

COTTON *Innovate*



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Scientific Talk

Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) delivered a talk on "Regulation of GMOs in India" on June 26, 2015. During his presentation, the knowledge gained during the two day training workshop on Monitoring Confined Field Trials for Regulatory Compliance imparted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under UNEF-GEF supported "Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety" was discussed. The presentation included topics



on concept of Contained and Confined Field trials conducted with the Regulated Genetically Engineered plants in India, the guidelines and conditions for conducting such field trials, various Regulatory Authorities in India for regulation and monitoring of Genetically Engineered plants, the application procedures for undertaking field trials of Genetically Engineered plants, Standard Operating Procedures for Storage, Transport, Management of Field trials, Record keeping, Termination of Field trials, Destruction of Regulated Transgenic plants, Post-Harvest management of confined field trials etc. Apart from these, the terms of references for the Monitoring teams, Procedures for monitoring regulated trials, completing the monitoring reports etc were also discussed in detail. Further, the steps to be taken to mitigate the accidental release of regulated Genetically Engineered Plants into the environment in consultation with the regulatory authorities were also discussed.

Transfer/Joining

Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (Commerical Crops), ICAR joined CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore as Principal Scientist on June 22, 2015 on request transfer. He was welcomed by the Scientists of CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore.



Scientists of ICAR-CICR, Coimbatore Participates in Training Programme under ATMA



The scientists of ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore participated in the training programme on "Current challenges faced by cotton farmers and IPM" and delivered lectures on June 24, 2016 to 40 cotton farmers of Anthiyur, Erode district, Tamil Nadu under ATMA / SSEPERS Scheme. Dr. S. Manickam, Principal scientist delivered lecture on improved cotton varieties suitable for the area. He urged the farmers to go for High Density Planting System with conventional varieties like Suraj and Anjali which will give higher yield as compared to the Bt cotton hybrids

being grown in the area. Further, being a stem weevil prone area, he emphasized that cultivating cotton under HDPS can help the farmers to maintain better plant population thereby higher seed cotton yield can be achieved. He also advocated the farmers to go in for desi cotton under rainfed condition which are tolerant to both biotic and abiotic stresses as there is increased demand for such cotton by various end uses.

Dr. Sankaranarayanan discussed various agronomic techniques for yield enhancement in cotton. He advised the farmers to apply the need based fertilizers, integrated weed management using suitable herbicides, intercropping / multi-tier cropping, water management and other simple technologies to reduce the cost of cultivation. He also explained about various farm implements that can be used under the labour scarcity environment.

Dr. Dharajothi while addressing the farmers emphasized the importance of IPM technologies to reduce the insecticide sprays. She gave cost effective useful tips like growing castor to mitigate the *Spodoptera* problem, growing cowpea as inter crop to build the natural enemies for sucking pests, rotation of insecticides, pest monitoring and other IPM technologies. For managing stem weevil, she advised the farmers to immediately destroy the cotton stocks by burning to reduce the buildup of adult beetles. She advised the farmers to avoid ratooning practices. She explained the farmers' importance of natural enemies in managing insect pests. During discussion the farmers were enthusiastic and were interested in undertaking demonstrations like HDPS, IRM and farm mechanization. They also thanked the scientists for giving various useful tips in cotton cultivation.

Meetings

- Dr. Sandhya Kranthi Head Crop Protection, CICR, Nagpur attended the IMC meeting on 23rd June 2015, held at CCRI, Nagpur
- Dr A.H. Prakash, attended the 72nd meeting of the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of varieties for Agricultural crops chaired by Hon'ble DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi on 25th June, 2015. During the meet the CICR varieties CICR-NA 1003 and CCH-2623 was accepted for notification.

Farewell

Miss. Uma Vaidyanathan, Private Secretary, Shri. H.P. Ingle, Assistant Administrative Officer, Shri A. J. Thakur, Skilled Support Staff and Shri V.L. Rakhade, Skilled Support Staff were accorded warm farewell on June 29, 2015 on behalf of Staff Welfare Club. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR, felicitated all the four on the occasion. All the Scientists, administrative, technical, supporting and other staff were present on the occasion.



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Chief Editor :
Editors :
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Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur
Dr. S. M. Wasnik
Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, Dr. Vishlesh Nagrare, Dr. J. Amutha, Dr. M. Saravanan
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