



Menace of cotton volunteer plant and its control

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Volunteer cotton plants are plants that have germinated, emerged and established unintentionally from previous crops which includes regrowth or 'ratoon' cotton also. Pulling and collection of cotton stalks is labour intensive in recent years ;forced the farmers to go for disking and insitu incorporation of cotton stalks as residue management strategy commonly followed thus favored for volunteer plants in recent years. Controlling of volunteer by cultivation of rotational crops is not happened in monocropped cotton areas which occupies sizeable area of cotton cultivation in the country. The control of unwanted cotton in the farming system is an important component of management. They create problems of competition with main cotton crop, resistance management of Bt cotton, and act as host plants for pests and disease. Rainfall or pre-irrigation is required to germinate these volunteer plants prior to planting for effective management. Use of glyphosate is economical and better option for control of volunteers in offseason. Once RR Flex introduced, prescribed rate of glyphosate cannot control volunteer. A range of herbicides, which are non-selective to cotton, may be used for control and these herbicides are generally costly and most effective on small seedlings. Ratoon cotton needs to be controlled with mechanical methods, as no herbicides are effective for these plants. Mechanical tillage is an effective and efficient method of controlling all types of volunteer cotton including ratoon but is costly solution. CICR, Coimbatore had adopted volunteer management strategy of, off season growing of sun hemp/daincha in major areas of farm by using summer rain and incorporation of the same along with volunteers for the purpose of fertility improvement and volunteer control.

Training Program for Tribal Cotton growers

The second training program on “Integrated Crop Management Practices in Cotton” for Tribal Cotton growers was conducted at Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore under All India Coordinated Research Project on Cotton – Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) during 18.01.2016 & 19.01.2016. Twelve tribal cotton growers from Kalvarayan hills, Salem District of Tamil Nadu have participated in the training program. A total of ten lectures of scientists and field visits were included in the programme. The program was inaugurated by Dr. S.E.S.A. Khadar, Principal Scientist and Project Coordinator and Head i/c on 18.1.2016. In his inaugural address, he elaborated the scenario of cotton and explained about Pruning techniques in Cotton and CICR- Nutrients consortia in detail. The trainees were also exposed to various cotton improvement, production and protection technologies by the Scientists of ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore.

The training program was ended on 19.1.2016. Training kits and participation certificates was distributed to all trainees on the occasion.

Topics

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| Dr. S.E.S.A. Khader, Principal Scientist | Pruning Techniques in Cotton and CICR Consortia |
| Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist | Bt Cotton |
| Dr. K. Rathinavel, Principal Scientist | DUS and PPVFRA |
| Dr. A. Manivannan, Scientist | Cotton varieties and hybrids |
| Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Principal Scientist | High Density Planting System (HDPS) in Cotton |
| Dr. S. Usha Rani, Senior Scientist | TOT approaches in Cotton |
| Dr. J. Gulsar Banu, Principal Scientist | Management of Nematodes in Cotton |
| Dr. M. Sabesh, Scientist | Cotton Portal: Information for Farmers |
| Dr. M. Amutha, Scientist | Integrated Pest Management in cotton |
| Dr. D. Kanjana, Scientist | Preparation of Compost for Sustainable Soil Management in Cotton |

Meetings attended

Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur participated in the Directors conference on 23-24th January, 2016 at AP Shinde Symposium Hall, NASC, Pusa Campus, New Delhi and also participated in the interactive session on 23rd January, 2016.

Talk delivered

Dr Vishlesh Nagrare Sr Scientist delivered talk on 20th January 2016 on “Pest monitoring and ecosystem management in vegetables” in “One month Season Long Training Program on Vegetables” at Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Civil lines Nagpur.



AICRP on Cotton

Annual Meeting

**April 7-9, 2016
At NAU, Surat**

