

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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RESEARCH ROUND-UP

Indigenous technique of glyphosate Application - Tumbler method

(Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan and K. Rajendran)

Glyphosate is non selective, broad spectrum and systemic weedicide and cannot be sprayed directly on crop for weed control without protective mechanism for the crop. Weeds germinated by pre monsoon rainfall can be easily controlled by glyphosate in fields which are without crops. At CICR Regional Station Coimbatore, a novel indigenous technique for protection of cotton crop to facilitate glyphosate application for weed control was tested in field. The seedlings of cotton were covered by long necked aluminum glass, and the chemical was applied directly on field crop. Aluminum glass is available on rent basis in agro services. The technique was developed and adopted in Jadapalayam, Pachudipalayam, Velampalayam, Oduvankurichi and Namagiripettai villages of Rasipuram taluka, Namakkal District. The farmer who has practiced this technique informed that a dose of 75-150 ml of glycel per tank (12 litres capacity) of water, an average of 15-20 tanks is required to cover an acre of land; which is equivalent to 1.2 - 3.1 kg ai/ha of glyphosate per spraying. This cotton growing area is known for water scarcity, which does not permit rotation of cotton with other crops. Moreover, cotton stalks is ploughed insitu by using rotavator without uprooting because of labor scarcity. The volunteer plant germinated from previous cotton crop is unavoidable because of monocropping and insitu incorporation of cotton stalks. This indigenous method of providing protection of cotton seedlings under Glyphosate application also controls the volunteer seedling of cotton .



SCIENTIFIC TALK

Shri Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj, in his scientific talk on 21/12/2013, opined that advent of Bt cotton reduced the pesticide use by 1/3rd. The profitability of the farmer has increased substantially and as a consequence 90% of the Cotton grown in the country is BT cotton and the country's cotton production has increased by 140% in 10 years.

He informed that every rupee invested in Agri. R&D gives 8 times returns to the rural economy and investment in agricultural research is the most cost effective way to reduce poverty now. He advocated for private sector participation as is the prevailing trend around the world. The government also has to be the enabler and allow private sector to deliver. An unbiased regulatory mechanism & a robust redress system for farmers should exist. Our budgetary allocation for Agri. R&D is considerably less than a billion US dollars. China produces double production than that of India from the same area of arable land. China, this year is investing over US\$ 4 billion on Agri. R&D including over US \$ 2 billion on GM Research alone.

He further expressed that to give farmers a better income, the values and expectations of 8 billion city consumers towards food must be reshaped. Till the time people are getting food at subsidized prices, there will be less demand for new technologies. 'A perfection of means and a confusion of aims seem to be our main problem'. "In order to succeed, our desire for success must be greater than our fear of failure."



MEETINGS

Valedictory function- Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) on Cotton

A two month (Oct 21 to 20 Dec, 2013) Training Programme on "Applied Cotton Biotechnology" under Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) on Cotton for six African Countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda was concluded at Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur on 19th Dec, 2013.

This programme is being implemented under the aegis of 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit and funded by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC), Govt. of India. The Applied Cotton Biotechnology programme was jointly implemented by CICR, Nagpur, and Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FSL). This training programme intended to provide hands on training to the researchers on the basic and applied aspects of cotton biotechnology. The Chief Guest of the valedictory function was Mr. Luv Bajaj, Bajaj Steel Industries, Nagpur and in his inaugural address trusted that participants would have gain expertise in cotton biotechnology from the lectures, practicals, discussions and deliberations to be held during the programme.

Dr. S.B.Nandeshwar, In-Charge, Biotechnology Section, CICR welcomed the delegates. Dr. G. Balasubramani, and Dr.K.P.Raghavendra, Coordinators of this training programme gave an overview of the activities undertaken during the TAP Fellowship on Cotton Biotechnology. All the participants of the training programme appreciated CICR's expertise in the subject and for empowering their knowledge on cotton biotechnology. The participants also gave their feedback on the programme. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR congratulated all the participants for successful completion of their training programme. Dr. Blaise DeSouza, Head, Crop Production Division and Nodal Coordinator TAP proposed the vote of thanks.



VISITS

Two Hundred and Fifty students from Tip Top Convent, Nagpur visited Central institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur on 21/12/2013. They were divided into four groups of 50 each under Dr. J. Amudha, Dr. Anuradha Narala, Dr. Chinna Babu Naik and Dr. M. Saravanan. They were briefed about the activities of the Institute and were taken to KVK, vermicompost, insectary, tissue culture and biotechnology labs. The students visited HDPS, Cernum fields and were explained about drip irrigation and parts of the cotton plant. They also had a brief interactive session with the CICR Director, Dr. K.R. Kranthi.

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Chief Editor : Dr. Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar

Editors : Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare, Dr. J. Amutha, Dr. M. Saravanan

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Post Bag No. 2, Shankar Nagar PO, Nagpur 440010

Phone : 07103-275536 Fax : 07103-275529; email: cicrnagpur@gmail.com