

# COTTON Innovate



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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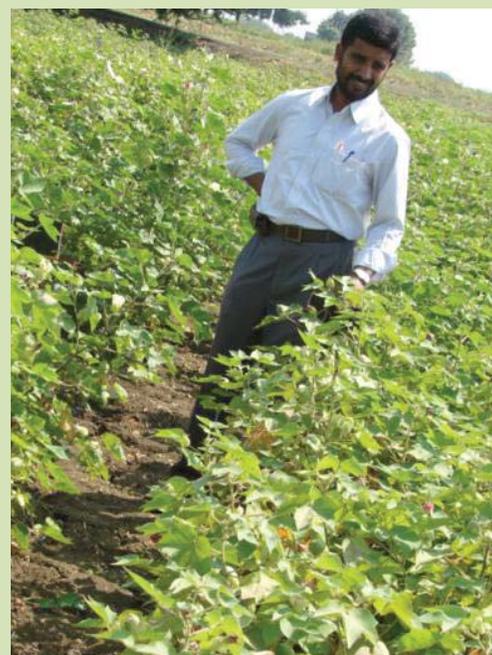
## SCIENTIFIC TALKS

Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Principal Scientist, and Dr. K. Velmourougane, Scientist, Crop Production Division delivered talks titled 'Non-GM Round-up Ready Cotton?' and 'Enhancement of Soil Organic Matter-A Must for High Yields' respectively under the aegis of Innovation Cell of CICR, Nagpur.

### NON- GM ROUND-UP READY COTTON?

*Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Principal Scientist, Crop Production Division*

Dr. M. V. Venugopalan is one of the leading scientists who are exploring the possibilities of using glyphosate for effective weed control in non-GM cotton without harming the crop. Glyphosate is a broad spectrum weedicide that is economical and effective. It degrades faster in soil and has been in use for more than 3 decades for general weed control. Dr. Venugopalan presented his ideas on the possibilities of using a combination of factors such as major nutrients, anti-transpirants, micronutrients and amino acids, dose reduction of glyphosate, stress induction, inducing the production of specific amino acids, chelating agents etc., to enable cotton crop overcome the effects of glyphosate especially under high density planting systems. He opined that agronomic measures such as providing adequate nutrients, detoxifying residual glyphosate in meristematic tissues and soils, restoring microbial activity in soils and increasing plant's resistance to root pathogens may increase glyphosate resistance in plants.



### ENHANCEMENT OF SOIL ORGANIC MATTER - A MUST FOR HIGH YIELDS

*Dr. K.Velmourougane, Scientist, Crop Production Division*

Dr. K.Velmourougane in his talk insisted that soil fertility depletion is a cause of concern for Indian agriculture as it leads to low crop yields. He further added that there exists a gap of about 10 million tonnes of nutrients (NPK) between the removal of nutrients by crops and their addition through fertilizers. Depletion in soil organic carbon is leading to poor fertilizer use efficiency of the soil which on average is estimated to be 33% for N; 15% for P; 20% for K and micronutrients as against 50% for N; 30% for P and 50% for K with the best management Practices. He also presented the soil fertility class of cotton growing regions of India and also existing "Soil Nutrient Balance Sheets in India". With the above background, he presented his wild idea on building up of soil organic matter in soil for better crop productivity. In India, about 29 million tonnes of cotton stalks are generated annually which if returned to the field may correct this soil nutrient imbalance. Cotton stalks contain more than 1.11% of N, 0.1% of P, and 3.98% K. This means the grown crop can supplement 1.5 tons of Carbon, 20-25 Kg of N, and 72 Kg of K from the cotton stalks from one hectare. He concluded that there should be massive drive to create awareness on impact of soil organic matter on soil health and subsequent improvement in cotton yield.

## HINDI FORTNIGHT CELEBRATION

As a part of Hindi Fortnight Celebration, handwriting and dictation competitions were held on Sept. 23, 2013 while *Chitra Vichar Pratiyogitha* was held on Sept.27, 2013. Scientists, research fellows, technical officers from all the divisions and administrative staff actively participated in the event



## PARTICIPATION IN KSHETRIYA KISAN GOSHTHI

Dr A. R. Raju and Dr V.S. Nagrare participated in *Kshetriya Kisan Goshthi* on September 27, 2013 at Jam, Samudrapur Taluk of Wardha District. *Kshetriya Kisan Goshthi* was organized under ATMA by Agriculture department, Government of Maharashtra. The CICR scientists interacted with the farmers and answered their queries on cotton production and protection aspects. Other invited experts discussed about cultivation of Rabi crops. About 100 farmers participated in the *Kshetriya Kisan Goshthi*.



Dr A.R. Raju (extreme left) and Dr V.S. Nagrare (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) along with Agricultural Officials



Participating farmers in *Kshetriya Kisan Goshthi*

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Dr. J. Sandhu, Agricultural Commissioner, Government of India, visited CICR, Nagpur on September 26, 2013. He visited the High Density Planting System fields and other breeding fields of the institute and had interactive session with the scientists.



## Off Campus Training on Cotton Production Technology /HDPS Cotton

A day long *Off Campus* training programme on 'High Density Planting System in cotton' was organized at Pardi (Deshmukh) village of Kalmeshwar block, Nagpur district on September 27, 2013 in collaboration with State Agriculture Department and Paradeep Phosphate Limited Nagpur. Dr. R.B. Singandhupe, Principal Scientist and Programme Coordinator, and Shri Harish Kumbalkar KVK, CICR, Nagpur were the resource persons for this programme. They delivered lectures on various aspects of cotton production technologies with particular mention of HDPS technology for better productivity with low cost of production. More than 125 farmers attended this programme.



Produced and Published by : Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur  
Chief Editor : Dr. Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar  
Editors : Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare, Dr. J. Amutha, Dr. M. Saravanan  
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Central Institute for Cotton Research  
Post Bag No. 2, Shankar Nagar PO, Nagpur 440010  
Phone : 07103-275536 Fax : 07103-275529; email: [cicrnagpur@gmail.com](mailto:cicrnagpur@gmail.com)