

Preface

While it is true that excellent progress has been made in developing new and widely adopted wheat cultivars, diseases still pose a big challenge for sustainable production of this cereal. The first book on wheat diseases in Brazil, entitled, “Doenças do Trigo e seu Controle,” was published in Portuguese by Editora CERES, São Paulo, in 1978. Fifteen years later, the second updated edition of the book entitled, “Manejo Integrado de Enfermedades del Trigo,” was published in Spanish, under the patronage of World Bank, by Imprenta Landivar, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1993. The first book was well received especially in Brazil, whereas the second book had a wide readership in a number of Latin-American countries since it was written in Spanish. In a few years both the books were out of print. Later, after almost 20 years, several people from the wheat community expressed the need for a book in English with updated information including re-occurrence of old diseases and emergence of new diseases as well as new races of pathogens, and their impact on global wheat production.

By and large, the severity of some diseases caused by necrotrophic pathogens is directly related to change in the tillage system. In the modern era of precision agriculture, the conservation tillage system is fast expanding and demands adequate changes which are also addressed in this book.

The objective of this book was to offer necessary information on biotic and abiotic stresses that adversely affect the wheat production, descriptions of the most important diseases including necessary illustrations to help the reader the correct diagnosis of diseases and comprehend their epidemiological aspects. The book also deals with pillars of integrated disease management which would be eco-friendly and reduce severity of diseases and yield losses. It encompasses different tools of disease management and their implications especially for the tropical and subtropical areas of the world with acquired Latin-American experiences of over 40 years.

The book neither deals with descriptions and recommendations of different fungicides nor with the various wheat cultivars because they are considered outside the scope of the present objective. Nonetheless, it offers a comprehensive list of references for each chapter to enable the reader to look for specific details on a

given aspect including fungicides and wheat cultivars. It is hoped that this will serve as one of the reference books for students, young scientists, extension workers, and progressive farmers dealing with wheat and wheat production. Undoubtedly, it is a timely, and much needed publication considering the present world food crisis.

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