

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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Seminar cum workshop on Non Bt cotton Seed at CICR, Nagpur

A two day Seminar cum workshop on “Non Bt Cotton Seed” was organized by the Organic and Fair Trade Cotton Secretariat (OFCS) and Central Institute for Cotton Research at CICR, Nagpur on March 24-25, 2015. The workshop was attended by Organic cotton stakeholders, Organic cotton Farmers and Scientists of CICR, Nagpur. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur welcomed all the participants. Mrs. Prabha Nagarajan briefed about the agenda of the workshop mainly the issues on availability and production of non Bt cotton seeds. Dr. Kranthi, in his presentation described the present cotton scenario in the country. He ascribed the low cotton productivity to cultivation of long duration hybrids and late sowing and suggested that adapting early maturing varieties (150 days duration) and undertaking early sowing can overcome the problems of pests as well as drought. Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head, Crop Protection, CICR, Nagpur presented information on “Pest management for organic cotton”. She described all the insects and diseases occurring in the cotton ecosystem. Dr. Suman Bala Singh, Head, Crop Improvement, CICR, Nagpur gave a talk on “Historical perspective in cotton breeding in India”. She mentioned about the archaeological excavations of cloth in Harappa and Mohenjodaro that were made from desi cotton. Dr. Blaise Desouza, Head, Crop Production, CICR, Nagpur gave a presentation on “Packages of practices for sustainable organic cotton production”. He mentioned the importance of growing those varieties which have inbuilt pest resistance and which have been selected under organic system. The desi cotton due to its robustness and low input requirements, are more suitable for organic cotton cultivation. Dr. M.V.Venugopalan, Principal Scientist, CICR, Nagpur discussed about the difference between climate variability and climate change. The crop simulation model developed based on Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) data could be of assistance in prediction of weather parameters under organic cotton cultivation.

Mr. Arun Ambatipudi (Chetna) discussed the challenges of organic cotton cultivation especially the problem of convincing farmers in taking up non Bt seed compared to the attractively labelled Bt cotton seed packets. Mr. Dharmendra Wele (Arvind – Agri) in his talk mentioned availability of non Bt seeds as a major problem in organic cotton cultivation. In the session on “Experiences of seed production” Dr. Rajasekhar (CSA), Dr. Subramaniam (Bloom Biotech), Dr. Ramprasad, Mr. Avinash Kamerkar (Pratibha), Mr. Yogender (Bio Re) and Ms. Latabai Madavi (Seed Farmer) shared their views and experiences about the organic cotton cultivation. Dr. Vinita Gotmare, Principal Scientist, CICR, Nagpur presented “Spectrum of non-Bt varieties/hybrids-quality and biotic/abiotic stress reactions. She discussed the list of varieties released by CICR, State Agricultural Universities for North, central and South zones suitable for organic cotton cultivation along with their yield, fibre quality as well as pest/disease tolerance. Dr.V. Santhy, Senior scientist, CICR, Nagpur presented “Seed production-Regulatory aspects” on the first day and “Guidelines on how to start seed production project and seed testing procedures” on the second day. She discussed the legislative aspects of seed quality control including the specific standards for seed production. Miss. Usha, SRF, CICR, Nagpur presented “Bt detection to address genetic contamination-theory and practical”. In the concluding remarks, Mrs. Prabha Nagarajan appreciated all the speakers. She mentioned High Density Plant System (HDPS) as one of the useful systems to increase the cotton yield in the country.

Farewell

Mr. S. S. Lakhe, Skilled Supporting Staff, Division of Crop Production was accorded warm farewell on March 28, 2015 on behalf of Crop Production Division. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur, felicitated Mr. Lakhe on the occasion. All the Scientists and staff of the Division were present.



