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REGISTRATION OF “HAMMADI” A NEW MOROCCAN DURUM WHEAT VARIETY

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Durum wheat is the third important cereal in Morocco. It is cultivated on more than 1 million hectare annually. However, durum wheat production faces many constraints; mainly drought and diseases. Since 2005, INRA wheat breeding program started focusing its strategy in developing new germplasm with good grain quality like protein content and high yellow index. Indeed, the Moroccan national program released three new varieties with relatively high protein and yellow pigment, in addition to good diseases resistance. These varieties are ‘Louiza’, ‘Hammadi’ and ‘Itri’. In the current paper, we will focus on the variety ‘Itri’.

‘Itri’ (PM9) is spring durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum*), developed by the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) Morocco in 2016. Itri was released based on its high grain yield, moderate resistance to septoria and leaf and yellow rust. PM9 is more adapted to arid and semi-arid regions. The variety was developed from a cross between an ICARDA line (RISSA/GAN//POHO_1/3/ PLATA_3//CREX/ALLA/) and the best cultivated Moroccan cultivar (Karim).

Itri showed good agronomic performance under drought conditions and wide adaptation for the Moroccan arid and semi-arid environments. During the years of evaluation in replicated yield trials in few experimental stations, the variety showed relatively higher yield than all other lines. It showed also a good protein content and good yellow index when compared to all old Moroccan varieties

Keywords: ‘Itri’, PM9, Variety, durum wheat, leaf and rust, septoria, protein content, yellow index, yield and grain quality