

COTTON *Innovate*



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Review meeting on desi cotton (*G. arboreum*) variety Phule Dhanwantary held at ICAR-CICR

A meeting to review the performance of desi cotton (*G. arboreum*) variety Phule Dhanwantary, being popularized under high density planting system, for promotion of surgical cotton in Vidarbha was held on 30th November 2015 at ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur. The meeting was jointly organized by CICR and Yuva Rural Association (YRA), Nagpur. Director, CICR, Head of Divisions and Scientists from CICR, Shri Datta Patil, Director General, YRA, Shailandra Bhisare, Manager, Vidarbha Agriculture Farmer Producer Company, Officials from seed industry, Neem Foundation, Nagpur and farmers who cultivated Phule Dhanwantry under technical support from CICR were present. Earlier, Shri Datta Patil, recalled the deliberations of the meeting held in April and May 2015 and the formation of Vidarbha Desi Cotton Growers Association. He explained the purpose of the meeting, get feedback from farmers, sharing experiences in cultivation of Phule Dhanwantary and plan a way forward, procure produce from farmers, process the same and upscale the programme for the next year. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR wished and realized his vision of chemical free cotton production through Phule Dhanwantary. He stressed the possibility of using the lint from Phule Dhanwantary (apart from surgical end use) to the production of antibacterial bed sheets, using nano-ZnO coating. He desired that the entire cotton value to be up-scaled into a mini-industry and transform this movement into a true 'Make in India' enterprise. The farmers narrated their experience of cultivating Phule Dhanwantary. The realized / expected yields across locations (Nagpur, Amravati, Wardha, Yavatmal, Akola, Buldhana) ranged from 5 to 18 q/acre. The farmers expect higher yields who cultivate cotton using organic inputs. They also narrated some novel intercropping systems and innovative crop management technologies adopted by them. All the farmers observed that the cost of production was low, however, their main apprehension was the sale of cotton in the market. Drs. Blaise Desouza and Anuradha Narala shared their observations on the performance of Phule Dhanwantary during the survey they made in Vidarbha region; also data collected on reasons for wide variation in yield were analyzed. It was noticed that most often farmers took up wider row spacing than desired. After a prolonged discussion, it was decided that Vidarbha Agriculture Farmer Producer Company will procure seed cotton from the farmers and provide the seeds to ICAR-CICR for seed processing and testing. VAPC and YRA will take up distribution of seeds to farmers during the next season. During the next season, a cluster village approach with at least 15-20 farmers in a village will be adopted to upscale the production of Phule Dhanwantary. Dr. (Mrs) Sandhya Kranthi, Head, Crop Protection Division proposed the vote of thanks at the end.



Meeting on Pink Bollworm Outbreak in Andhra Pradesh

The meeting was held on 13th December 2015 on Pink bollworm outbreak in Andhra Pradesh at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) under chairmanship of Hon. DG – ICAR. The meeting was also participated by DDG NRM; Director, NAARM; Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA); Director, NRI; Director Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad; VC, ANGRAU, Dr Padma Raju; VC VNMKV, Parbhani Dr B Venkateswarlu; Director, CICR Dr KR Kranthi; AICCIP, PC Dr AH Prakash; Special Chief Secretary of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh Mr Vijaya Kumar; Commissioner of Agriculture Government of Andhra Pradesh Mr Dhanjay Reddy; Dr V Chinna Babu Naik, Scientist Entomology, Division of Crop Protection CICR, Nagpur; few scientists from ICAR institutes and SAUs of ANGRAU and PJTSAU. Dr. KR Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur presented the current status of Pink bollworm in India and their management.

Visit of ICAC 74th Plenary Meeting delegates to CICR

Thirty eight dignitaries from 14 countries attending the ICAC 74th Plenary Meeting at Mumbai during 6th to 11th December, 2015, came on a technical tour to CICR, Nagpur on 12th December, 2015. They were shown field experiments on coloured cotton and HDPS. A demonstration of CICR-Cotton harvester was arranged for the benefit of dignitaries. Later in the day, under the chairmanship of Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur an interactive session was held with the CICR scientists about the work being carried out in the institute. Shortly afterwards, they were shown the Biotechnology laboratory and were explained about the research being carried out.



Meetings Attended

- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR attended 74th plenary meeting “From Farm to Fabric: The Many Faces of Cotton” organized by International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) from 7 to 11, December, 2015 and presented “Ecological Engineering for Effective Pest Management” under Sixth Open Session (Technical Seminar): “Elimination of Insecticides from Cotton production: Is this Possible?” on 9th December, 2015.
- Dr Rishi Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agril Entomology) attended a workshop on “Refuge strategies for biotech crops - Adoption, Challenges and Alternatives towards achieving technology sustenance on 7th Dec, 2015. He delivered a talk on “Discussion on Built in refuge strategy for BG-II cotton”.

Publications

- Nagrare V. S., Deshmukh Vrushali, Naikwadi Bhausahab, Bhojar Paresh and Khadakkur Suvarna: Spider diversity in transgenic and non-transgenic cotton in rainfed agro ecosystem of central India. Research Journal of Biotechnology Vol. 10 (12) December (2015): 76-84



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