

# A CASE FOR POLY4

- In 2017 India produced 98.5 Mmt of wheat across 30.6 million ha.
- North Central India is a major wheat growing region, with the wheat often grown in rotation with rice. Many farmers apply only N + P in these systems, even though application of K and S is recommended.
- Elemental S combined with bentonite is the typical sulphur source. Elemental S must be converted by soil microorganisms to sulphate-S before it can be available for plant uptake.
- POLY4 contains plant-available sulphate-S, K, Ca and Mg. Its sustained nutrient delivery makes it ideal for meeting the demands of wheat throughout the growing season.



A sulphate-S source for good crop availability



Sustained nutrient availability



pH neutral



Compatible in NPK blends

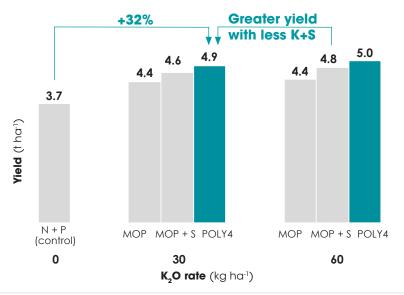
Treatments	Nutrients applied (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )			
	K <sub>2</sub> O	S	CaO	MgO
N + P (control)	0	0	0	0
MOP	30	0	0	0
MOP	60	0	0	0
MOP + S	30	41	0	0
MOP + S	60	81	0	0
POLY4	30	41	36	13
POLY4	60	81	73	26

<sup>\*</sup>Recommended  $K_2O$  rate of 60 kg  $ha^{-1}$ . All treatments received 120 kg N and 60 kg  $P_2O_5$  from urea and DAP.

#### **GREATER YIELD**



Application of K and S fertilizers increased yield relative to N + P alone. Wheat fertilized with half the K<sub>2</sub>O rate had a greater yield than MOP + S. This means a greater output was achieved with lower K and S inputs.

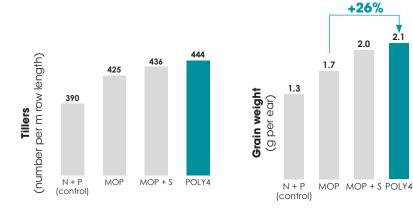


#### **IMPROVED YIELD COMPONENTS**



Wheat yield depends on the tillering density, ears per tiller and ear weight (grain number and weight). Wheat fertilized with POLY4 had more tillers and grains per ear than other treatments.

POLY4-fertilized wheat also had the highest thousand grain weight. The POLY4 fertilized wheat had significantly heavier ears than MOP and N + P (control) treatments.





#### **TRIAL FOCUS**

To compare POLY4 with MOP and MOP + S at the recommended (60 kg K<sub>2</sub>O) and a lower K rate.

#### **PARTNER**

**ICAR-IARI, New Delhi** 

#### **LOCATION**

**New Delhi, India** 

DATE

2018

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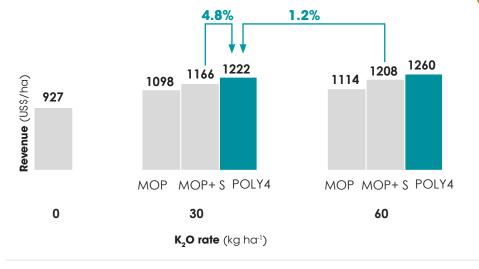




#### HIGHER INCOME



POLY4 fertilized wheat had the greatest revenue. Application of 30 kg  $K_2O$  ha<sup>-1</sup> from POLY4 had 4.8% greater revenue than equivalent MOP + S. Importantly, the revenue after applying 30 kg  $K_2O$  ha<sup>-1</sup> from POLY4 was greater than using 60 kg  $K_2O$  ha<sup>-1</sup> from MOP + S (1.2% higher).



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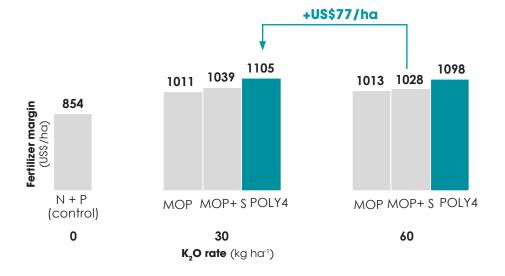
**New Delhi, India** 

DATE **2018** 

#### **INCREASED FERTILIZER MARGIN**



Application of 30 kg  $\rm K_2O$  ha<sup>-1</sup> from POLY4 gave the greatest fertilizer margin. This fertilizer programme had a lower cost than 60 kg  $\rm K_2O$  ha<sup>-1</sup> from MOP + S and produced greater yield and revenue.



Notes: 1) FAOSTAT 2017; 2) Recommended  $K_2O$  rate of 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. All treatments received 120 kg N and 60 kg  $P_2O_5$  from urea and DAP; 3) Data analysed by Genstat ANOVA with mean separation by Fishers LSD at the 5% level; 4) Revenue is crop price multiplied by yield. Wheat price US\$251/t; Fertilizer margin is the revenue minus the cost of fertilizer and spreading; Fertilizer prices: urea US\$80/t, DAP US\$403/t, bentonite-S US\$869/t, MOP US\$224/t, POLY4 US\$200/t; spreading cost US\$9.07/t.





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