

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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Republic Day Celebrations at CICR

'The 66th Republic day of India was celebrated at CICR, Nagpur and its regional stations at Sirsa and Coimbatore on 26th January 2015. The National flag was unfurled by Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR. In his Republic day talk he opined that the Nation's progress essentially depends on the working force and to increase the contribution of Agriculture to GDP is the responsibility of Agricultural Scientists. He suggested the Staff of CICR to draw inspiration from ISRO scientists to provide a breakthrough technology by having a 'Mission on Agriculture' that can bring about a positive change in Indian Cotton Scenario. Even as he appreciated the good work being carried out in all the three centres of CICR he said that CICR should strive hard to achieve its goals. "As an Institution our contribution is extremely important for the country" he said. He congratulated all the staff of CICR who got promoted to higher posts and who are recruited recently. Games were conducted for the staff by Dr. G. Balasubramani. All the Staff members took part in the celebrations. At regional station Sirsa Dr. D. Monga hoisted the National Flag. CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore also celebrated 66th Republic day with fervor. Dr. A.H. Prakash, PC & Head hoisted the National Flag and addressed staff. He also distributed prizes to the Staff for the competitions held as a part of Pongal Celebrations.



Scientific Talk



Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) delivered a talk on “National Commission on Farmers – Reference and recommendations” on January 31, 2015. Production and productivity of many crops have been stagnant in recent past, resulting in low agricultural growth rate and agrarian crisis which warranted for formation of national commission on farmers. The commission was chaired by eminent scientist, visionary and father of green revolution, Professor Dr M.S. Swaminathan. The commission focused more on the economic well-being of the women and men feeding the nation. The ten major goals of the commission includes to improve farmer’s “minimum net income”, gender dimension in all farm policies, land reforms, social security system for farmers, protection of land, water, biodiversity and climate resources, community-centred food, water and energy security systems, attracting and retaining of youth for farming, strengthening of the bio-security of crops, farm animals, fish and forest trees, restructuring of agricultural curriculum and make India as a global outsourcing hub in the production and supply of the inputs .

The major recommendation on land assets included reformation of tenancy laws, land leasing, and distribution of ceiling surplus land and wasteland, issuing of Joint Pattas to women in houses and agricultural land, conservation of prime farmland for agriculture and providing of land to landless. The commission recommendation and policy measures on water management emphasized on rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge, bringing 10 million hectares of new area under irrigation, 10% increase of water use efficiency , renovation of existing water bodies, adopting of improved irrigation practices, water literacy movement , conjunctive use of water, cultivation of high value – low water requiring crops, and pani panchayat. Importance for crop-livestock integrated farming, establishing of livestock feed and fodder corporations at the State level for ensuring availability of quality fodder and feed, formation of National Livestock Development Council to address all aspects of livestock sector, establishing of Poultry-Quarantine and testing facilities at all ports are envisaged in animal sector. Emphasis on Aquarian Reforms in order to provide landless labour families access to village ponds and other water bodies, establishment - National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and Fish for All Training and Capacity Building Centres” for training to fisher families were major proposal in fisheries sector.

Documentation of Traditional Knowledge (TK), supporting of families involving in situ on-farm conservation, participatory breeding programme, establishing of genome clubs, herbal biovalleys, rewards and incentives to motivate people to conserve their breeds and document the indigenous knowledge of pastoral communities are emphasized. Major reforms in Credit and Insurance sectors include reaching of credit system to needy, reduction of interest rate on crop loan to 4 per cent, waiver of interest in distress hotspots and during calamities, establishing an Agriculture Risk Fund, issuing of Kisan Credit Cards to women farmers, adopting an integrated credit-cum-crop-livestock human health insurance package and expand crop insurance cover to all crops.. Establishing of farm schools and comprehensive National Social Security Scheme was also proposed by the



commission. The reform projected in marketing sectors includes 50 % more MSP, equalizing MSP with rising input costs. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Community Food grain Banks and selling nutritious millets through PDS. Creation of Venture Capital Fund for setting up agri-clinics and issuing of low interest loans for production-cum-processing were suggested to attract youth towards agriculture. Establishment of Price Stabilization Fund to protect farmers during periods of violent fluctuations in prices, enacting of Food Guarantee Act and establishing of State Farmers' Commission were other important proposal of the commission.

