

Report on Field Day on Improved Wheat variety HD 3406 conducted by Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi at Jahari village, Sonipat, Haryana

The Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), conducted a Field Day on improved wheat variety HD 3406 at Jahari village, Sonipat, Haryana under the in-house project “Agricultural Extension for Nutrition and Health (AE4NH)- Strategies and Models” on 28th Feb 2025. The programme was coordinated by a team of experts including the Scientists from the Division of Agricultural Extension- Dr. Sukanya Barua (Principal Investigator of AE4NH project), Dr. L Muralikrishnan, Dr. Subhashree Sahu, and Dr Misha Madhavan M, along with Dr Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agronomy); under the guidance of Dr. Satyapriya, Head, Division of Agricultural Extension.

The Field Day was hosted at the farmer’s field, where a demonstration on the improved IARI wheat variety, HD 3406 (Unnat HD 2967), was conducted. Twenty-five farmers actively participated in the Field Day. The core activities of the event revolved around expert discussions in the wheat fields. This variety is suitable for farmers of the North-Western Plains of India, including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan; Western Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kathua districts of J&K, Una district and Paonta valley of HP and Tarai region of Uttarakhand). It offers higher yield (average yield of 54.7 q/ha and a potential yield of 70.4 q/ha, which is 3.26% higher than its parent variety HD 2967), improved protein content with high iron and zinc, and excellent chapatti-making quality. Feedback was gathered from the participating farmers on the suitability and performance of the wheat variety. Farmers acknowledged that HD 3406 (Unnat HD 2967) reported profuse tillering and strong resistance to leaf, stem and stripe rust, with good levels of resistance to wheat blast and Karnal bunt .

Following the demonstration, farmers actively engaged with the scientists, sharing their experiences and discussing the challenges they faced. Dr. Dinesh delivered an insightful session on crop rotation and diversification, emphasizing their role in maintaining soil fertility and reducing pest and disease incidences. Dr. Sukanya provided valuable insights into various high-yielding IARI crop varieties, specifically those suitable for the agro-climatic conditions of Sonipat. She emphasized how adopting these varieties could significantly improve both productivity and farm income. Dr. Muralikrishnan elaborated on the benefits of bio-fertilizers,

explaining their role in enhancing soil health, reducing chemical fertilizer dependency, and improving crop yields. Dr. Subhashree spoke on kitchen gardening and highlighted its importance in ensuring household nutritional security and providing an additional source of income.

The program was concluded with the distribution of PUSA vegetable seed kits for kitchen gardening and bio-fertilizers to the attending farmers, encouraging the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. The Field Day successfully facilitated knowledge exchange and practical exposure for the participating farmers. It provided them with essential inputs, and technical guidance, to enhance their agricultural productivity and sustainability. Going forward, follow-up visits and additional training programs will be planned to reinforce the adoption of the discussed technologies and practices.





Glimpses of the Field Day programme