

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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Scientific Talk

Dr (Mrs) K.P.M.Dhamayanthi, Principal Scientist delivered a talk entitled "Pollinosis" in the weekly seminar held at CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore on Aug. 25, 2014. Pollinosis is a type of allergy caused by plant pollens. She explained the symptoms, causes, diagnostic methods and treatments for such type of allergy.

Pollens that are spread by the wind are usually the main cause of seasonal allergies that is known as Pollinosis. Allergies are an overreaction of the immune system. Pollen grains are the earliest known allergens and the major source of morbidity among the atopic subjects. The pollen grains constitute one of the important components of air and are considered as major causative agent of respiratory disease. India has huge diversity in allergens in different region as it is a climatically diverse country. Parthenium a member of the Asteraceae (Compositae) family is native to Mexico and Central and South America and is becoming an increasingly troublesome weed around the world. Sign and symptoms are conjunctivitis, coughing, fever & headache, flushing, Impaired smell, Impaired taste, Itching eyes, Itching mouth, Itching nose, Itching skin, Itching throat, nose bleeds, plugged up ears, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, stuffy nose (nasal congestion), watering eyes and wheezing. The seeds can germinate year-round in subtropical and tropical areas. Saline sprays help to clear the pollen out of nasal cavity, as well as helping to thin and reduce the mucous in nose. Quercetin is a flavonoid that is thought to control the body's release of histamines and other chemicals that have an effect on the body's immune response to allergens. Specifically, it has been shown to reduce sinus pain and congestion caused by allergies. When combined with Vitamin C and grape seed extract, the ability to reduce pollen allergy symptoms also increases significantly. A goldenseal tonic has antibacterial and astringent properties. When used with a saline nasal spray, Goldenseal can greatly reduce the symptoms of pollen allergies. Other precautions include: 1.Keep windows and doors closed and turn on the air conditioner. 2.Change air conditioning filter often, at least once a month during pollen season. 3.Eat 1 to 2 teaspoons per day of locally produced bee pollen honey, which contains small amounts of pollen, before allergy season starts. Ingesting the honey will help jump start immune system against the local pollen.



Meetings

Review meeting on TMC MMI-IRM HDPS

Review meeting on TMC MMI-IRM HDPS was conducted at CICR, Nagpur, on 25th August 2014. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Dr. D.Blaise, Head, Crop Production, Dr. M.V.Venugopalan, Head, PME, Dr. R.B. Singhandhupe, Shri Atul Sharma from Wardha, Dr. Solanki and Dr. C.K. Patil from Gujarat, Dr. R. K. Patnaik from Orissa, Dr. P. Mewade, Dr. Satish Parsai from Khandwa, Mr. B. Tule and KVK staff attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of IRM – HDPS demonstrations, to take stock of the number of trials/farmers etc in each district and to review the crop condition viz., per cent germination, crop stand and implementation of HDPS package.

CottonTechnology Assistance Programme (TAP) for Africa Review Meet

A review meeting on Cotton TAP was held on 27th August, 2014 at CICR, Nagpur. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Dr. D. Blaise, Head, Crop Production Division, Er. Gautam Majumdar, Dr. A.K. Krishna Kumar, Executive Director, IL&FS and Dr. Milan Sharma, Head, Africa Initiatives and Industry Research, IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Limited attended the meeting. Discussions regarding IInd phase of the ongoing Tehnical Assistance program and extension of the program to five new African countries based on their request were held during the meeting.

Training & Demonstration of High Density Planting System for rainfed Cotton

A Training programme on High Density Planting System (HDPS) which was developed by Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur was demonstrated for rainfed crop in Tamil Nadu by Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore with collaboration of MYRADA, KVK, Gobichettipalayam at Vellithiruppur and Mathur villages of Andhiyur Block, Gobichettipalayam Taluk, Erode District on August 27, 2014. Dr. (Mrs). B. Dharajothi, Principal Scientist and State Co-ordinator of the project delivered a lecture with a detailed description about the Cotton HDPS, method of planting, critical steps to be followed in the crop production and protection. Further she requested the farmers to follow the proper insecticide usage to manage insecticide resistance. Dr. S. Usha Rani, Senior Scientist briefed about the advantages of HDPS and methods to be followed for the sustainable cotton production. She also explained about the extension services extended to the farmers by the CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore and requested the farmers to utilize the same. Officials from MYRADA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mr. R. D. Srinivasan, Plant Protection Specialist, Mr. K Sekar, Soil Science specialist, Mr. N. Shivappa, Manager and Mr. P. Thirumurugan, Helper interacted with farmers and explained about the advantages of raising cotton under HDPS and also coordinated in organizing the programme. Later a demonstration in the farmers' field was also conducted and training materials were provided to the farmers. Dr. R. Venkatesan, Mr. T. Muralisankar and Mr. W. Samuel Kirubakaran - Senior Research Fellows from CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore, coordinated in organizing the programme.



Other Activities

Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) participated as a member in the meeting of the Institute Management Committee of CIRCOT, Mumbai held on August 25, 2014.

Celebration of POLA Festival at CICR, Nagpur

Pola, a bull-worshipping festival was celebrated at, CICR, Nagpur on 25th August, 2014. Pola falls on the day of the Pithori Amavasya (the new moon day) in the month of Shravana and is an important festival for farmers of Maharashtra. Bulls of farm section were decorated with painted horns and their necks adorned with jewels. The oldest bullock was tied with a wooden frame on its horns and made to break a rope of mango leaves tied between two neem trees. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head, Crop Protection Division, Dr. D. Blaise, Head, Crop Production Division, Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Head, PME, Dr. Suman Bala Singh, Head i/c, Head, Crop Improvement Division, Scientists and staff of CICR joined the celebrations



Monitoring Visit



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