

COTTON *Innovate*



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Visit of CICR Experts to Pink Bollworm infested areas of Saurashtra, Gujarat

A team comprising of Dr K.R Kranthi, Director CICR, Nagpur, Dr A.H Prakash, Project Coordinator (Cotton) and Head CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore, Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head Crop Protection Division, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur and Dr M.V Venugopalan, Principal Scientist and I/C PME Unit ICAR-CICR, Nagpur visited Pink Bollworm infested areas of Saurashtra, Gujarat during 13-18th November 2015. The team visited several farmers field, interacted with cotton scientists of Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagarh, officials from State Government and made the observations as below:

- There were no visible symptoms of PBW damage in desi cotton in Surendranagar district.
- Incidence of PBW and damage in Bt Hybrids was higher in Amreli and Bhavnagar districts compared to Rajkot, Surendranagar and perhaps Junagarh.
- Over 80% of cotton is already picked in rainfed cotton compared to 50-60% in irrigated cotton.
- All hybrids had PBW infestation but short duration / determinate hybrids had fewer green bolls and less PBW.
- Aceptate + monocrotophos – most commonly sprayed combinations. Farmers resorted to 3-4 sprays of this combination during the season at several locations. Farmers are aware that monocrotophos induces greenness. Relationship between repeated spray of this combination and PBW incidence is not established.
- Farmers are aware that BG II has become susceptible to PBW and were taking corrective measures from flowering stage onwards. Pheromone traps were erected by farmers in the field right from flowering stage onwards. Good coordination between, SAU, State Government, NGOs in creating awareness was evident during the visit to farmer's fields.
- Late season green bolls in fields sprayed recently with pyrethroids have lower damage due to PBW that those sprayed with other molecules.
- Green boll damage across fields was around 30%.
- Harvest brought to Mandi / market yards were infected with PBW. Live larvae and pupae were seen. Produce from the second flesh, first arriving in market, had greater infestation / Kawdi Kapas.
- Overall damage / reduction in yields (seasonal) could be pegged at 10-15%.
- The general opinion is that cotton cultivation is becoming unprofitable due to rise in cultivation cost and some farmers may switch back to groundnut and onion unless price of cotton increases.
- Some farmer's resorted clean picking, only good bolls / locules were picked. Damaged bolls were left on plants.
- Farmers and district officials informed that after an initial incidence of PBW in July-August, during the months of September and October, there were no PBW months in traps. Farmers felt that the problem of PBW declined and hence did not spray. This resulted in fresh incidence of PBW.
- Farmers have piled uprooted cotton stalks containing PBW damaged bolls on field bunds. This can be a potential source for subsequent populations.



Cotton Pest Monitoring in North Maharashtra

The Cotton insect pest monitoring survey was also conducted by Mr. Prabhulinga T, Scientist, Mr. Sujit Kumbhare, Technical Assistant and Mr. Dharmendra, SRF of CICR, Nagpur, on 02/12/2015 to 5/12/2015 to know the status of pink bollworm on Bt (BG & BG-II) and non Bt cotton and the Helicoverpa on Cotton, Chick pea and Pigeon Pea in Nandurbar, Dhule, Aurangabad, Jalagoan, Jalna, Buldana and Akola districts of Maharashtra.



Meetings Attended

- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR visited to ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM), Raipur to attend the official work on 01st December, 2015.
- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR attended the Sounding Board Meeting of Maharashtra Cotton Water Platform on 3rd December, 2015 at Mumbai.
- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR attended the meeting on whitefly infestation in National Conference Panel discussion at New Delhi on 4-5 December, 2015.



Photo : M. Sabesh

MGMG Ganeshpur Cluster Scientists Discusses Farm Related Issues



Krishi mitras Sh.Awachat at Zadegaon village



Krishi mitras at Ganeshpur village



Sarpanch, Gram sevak, and progressive farmers at Digras

Under the aegis of 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' (MGMG) programme, a team of four scientists Drs. S. N. Rokade, P. Mohan, G. Balsubramani, J. H. Meshram visited adopted villages viz. Digras, Ganeshpur, Zadegaon, Belgaon, Borgaon (sawali) in Ganeshpur Cluster in Wardha district and had group discussion with the key informants and krishi mitras of the villages on problem faced by the farmers, socio economic condition, formulating future agro-technological know-how and action plan to upscale poor and marginal farmers in the villages. Farmers cultivate predominately Cotton, Soybean and Tur in Kharif season and wheat and gram crops in Rabi season. Among the four villages, the village Zadegaon has been rated as progressive in nature. Farming community in Ganeshpur, involved predominantly in livestock however, lacks modern veterinary facilities and knowledge on new agro-technologies. The villages had lack of infrastructure facilities like toilets and hospital. Wild pig destroys standing crop during.



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