

## The future of Wheat: Emerging trends and technologies

Adarsh Mishra, Piyusha Singh, Javed\*

### Introduction

For thousands of years, wheat has been an essential component of human civilization and is a staple crop worldwide. Its significance for feeding billions of people globally remains today. But as the twenty-first century dawns, the problems of resource scarcity, population increase, and climate change necessitate a radical new way of producing wheat. This article examines wheat's future with an emphasis on cutting-edge ideas and innovations that could completely transform the sector.

### Climate-Resilient varieties

Climate change is one of the biggest issues facing wheat production. Wheat yields are under threat from rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and a rise in the frequency of catastrophic events like floods and droughts. Climate-resilient wheat varieties are being developed by researchers as a countermeasure. These cultivars are bred to tolerate harsh environments, including heat, drought, and disease resistance. For instance, efforts are being made by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center

(CIMMYT) and other organizations to create wheat varieties that can flourish in hotter climates and use less water. These new types are essential not just to sustain the livelihoods of wheat-growing farmers, but also to provide food security in the face of climate change.

### Precision Agriculture

By enabling farmers to maximize yields and optimize inputs, precision agriculture is revolutionizing the wheat growing industry. This system tracks crop health, soil conditions, and weather patterns using data from sensors, drones, and satellites. Farmers can use this information to plan when to plant, when to water, and when to use pesticides or fertilizers. Precision agriculture reduces waste and its negative effects on the environment by using resources more effectively in wheat production. Variable rate technology (VRT), for example, makes it possible to apply inputs precisely, guaranteeing that every component of a field gets exactly what it needs. This lowers expenses for farmers while also increasing yields.

*Adarsh Mishra, Piyusha Singh, Javed\**

*Dep. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, U.P.*

## Genetic editing and biotechnology

Technological developments in biotechnology and genetic editing are creating new avenues for wheat improvement. With the groundbreaking gene-editing technique CRISPR-Cas9, researchers can precisely alter the wheat genome. It is possible to improve desired qualities using this technique, including yield, disease resistance, and nutritional content. For instance, CRISPR is being used by researchers to create wheat cultivars immune to rust and other fungal infections that can destroy crops. Furthermore, wheat's nutritional qualities can be enhanced by genetic engineering by raising its protein content or lowering its gluten content for those who have sensitivity issues.

## Sustainable farming practices

Sustainable farming practices in the production of wheat are becoming increasingly important as environmental sustainability gains global recognition. Crop rotation, conservation tillage, and integrated pest management are a few examples of these techniques. For instance, crop rotation alternates wheat with other crops, including legumes, to enhance soil health and lessen the accumulation of pests and illnesses. Conversely, conservation tillage reduces soil disturbance, maintains soil structure, and lessens erosion. These methods improve wheat fields' long-term productivity while

simultaneously helping the environment. Additionally, cutting back on the usage of chemical inputs like pesticides and fertilizers is a common component of sustainable agricultural practices. Growing in popularity is organic wheat growing, which completely eschews synthetic chemicals in response to customer demand for more environmentally and health-conscious food items.

## Digital agriculture and artificial intelligence

Wheat farming is being revolutionized by digital agriculture, which is powered by big data and artificial intelligence (AI). Large volumes of data may be analyzed by AI-driven technologies to deliver real-time insights and suggestions to farmers. AI may, for instance, determine the ideal planting dates based on historical data, soil conditions, and weather forecasts, which will increase yields. To assist farmers, make data-driven decisions, machine learning algorithms may also be used to find patterns and trends in crop performance. With the use of AI, illness diagnosis becomes much easier. Images of wheat plants may be analyzed to spot early symptoms of disease and schedule prompt treatment. Improved communication and knowledge exchange between farmers, researchers, and agronomists are also made possible by digital platforms. These platforms give users access to data on industry trends, new products, and best practices.

### Global collaboration and innovation

Innovative thinking and international cooperation are needed to address the problems affecting wheat production. Governments, academic institutions, and commercial businesses are collaborating to create and use novel technologies and procedures.

International collaboration in research and information exchange across boundaries is greatly aided by institutions such as the International Wheat Initiative and CIMMYT. Enhancing agricultural methods, guaranteeing food security, and quickening the creation of new wheat types all depend on these partnerships. Innovation in the wheat business is also being driven by public-private collaborations. Governments finance and support programs aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, while businesses invest in R&D to produce new goods and technology.

### Conclusion

Wheat's future is found when tradition and innovation converge. The wheat sector needs to adapt to these demands as the globe struggles with issues including population increase, resource scarcity, and climate change. Promising solutions for a sustainable and resilient wheat future are provided by emerging trends and technologies, such as precision agriculture, block chain, digital tools, and climate-resilient wheat cultivars.

However, the cooperation of all stakeholders—farmers, researchers, legislators, and consumers will be necessary for the effective implementation of these advances. The wheat sector can guarantee that this essential crop is used to feed the globe for many generations to come by adopting innovative technology and procedures.

### References

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