

NPPC/ADM-58/2024-25/323

2 April, 2025

The Chief Agriculture Officer (20 Dzongkhags)

The Gewog Agriculture Officers (All 205 Gewogs)

Subject: Advisory on Wheat Rust Management

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is a follow-up to the Weekly Rust Management Advisories provided at <https://www.nppc.gov.bt/category/announcement/> every wheat growing season. This communication highlights the stage-specific interventions and the implementation of IPM principles to ensure effective wheat rust control and sustainable wheat production, in light of concerning reports indicating wheat rust outbreaks in various gewogs, necessitating immediate and heightened action.

Considering the wheat crop stage and wheat rust pressure at your jurisdictions, adopt and provide the appropriate management advisories to your farmers from the table below;

| Stage | Monitoring | Preventative Measures | Active Infection Management |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Early Vegetative Stage | Rigorous weekly scouting, focus on lower leaves. | - If conditions are conducive (high humidity, moderate temperatures), apply protectant fungicides (mancozeb). | - Apply systemic fungicides (propiconazole, hexaconazole) if rust detected. - Reapply after 10-15 days if disease progresses. |
| Flag Leaf & Boot Stage | Intensified monitoring (critical for yield). | - If rust pressure is high, apply systemic fungicides before flag leaf emergence. | - Apply systemic fungicides (propiconazole, hexaconazole) immediately upon detection. |
| Flowering & Grain Fill | Focus on severity of existing infections. | - Minimize chemical applications to protect pollinators and avoid yield loss. | - If severe infections, apply systemic fungicide. |
| Post-Harvest | - | - Destroy crop residues to reduce overwintering inoculum. - Implement crop rotation with non-host crops. | - |

Further, for every crop season, kindly advise your farmers to follow the following;



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NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CENTRE
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SEMTOKHA



- Cultivate rust-resistant wheat varieties such as Bumthang Kaa Drukchu; avoid susceptible varieties.
- Conduct regular field scouting during critical growth stages and refer NPPC weekly advisories (<https://www.nppc.gov.bt/category/announcement/>) for updates.
- Eliminate volunteer wheat/alternate hosts.
- Use fungicides mancozeb and propiconazole/hexaconazole if necessary (observe label instructions, rotation, economic thresholds, PHI adherence).

The NPPC remains committed to providing continued advisories and acknowledge your collaborative efforts to ensure effective wheat rust management and sustainable wheat production.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication and share your field reports (if the management advisories are adopted).

Submitted for your kind actions please.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

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Program Director

CC to:

1. Director, DoA, for your kind information.
2. Chief Agriculture Officers, APD and ARID, for kind information.
3. Program Directors, ARDCs and NCOA, for kind information and necessary actions.
4. Office copy, NPPC for office record.