crop survey was conducted in western Maharashtra during March 2026 by Dr. M. A. Sushir, Junior Wheat Pathologist, Dr. V. M. Sali, Junior Plant Pathologist, and Dr. D. S. Kadam, Assistant Professor, RWRRS, Mahabaleshwar. The survey covered villages in Satara district (Lonand, Sukhed, Ahire) on 15th March 2026, where the crop was at grain filling to maturity

stage. Leaf rust was observed up to 5S severity on improved varieties, and aphid infestation was recorded at about 5%. On 21 March, the survey extended to Newasa Phata and Devgad villages in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, where the crop had reached maturity to harvesting stage.

Leaf rust was again noted up to 5S severity in farmers' fields, though stem rust was absent across all surveyed areas. Overall, the normal sown wheat crop was in maturity stage, while late sown fields were at the dough stage. Leaf blight symptoms were not prominent, and pest incidence remained limited to minor aphid infestations. The survey confirmed that stem rust was not observed in any of the surveyed regions, indicating generally healthy crop conditions in Mahabaleshwar and adjoining areas.

A wheat crop health survey was undertaken in March 2026 by Mr. B. M. Mhaske, I/c Wheat Specialist & Associate Professor of Entomology (CAS), and Dr. P. P. Khandagale, Junior Wheat Pathologist, ARS Niphad. During the month, climatic conditions were favorable for wheat growth, with maximum temperatures ranging from 32.0 to 38.3°C and minimum temperatures between 10.6 and 17.9°C. No unusual rainfall or hailstorms occurred in Nashik and adjoining regions, though scanty rainfall was recorded in Vaijapur and Gangapur tahsils of Sambhajinagar district. The first roving survey, conducted on 12th March 2026 by Prof. Mhaske, covered villages in Niphad, Sinner, and Rahata tahsils, where leaf rust was observed on Phule Samadhan (20S) at Pimpalgaon Baswant and on private varieties with 30–40S severity. A second survey on 20th March 2026 by Dr. Khandagale included villages in Kopergaon, Vaijapur, and Gangapur tahsils, where major wheat varieties such as Trimbak, Lok 1, Ajit 102, Shriram 303, Vaibhav, Shriram-111, Daftare Chamak, Kanak Sona, and MP Sharbati were nearing harvest. Leaf rust was detected across these areas, notably on Shriram 303 and Vaibhav (up to 30S severity in

Kopergaon), Daftare Chamak (up to 60S severity in Vaijapur), Lok 1 (up to 20S severity), and a private mixed variety at Lasoor Station (up to 50S severity). Stem rust was absent, though leaf blight symptoms were noted in some fields. Aphid infestation ranged from scanty to medium, and stem borer incidence was recorded at 1–2% in Dhamori (Kopergaon). Overall, the wheat crop condition was good across surveyed regions, and importantly, the Wheat Disease Monitoring Nursery at Pimpalgaon Baswant remained free from both leaf rust and stem rust.

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