Meetings Attended

Dr. Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar, Principal Scientist, CICR, Nagpur attended 9th Programme Advisory Committee under SERB held by Andhra University at Vishakhapatnam and presented progress report for the project titled 'Engineering root-knot resistance in cotton by RNAi mediated silencing of parasitism genes of *Meloidogyne incognita*' on March 23, 2015

Research Round Up

Parasitoid *Pseudoleptomastix mexicana* parasitizes *Paracoccus marginatus* in Central India
Parasitoid *Pseudoleptomastix mexicana* Noyes and Schauff (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) was found to parasitize papaya mealybug *Paracoccus marginatus* Williams and Granara de Willink up to 19 per cent during February 2015 in Central India. The adult parasitoids emerged from specimen of *P. marginatus* collected from Parsoda village of Worora Taluka, Chandrapur district of Maharashtra (Coordinates N-20°15'37.5", E-079°02'04.5"). The parasitoid is among the three parasitoids viz., *Acerophagus papayae*, *Anagyrus loecki* and *Pseudoleptomastix mexicana*, imported during 2010 from Puerto Rica for the control of *paracoccus marginatus* by NBAIR, Bangalore. The parasitoid has good potential in biological control of *P. marginatus*.

V. S. Nagrare, Bhusaheb Naikwadi, Paresh Bhojar

Literature Scan

Literature Scan

India leading producer of cotton after 50 years....

The early estimate of USDA found that India become leading producer of cotton in 2014-15 as china reduced its area under cotton. It is estimated that India likely to produce 30.5 million bales of 480 lb, whereas china to produce 30.0 million bales. Till 1965-66 United States was leader in cotton production. Between 1966-67 and 1981-82 there was stiff race between china and United States in cotton production. From 1982-83 China continued to become leading producer of cotton followed by United States and India till 2005-06. From 2006-07, India become second largest producer of cotton and, the current year likely to overtake China and become leading producer of cotton in the world.

Cotton Production 1000 480 lb. Bales

Country	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Argentina	569	496	612	750	1,220	1,125
Australia	8	8	10	4,600	4,100	2,200
Brazil	1,950	2,525	2,300	6,000	8,000	7,000
China	4,900	3,700	3,400	35,000	32,750	30,000
Egypt	2,196	1,542	2,100	490	435	525
India	4,694	4,109	4,989	28,500	31,000	30,500
Pakistan	1,398	1,505	1,690	9,300	9,500	10,400
United States	14,237	14,283	14,827	17,314	12,909	16,084
Uzbekistan				4,500	4,100	4,000
Other countries	15114	16398	17061	17130	16427	17539

Source: Estimate by USDA as on 28:03:2015

Contributed by Mr. M. Sabesh, Scientist, CICR,RS, Coimbatore

Training Programme

One day awareness cum training programme on cotton cultivation and seed production was organized for tribal farmers of Elagiri hills, Jolarpettai, Thirupattur Taluk, Vellore District of Tamil Nadu on March 26, 2015 under the tribal sub plan of National seed project (crops) by Dr. K. Rathinavel, Principal Scientist, CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore. On this occasion Dr. K.P.M. Dhamayanthi, Principal Scientist, Dr. M.Amutha, Scientist, Dr. D. Kanjana, Scientist and Dr. K. Rathinavel, Principal Scientist, delivered lectures on the varieties of cotton, cultivation practices, soil and climatic requirements, organic cotton cultivation, pest and disease management, IPM technologies, seed production methods and safe storage practices. This training was attended by 124 cotton farmers who were provided with inputs as vegetable seeds and insecticides.



Other Activities

Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) was nominated by the Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore to act as External Expert for the Selection committee for the elevation of Scientists of faculty of Plant Breeding and Genetics from Stage 2-3 under Career Advancement Scheme. The Committee Meeting was held on March 28, 2015 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Students' visit to ICAR Regional Station, Coimbatore

54 students of Diploma in Agriculture from Sagayathottam Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, Takkolam, Vellore District visited ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore on March 25, 2015. The origin, achievements and activities of the institute were explained by Dr (Mrs) S. Usha Rani, Senior Scientist. Students also visited the experimental plots of "cotton pruning techniques" in the farm.



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