

**A Report From the
RTCC to RSC
2004, Islamabad**

General Observations

- **Excellent presentations and discussions on issues of short-to-long term importance.**
- **As we are fast moving towards widespread dissemination of RCTs... new technical and non-technical problems are emerging.**
- **Commonality of research issues across the IGP (i.e. crop genotype, machinery improvement, weeds, diseases, residue).**

General Observations

- A good mix of participants (different disciplines, NARES, IARCs, researchers, administrators, donor) except not many social scientists from NAREs.
- More and more work...
- Targeting/Focusing/Prioritizing.

General Observations

- Experiments to date have shown that modified tillage systems have resulted in variable responses... however using existing crop genotypes.
- New generation of crop genotypes may be needed.
- Traits for a new plant type should be identified.

General Observations

- Our understanding on the terminology of “water saving” is getting better with good measurements on water productivity at various levels.
- Possible effect of water deficit on grain quality is not known.

General Observations

- Research to improve crop productivity should be emphasized to promote crop diversification
- A comprehensive assessment program for diversification is urgently needed.
- Compatibility of RCTs for organic farming.

General Observations

- Research agenda is still fragmented; large gaps remain; methods are inconsistent; lack of comparative analysis.
- Discussion on regional issues should be strengthened.

Technical recommendations of the RTCC to RSC Executive Plenary Session

- **An effective research and technology dissemination program in the flood prone – rainfed environment of Eastern part IGP is urgently needed.**
- **Integrated farm management or integrated crop management strategy should be implemented.**
- **Monitoring of second-level system constraints (soil physical, biological, and chemical) particularly in response to continuous zero-tillage/non-puddled system.**

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- **Refine, perfect, and validate.**
 - **Double zero-tillage system.**
 - **Innovative diversified cropping and inter-cropping systems.**
 - **Residue management as alternative to burning and meet K requirements, reduce P fixation and correct imbalances in N:P:K use.**

- **Greater efforts for the selection of crop genotype/traits to fit in new tillage systems.**

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- **Target “rice fallow” areas.**
- **Assess areas with emerging environmental and resource degradation problems.**
- **Assess socioeconomic impact.**
- **Emphasize linkages with other projects.**
- **Continue traveling seminars & involve other partners (NGOs, extension staff and pvt sector).**

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- Long-term monitoring specially in farmers' fields.
- Develop road map for upscaling of RCTs.
- More research on seed production/seed storage.
- Crop vulnerability, lessons from the past, and need for early warning systems.

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- **Improve how we manage our research outputs**
 - **Statistically sound sampling**
 - **Comprehensive data collection**
 - **Rigorous analysis**
 - **Balanced interpretation and**
 - **Reporting.....**
- **Form a Social Science WG**
- **Form a Water WG**