Registration of ‘Idlib-3’ Lentil

‘Idlib-3’ lentil (Lens culinaris Medik.) (Reg. no. CV-20, PI 634542) was developed at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Aleppo, Syria, and released in 2002 by the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria. It is a high-yielding, red-cotyledon lentil cultivar with lodging resistance and resistance to lentil vascular wilt disease [caused by Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lentis (Vasudeva & Srinavasan) Gordon]. The cultivar is tolerant to drought, which is mainly achieved through its rapid grain filling capacity and early maturity and has been recommended for cultivation in low rainfall (<350 mm) areas in Syria.

The Food Legume Improvement Program of GCSAR, Syria, received the line ILL 6994 from ICARDA in 1990. It is a breeding line developed at ICARDA from a cross between ILL 99 and ILL 5588 commissioned in 1983. The female parent, ILL 99, is a Moroccan landrace, and the male parent, ILL 5588, is an elite line developed through pure line selection following a bulk-pedigree method and included in the international testing program as FLIP 90-25L. The line was later designated as ILL 6994 in the ICARDA’s Lentil Germplasm Catalog and released for commercial production with its popular name Idlib-3.

Idlib-3 was identified as a promising line from Lentil International Yield Trial (small seed) in the 1990–1991 cropping season. After seed increase in the 1991–1992 season, it was evaluated over the 3-yr period at six research stations of GCSAR (representing lentil-growing environments in Syria) under the national yield testing program from 1992–1993 to 1994–1995. It produced an average yield of 1010 kg ha\(^{-1}\) compared with 893 kg ha\(^{-1}\) for check, ‘Hurani’ (ILL 2130), an increase of 13.1%. Results of on-farm trials from 1995–1996 to 1997–1998 across 14 locations (six research stations and eight farmers’ fields) revealed that Idlib-3 gave an average yield of 1296 kg ha\(^{-1}\) compared with 1123 kg ha\(^{-1}\) for Hurani, an increase of 15.4%. Under large-scale production in farmers’ fields, Idlib-3 out-yielded the check by 47.1%. Comparing zone-wise yielding ability, Idlib-3 gave an average yield increase of 29.9% in zone B (rainfall, 250-350 mm) and 8.2% in zone A (rainfall, >350 mm) over the local check, Hurani. Lentil straw is a valuable animal feed in Syria, and the variety produced an average straw yield of 3716 kg ha\(^{-1}\).

Lentil Fusarium wilt disease is the major impediment of lentil production in the region. Yield losses up to 72% have been reported in Syria (Bayaa et al., 1986). Idlib-3 is a wilt resistant cultivar as evidenced from its performance in plastic bags tested for resistance to lentil Fusarium wilt disease.

Idlib-3 plants have an erect growth habit with strong stems with upright branching and, thus providing lodging resistance and are suitable for mechanical harvest. It forms its lowest pod at about 15 cm above the ground, which reduces harvest losses. Plants of Idlib-3 are 75–85 cm tall; another advantage for mechanical harvest. Leaves and stems are pubescent and devoid of hairs. Flowers are white with an average of three flowers per pedicel. Leaflet size is 2.1 cm\(^2\) and leaves have an average of 35 pods per plant. Seed weight is 2.07 g for Hurani. Ground color of testa is brown with patterns in black spots and the cotyledons are 1.5 cm\(^2\).

Registration of ‘Idlib-4’ Lentil

‘Idlib-4’ lentil (Lens culinaris Medikus spp. PI 634543) was developed at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Aleppo, Syria, and released in 2002 by the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria. It is a red-cotyledon lentil cultivar with lodging resistance and level of resistance to lentil Fusarium wilt disease.

Idlib-4 has been recommended for mechanical harvest.