

# COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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## Review meeting on CICuD, PBM and HDPS held

Review meeting to finalize action plan for Cotton Leaf Curl Virus disease (CICuD), Pink bollworm management (PBM) and High density planting system (HDPS) was held under the chairmanship of Dr. J.S.Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) on Feb. 21, 2015. Dr. Sandhya Kranthi welcomed the dignitaries and introduced Dr. J.S.Sandhu to the audience. Dr. K.R.Kranthi, Director, CICR emphasized on importance of meeting as many issues related to Cotton Leaf Curl Virus disease, Pink bollworm management and High density planting system need to be resolved.

First session on cotton leaf curl disease was chaired by Dr. J.S.Sandhu, DDG (CS). In his introductory remarks DDG emphasized on need for sustainability and importance of seed quality. Dr. Prakash presented evaluation report of released and prerelease BT hybrids. Dr. Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar Principal Scientist was the rapporteur for first session.

DDG emphasized that number of entries should be restricted. There should be restriction on number of hybrids submitted by any seed company. He stressed that old hybrids should be withdrawn every year and Govt should be informed as and when seed companies bring new hybrids every 3 years.

DDG also pointed on need for DNA finger printing of Bt hybrids released by private sector so that old hybrids can not be recycled as new ones. Dr. Kranthi pointed out that timely sowing was key to pest and disease management

Second session on Pink Bollworm management was chaired by Dr. Raju Barwale, MD, Mahyco. Dr. K. S. Mohan, Consultant, Monsanto India presented talk on "Results of the 'Refuge-In-Bag' trials and Recommendations". To sustain the Bt technology planting of structured refuge is mandatory however, farmers are not adopting it. Thus problem of resistance is inevitable in due course of time. He told that Monsanto on its own and also in collaboration with CICR conducted field trials at various locations for the last three years. The findings of the trials indicated that with 5% refuge in bag (RIB) with isogenic line of counterpart hybrid there was no significant decrease in yield. However, he cautioned and stated that while implementing the RIB seed companies must undertake responsibility of educating farmers, spraying of insecticides and availability of counterpart Non Bt hybrid. He told that proposal in dossiers have been submitted to ICAR/ GEAC for approval and gazette notification on the implementation was awaited. Rapporteur for this session was Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare, Sr. Scientist.



Third session was on High Density Planting Systems and was chaired by DDG (CS) Dr J S Sandhu. Dr. Sandhu in his introductory remarks said that HDPS was tested on experimental fields as well as on farmer's participatory mode for the past three years by the Public Sector & Seed Industry and a lot of confidence has been developed. There were five presentations in this session.

The first presentation was made by Dr M V Venugopalan in which an insight of the research projects undertaken at CICR and the partners in AICCIP since 2010-11 till date was given. The second presentation by Dr Blaise Desouza, Head Crop Production Division was on the results of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM). An overview of the on-farm trials undertaken in Vidarbha and other regions in 2012-13 and 2014-5 were also presented. Dr Ramasami, MD Rasi Seed made a presentation of the HDPS trials for Bt hybrids in Maharashtra and South India. Dr Ritesh Mishra, Mahyco and Dr Ashwin Kashikar from Ankur Seeds Pvt Ltd orally briefed the house about the trials conducted by Mahyco and Ankur seeds. Dr Vipin Dagaonkar, Bayer India Ltd informed that response of PGR differs from genotype to genotype and ginning percent needs to be increased for higher productivity. The house was informed that in Brazil Ginning % was 46% which is 12% more than that of Indian cotton.

DDG surmised that the concept of HDPS was good as shown by experimental results carried out over the past five years and also extensive field trials conducted by CICR and seed companies in farmers fields over the past three years. He suggested a zone-wise analysis on the success or failure of HDPS trials. After the meeting there was interactive session in which DDG interacted with all the scientists of CICR, Nagpur.

### Meeting on Cotton Leaf Curl Virus Disease held

A special meeting was held at CICR, Nagpur on Feb. 18, 2015 to discuss parameters to finalize the entries and submit the AICCIP results of released and pre-released Bt cotton hybrids against CLCuD to the DDG (CS) for further consideration of tolerant and moderately tolerant hybrids for cultivation during 2015-16.

The meeting was chaired by Dr C.D. Mayee, Former ASRB chairman. Dr K.R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur Dr A.H. Prakash (Project Coordinator), Dr D. Monga (Head, CICR RS Sirsa), all the HODs of CICR and around 8 representatives from NSAI attended the meeting. Dr Kranthi apprised that the monitoring team visited all the five evaluating centres during 8-12th September, 2014 and was satisfied with the conduct of the experiments. He commended the centres for the excellent conduct of the trials especially in recording the whitefly incidences and progression of the CLCuD disease, which appeared to be tedious in view of the 150 entries sown at two separate dates.

Dr Mayee, chairman during his introductory remark also expressed satisfaction in the implementation of the CLCuD trials. He expressed that such a huge number of entries were difficult to handle especially during interpreting of the results. The chairman requested Director, CICR to present the raw data and methods of analysis of the coded entries. Dr Kranthi presented the data as well as protocol followed for screening. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Dr A. H. Prakash (PC).

### IRM- HDPS meeting held

IRM-HDPS meeting was held on Feb. 19, 2015 at CICR, Nagpur. The work carried out during the year under HDPS programme was discussed in detail especially for North India, Central India and South India. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Senior Scientist, CICR RS Sirsa and Dr. Dharajothi, Principal Scientist, CICR RS Coimbatore presented reports for North India and South India respectively. Project collaborators expressed concern on the timely availability of seed in the coming season. Farmers have been advised to retain seed for sowing. Farmers are getting enthused by this technology as this is low input remunerative one. Director apprised the house about the seed production for HDPS at various SAUs.

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