

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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Farmers Training program under NFSM-IRM-HDPS organized

In Sirsa District, the IRM program is taken up in four villages in 1600 acres area whereas the HDPS demonstration program is conducted in 200 acres area. Under HDPS program, Desi cotton varieties developed from CICR Regional Station, Sirsa (CICR-1 & CICR-3) were demonstrated and maintained with 30,000 plants per acre as against normal planting of 20,000 plants per acre for higher productivity. One day farmer training camp was also organized on 1st August under Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) in High Density Planting System (HDPS) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) demonstrations. Around 80 NFSM-IRM-HDPS farmers from different villages of Sirsa district attended the programme. Dr D Monga Head of the station delivered a lecture on the importance of HDPS and diseases management in cotton, Dr R. A. Meena delivered a lecture on seed production in cotton and genotypic suitability under HDPS and Dr Rishi Kumar delivered a lecture on pest management in cotton. Dr S. L. Ahuja, also interacted with the farmers. The farmers were also shown the demonstration plot of HDPS sown at CICR, RS, Sirsa.



Visit to Demonstrations on NFSM-IRM-HDPS

Dr .D. Monga, CICR Regional Station, Sirsa and Dr. Rishi Kumar visited village Fatehpuria on 04.08.2015 to monitor the demonstrations plot sown under NFSM-IRM-HDPS. They also visited village Ghodawali and Fatehpuria on 3rd August, 2015. Around 15 acres demonstrations were visited and overall condition of demonstration plots was satisfactory. However at one location, incidence of *H. armigera* was noticed..





Assignment and Other activities

- Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) have been nominated by the Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore to act as the External Expert in the Selection Committee for the elevation of Scientist in the Faculty of Plant Breeding and Genetics from Stage 2-3 under Career Advancement Scheme. The selection committee meeting was held on August 04, 2015 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and eleven scientists were assessed and suitable recommendations were given.
- Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) have been nominated by the Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore to act as the Member of the Evaluation Committee to select the candidate for the best thesis awards to be given in the ensuing 36th convocation of the University. The evaluation of eight Ph. D. theses for the work on Rice was done on August 06, 2015 and suitable recommendations were given.
- Dr. M. Sabesh, Scientist, CICR, RS, Coimbatore attended first Nodal officers' workshop of KRISHI at NASC, New Delhi between 4th and 5th August 2015.

Newspaper clippings

Pest attack: Farmers tipped on pesticides

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SIRSA, AUGUST 1, 2015
Cotton production in the state can fall by 30 per cent this year due to an attack by whiteflies.

Whitefly is a pest that harms cotton crop in two ways – rendering plants weaker by sucking sap from its leaves and acting as carrier for Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCuV), another organism that causes damages the crop.

Babu Lal, Deputy Director, Agriculture, said a campaign has been launched in the district to educate farmers on its management. Cotton has been sown in 5.80 lakh hectares out of which 1.90 lakh hectares are in Sirsa.

Talking to the media, Lal said the farmers as well schoolchildren were being educated about the manner in which whiteflies attacked cotton crops, the damage they could cause and the ways to manage the crops affected by their attack.

"This is a milky white coloured pest that multiplies very rapidly and can lower the cotton productivity by 30 per cent by sucking and causing CLCuV and other diseases to the crop," he said.

Pesticide made from neem could be used but he warned against the use of synthetic pyrethroid pesticides.

Dr Dalip Monga, Head, Central Institute of Cotton and Research (CICR), said it was too early to quantify the loss in productivity at this stage. "There are two months to go before the crop starts maturing and there is enough time to manage the damage," he maintained.

He urged the farmers to refrain from spraying a cocktail of several pesticides as this had a negative impact on the crop.

A cotton leaf shows attack of whiteflies on its underside.

How it causes damage

Whitefly is a pest that harms cotton crop in two ways – rendering plants weaker by sucking sap from its leaves and acting as carrier for Cotton Leaf Curl Virus, another organism that causes damages the crop.



Produced and Published by: Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur
 Chief Editor : Dr. S. M. Wasnik
 Editors : Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare,
 Dr. J. Amutha, Dr. M. Saravanan
 Digital Editor & Media Support : Mr. M. Sabesh

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 ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research
 Post Bag No. 2, Shankar Nagar PO, Nagpur 440010
 Phone : 07103-275536 Fax : 07103-275529;
 email: cicrnagpur@gmail.com