

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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Participation in workshop on HDPS and Bt cotton cultivation



Scientists Dr. AR Raju, Dr. Vinita Gotmare and Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare participated in workshop on HDPS and Bt cotton cultivation organized by Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Akot, Dist Akola on 13th May 2014. Dr. Raju delivered talk on better cotton production practices, Dr Gotmare on suitable varieties for HDPS and Dr Nagrare on effective pest and disease management in cotton. Scientists interacted with farmers and answered their queries in view of the ensuing cotton season. At the outset, Shri Ashok Gaikwad, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Akot inaugurated the workshop by garlanding portrait of Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh. Shri Ramesh Hingankar, Chairman, APMC, Akot presided over the function. A large number of office bearer of APMC and about 200 farmers from Akot taluka attended the workshop.



Meeting on ISO Certification

A meeting was held on Saturday, 17 May 2014 at CICR, Nagpur to brief about ISO certification and procedure for obtaining ISO certificate for the Institute. Dr. R. R. Lakhe, Director, Shreyas Management System, briefed about Gap Analysis Report, Draft Quality Policy and Implementation Plan for ISO certification of the Institute. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, emphasized the importance of ISO certification of the Institute. Mr. Sachin Agnihotri, Senior Administrative Officer, co-ordinated the meeting.

Scientific Talk

Dr. J. Amudha, Senior Scientist, Biotechnology, gave a talk on "Cotton plant and cotton seed milk in the food industry" under the aegis of Innovative Cell of CICR, Nagpur on 17.05.2014.

Cotton bud, early stage of boll and seed is an edible part of the plant. The cottonseed flour from the defatted glandless and defatted degossypolized glanded seeds has been used for the preparation of dairy products. The fat-free decorticated flours of glandless and degossypolized glanded cotton seed can be used to prepare cottonseed milk, curd, yoghurt, cheese, ice cream, chocolates, roti's etc. The cotton bud and cotton seed milk are used in the preparation of biryani, soup and halwa in Southern parts of India. Recently cotton milk found use in moisturising lotions, shampoos, conditioners, skin creams, herbal medicine etc. Cotton milk is an innovative health drink and to improve the taste, sucrose (2%) and sodium chloride (0.2%) were added.

Tamucurd is a tofu-like product and has a bland flavour when prepared from glandless cottonseed milk. It is used in the preparation of a sausage-type meat-substitute product and as a substitute for cream cheese in cooking. Two dairy products, curd (labnah) and yoghurt (zabadi) prepared from vegetable cotton seed milk are commonly consumed in Egypt. The glandless cotton seed flour protein has a lighter colour and blander taste than the glanded flour and can be used for making rotis and the digestibility was 91%. Cottonseed oil is used as salad oil, frying vegetables, meat, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and similar products because of its flavour stability.



Genetically modified potatoes 'resist late blight'

British scientists have developed genetically modified potatoes that are resistant to the 'Late blight'. Late blight disease has plagued farmers for generations and was responsible for the Irish potato famine in the 1840s. Blight is a difficult and expensive pathogen to control. Farmers have to spray several times a season to protect against the disease.

The researchers have added a gene to Desiree potatoes, from a wild South American relative, to fight off blight. The GM potato trials have been running for three years. In 2012, the third year of the trial, all the non-GM potatoes became infected with late blight by August while the modified vegetables remained fully resistant to the end of the experiment. Opinion of scientist is that since the potatoes are grown from tubers rather than seeds, they are sterile and the issue of GM pollen escaping into the wild does not arise. However, EU approval is needed before commercial cultivation of this GM crop can take place.

References:

<http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/369/1639/20130087>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-26189722>

(The research is published in the journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B)

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