

The logo for Embrapa, featuring the word "Embrapa" in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter "b" is stylized with a green leaf-like shape extending from its top and curving around its right side.

Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária
Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Trigo

Attached to the Ministério da Agricultura e do Abastecimento



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BACKGROUND

The National Wheat Research Center - CNPT, an unit of the Brazilian Corporation for Agriculture and Livestock Research - EMBRAPA, linked to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply, was established on October 28, 1974, with the original mission of carrying out and coordinating the research activities in all wheat regions of Brazil, having as its main objective the increase of national wheat production.

LOCATION

The National Wheat Research Center - CNPT is located in Passo Fundo, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The local climate is subtropical, with monthly rainfall and annual precipitation of 1,788 mm. The average temperatures are: June (winter) 12.7 °C and January (summer) 22.1 °C.

MISSION

CNPT's mission is to generate, adapt, and disseminate knowledge and technologies aiming at achieving the sustainability of the cropping systems, with emphasis on wheat and other winter season crops like barley, triticale, rye, and rapeseed (standard canola).

TECHNICAL GOALS

The research activities developed by CNPT in relation to wheat and other small grains are extended all over the country, and for crops like soybeans, corn, and rapeseed (standard canola) its actions are carried out regionally.

The CNPT is a center of reference and its main goals are directed to develop, adapt, and disseminate knowledge and technologies aiming at obtaining a more competitive national wheat production, as well as other small grains. Additionally, to ensure the ecological/economic sustainability of the production complex of the southern region of the country and to increase the diversification of the regional agricultural and livestock production, favoring new crops and/or management systems, promoting, this way, the rural and agro-industrial activities related to the crops developed at the CNPT, are also goals of the center.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGIES

As a result of the technologies generated by CNPT - already in use by the farmers - average wheat production increased from the historical average of 822 kg/ha, period 1962-1984, to the national average of 1,511 kg/ha, from 1985 to 1995. Nevertheless, in trials and demonstrative fields conducted by the center, a yield of 8,000 kg/ha is obtained, and many of the best farmers are yielding 5,000 kg/ha.

Farmers' preference for cultivars developed by CNPT indicates the good quality of these materials. In 1995, in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 80 % of the area cultivated with wheat was occupied by cultivars bred at the center.



PERSONNEL

CNPT's greatest wealth is its staff formed by 248 employees, from which 56 are scientists, 27 with M.Sc. degree, 27 with Ph.D. degree, and 2 with postdoctoral training, specialized in various areas, and graduated at outstanding universities of Brazil, Europe, the U.S.A., and Oceania.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

The CNPT carries out its activities in a total field area of 440 ha. Of these, 230 ha are used for experimental fields. There are, also, 18,224 m² of the following facilities and buildings: Laboratories of Entomology, Cytogenetics, Seed Quality, Plant Pathology, Physiology, Industrial Quality, Microbiology, Biotechnology, and Soil Analyses; administration, conference rooms, library, researcher's offices, meeting rooms, headhouse, greenhouses, screen houses, germplasm bank, seedhouse, seed processing unit, and weather station.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The research lines developed by CNPT reflect the various disciplines of the areas of agricultural and livestock sciences. The center works on a great number of demands related to the development of solutions for technological problems of grain production and its integration with the livestock activity. The center, therefore, has its priorities directed to: increase the production and baking quality of national wheat improve the integrated management of weeds, pests and diseases, with special attention to biological control and plant resistance, generate technologies, train and stimulate the use of no-till systems, improve the research and development on agricultural machinery, increase sustainability of livestock and agricultural production, and evaluate the socioeconomic, commercial, and environmental impacts of the technologies generated by the institution.



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