

# COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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## Research Advisory Committee meeting held at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur

Research Advisory Committee meeting was held at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur from 16-17 October 2015. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR – CICR, Nagpur welcomed the chairman and members of RAC and briefed the house about emerging issues in cotton cultivation with special mention of whitefly menace in North India, Pink Bollworm resistance to Bollgard II in Gujarat and leaf reddening in central India. He also informed the RAC about salient research findings of the institute. Dr. M. V. Venugopalan, Head, PME presented the Action Taken Report (ATR). Dr. B. V. Patil, Chairman, RAC expressed satisfaction on ATR and appreciated the research efforts of the institute. He called for focusing the efforts on research in early maturity, jassid tolerance, compact plant architecture and mechanical picking. He recalled 2015 as ‘International Year of Soils’ and asked the CICR scientific fraternity to work on aspects of soil health, seed quality biofortification, conservation agriculture, climate change and whitefly management. Dr. A. K. Dhawan called for promotion of desi varieties which are resistant to whiteflies and superior G hirsutum varieties which are better than Bt hybrids in north India through SAUs and KVKs. He also stressed the importance of basic research on the aspects of sucking pest tolerance in cotton. Dr. T. Pradeep, Member, RAC appreciated the efforts of cotton breeders and suggested to consolidate the research gains with appropriate breeding strategies to develop an ideal plant type with reasonable tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.



Dr. Sunil Mukherjee stressed the need of utilizing the available cotton genome sequence information to achieve stress tolerance through biotechnological and molecular breeding approaches. He also suggested the Director to conduct a 'Brainstorming Session' to prepare the road map for future cotton biotechnology. Dr. A. J. Shaikh appreciated the efforts of CICR in identifying the varieties suitable for surgical purpose and also stressed the importance of lower trash content in mechanical picking and degossypolling in seed processing. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan suggested for out of box thinking to achieve the sustainable yields and to address the emerging challenges in cotton production. Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head, Division of Crop protection, Dr. D. Blaise, Head, Division of Crop Production, Dr. Suman Bala Singh, I/C Head, Division of Crop Improvement, Dr. Dilip Monga, Head, CICR RS, Sirsa, Dr. A. Gopala Krishnan, former ADG, Commercial Crops, RS, Coimbatore and Dr. S. B. Nandeshwar, CICR Head, Biotechnology Section, briefed the achievements of their respective Divisions/Stations. Recommendations were suggested by the Chairman and members of the RAC based on field Visits, lab Visits and the presentations made for the respective Divisions/ Regional Stations. RAC meeting concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head, Division of Crop Protection.



## World Cotton Situation

Again India maintains the leading cultivator of cotton in terms of acreage in 2015-16 with an area of 11.80 million hectares (USDA estimate as on 10th October 2015) and likely to produce 29 million bales (480 lb) of cotton with productivity of 535 kg/ha. The cotton production across the countries likely to decline this year compared to last year ranging from 1.69% (India) to 35.24% (Egypt), whereas the world production likely to decline to 9.70%. The main contributing countries for the reduction in world cotton production are China, US and Pakistan. There are mixed effect on the cotton production, in china the reduction in production due to acreage reduction, whereas reduction in productivity as well as marginal area reduction leads to cotton production decline in US and Pakistan. Although marginal reduction in area under cotton in India, with good productivity compared to last year expected to be the leading producer of cotton in the world in 2015-16 with production of 29 million bales.

Per cent change over last year

	Area	production	Productivity
India	-7.09	-1.69	5.73
China	-18.64	-15.67	3.84
US	-12.43	-18.26	-6.39
Pakistan	-3.39	-10.38	-7.16
Brazil	-8.82	-11.11	2.41
world	-7.69	-9.70	-2.09

Trial subsidy reforms introduced in China couple of years before have resulted large numbers of farmers cutting acreage in cotton in favour of high government guaranteed prices for corn (GAIN Report CH15014). Also 30% reduction in raw cotton import in China during this year. Pakistan's cotton production is forecast at 9.2 to 9.5 million 480 lb bales, down 10% from the previous estimate, and the lowest level since 2010. Insect damage and Cotton Leaf Curl Virus appear to be heavier than usual. Cotton imports in Pakistan are expected to more than double to 2.3 million bales to offset the reduced supply of domestic cotton (GAIN Report PK1544).

– M. Sabesh, Scientist, CICR, RS, Coimbatore

### 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 12th October, 2015.
- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR and Dr. Suman Bala Singh, I/C Head, Division of Crop Improvement attended meeting at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on status of whitefly infestation on cotton crop in Haryana & Punjab under the chairmanship of Hon'ble DG, ICAR, New Delhi on 13th October, 2015.
- Dr Dilip Monga, Head, CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa and Rishi Kumar, Principal Scientist (Entomology) attended a meeting called by Director General (ICAR) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 13th October, 2015. In the meeting discussions were held regarding the epidemic of whitefly in North India in cotton, its management strategies and its shift to the other preceding crops.



Photo:M. Sabesh



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