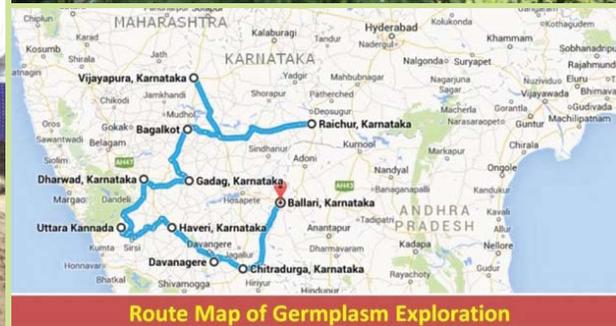
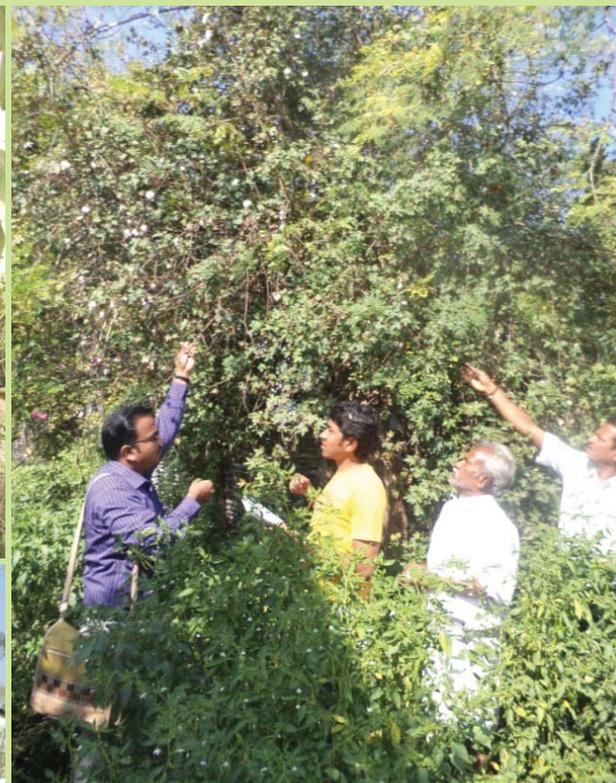
Students visit to CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore

On January 29, 2015, ten M. Tech students from Department of Textile Technology, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore visited the CICR RS, Coimbatore. On January 31, 2015, twelve students of M.Sc (Zoology) from Government Victoria College, Palakkad visited CICR, Coimbatore. Dr (Mrs) S. Usha Rani, Senior Scientist explained the various varieties/hybrids released, yield enhancing technologies and protection measures developed from the institute to the students. Students also visited the demonstration plots of CICR technologies. Dr (Mrs) B. Dharajothi, Principal Scientist addressed the Zoology students about the insect pests in cotton and their control measures.



GERMPLASM EXPLORATION

An extensive germplasm exploration was conducted in ten districts of north Karnataka viz., Raichur, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gadag, Dharwad, Uttarakannada, Haveri, Davangere, Chitradurga and Ballari as a part of the project 'Exploration, collection and conservation of perennials and land races of desi cotton from different regions of India' by Dr. M. Saravanan and Dr. H. B. Santosh during 21st to 27th January 2015 with an objective to collect perennials and land races of cotton. During this exploration, a total of sixteen perennials of cotton, ten belonging to *G arboreum* and six belonging to *G barbadense* were collected from different locations of the north Karnataka. These collections will be evaluated and distinct ones will be established in 'Perennial Garden', utilized in cotton improvement programmes and conserved in germplasm bank for future use.



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