

COTTON Innovate



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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A weekly newsletter from ICAR-CICR

Krishi Unnati Mela 2016

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India jointly with Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi organized “Krishi Unnati Mela 2016”, a National Agricultural Fair-cum exhibition from 19th – 21st March, 2016 at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime minister of India inaugurated the Exhibition on 19th March 2016. The exhibition was focused mainly to showcase on agriculture advancements, hi-tech technologies, farm mechanization, fertigation and farm technologies, popular technologies etc. Successful technologies were selected by DG, ICAR to demonstrate at ICAR stall; accordingly Bt detection kits were one of the technologies got selected and exhibited to the public. More than one lakh farmers from different parts of the country visited the stall and interacted. Dr. G. Balasubramani and Dr Rishi Kumar participated in the Mela and explained the Bt-cotton seed purity detection kits (Bt express and Bt Quant) to the farmers.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India visits exhibitions



Display of CICR Technologies

Training Programme

The Department of Biotechnology and Biochemistry, Kamala Nehru Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur has organized one week workshop in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur on “Basic Techniques in Plant Biotechnology and Phytochemistry”. Resource persons from CICR who delivered lectures and practical demonstrations were Dr. S.B. Nandeshwar, Principal Scientist & Head (Biotechnology section), Dr. G. Balasubramani, Principal Scientist (Biotechnology), Dr. K.P. Raghavendra, Scientist (Biotechnology) and Dr. Manikandan, Scientist (Soil Science). Dr. S.B. Nandeshwar co-ordinated the training programme from CICR.





Meetings attended/ Participated

- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR participated in the Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Cotton for the year 2015-16 held from 07-09th April, 2016 at Navsari Agricultural University, Surat, Gujarat.
- Dr D.Monga, Dr O.P.Tuteja, Dr S.K.verma and Dr Rishi Kumar attended the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cotton (AICRP on Cotton) annual group meeting at Surat from 7-9 April, 2016. During the group meeting results of 2015-16 were discussed and technical program for 2016-17 was formulated. Dr Rishi Kumar acted as rapporteur of the entomological session and delivered a lecture on historical perspective of whitefly. Dr Monga , PI Plant Pathology presented the results of the 2015-16 trials and also participated in the panel discussion for issues related to cotton production. He also acted as convener during formulation of technical program of plant pathology panel under the chairmanship of Dr Sabalpara, Director Research and Dean PGS of NAU, Navsari, Gujrat.
- Dr. Blaise Desouza, Head, Crop Production, CICR, Nagpur attended the AICCIP Meeting held at Surat from 7-9 April 2016 and Co-chaired the session on Agronomy Panel.
- Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR participated in the meeting with scientists of cotton seed companies on 25th April, 2016 at 10.30 am in the meeting Hall of Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation (APSSDC), HACA Bhavan, Hyderabad regarding “ the control of pink bollworm and preparation of comprehensive package of practices in cotton” .
- Dr. Rishi Kumar (Principal Scientist, Entomology) attended one day farmer fair on *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* at KVK CCS HAU Sirsa on dated 19-04-2016 and delivered lecture on Practices for Desi cotton cultivation and Whitefly Management in hirsutum Cotton. Sh. Charanjeet Singh Rori, The Honorable, Member of Parliament, Sirsa was the Chief guest of the function and 1000 farmers and representative of various line departments attended it .



Whitefly Management - Advisory with specific reference to North India

DO _s	DON'T _s
<p>FOUR MAIN STEPS TO FOLLOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TIMELY SOWING ➤ CHOOSE 'CLCuD-TOLERANT BT-HYBRIDS' OR <i>DESI</i> VARIETIES ➤ JUDICIOUS USE OF UREA & RECOMMENDED P&K ➤ FOLLOW IPM/IRM 	<p>FOUR MAIN STEPS TO AVOID</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AVOID LATE SOWING 2. AVOID Bt-HYBRIDS THAT ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CLCuD 3. AVOID EXCESSIVE UREA 4. AVOID INDISCRIMINATE USE INSECTICIDES especially synthetic pyrethroids, acephate and all kinds of insecticide mixtures during the initial phase of whitefly infestation. These insecticides are known to aggravate resurgence of whiteflies when used indiscriminately.

For more Information: http://www.cicr.org.in/pdf/WA/management_2016/english.pdf

Not worried if Monsanto quits India: CICR

Shshir.Arya@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: With American seed giant Monsanto threatening to quit Indian market, city-based Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) has told the agriculture ministry that there were enough Desi alternatives that could replace Monsanto's genetically modified Bt Cotton. The agency said it had also separately developed 21 varieties using Bt gene. Among these, the best are planned to be made available by 2018 for ₹150/kg.

Four days ago, Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh held a meeting to discuss the scenario if Monsanto quit. The meeting also had representatives from the Bt cotton industry apart from CICR scientists.

CICR told the ministry that the desi variety, *Gossypium arboreum*, originated from India and was being grown since thousands of years. It was tolerant to water logging, pests, highly suitable for non-irrigated areas, and ideal to combat effects of climate change. It also had lower cost of production, needed less fertilizer and was suitable for organic farming having a better ginning ratio compared American hybrids, CICR said.

After the BJP came to power, the RSS and its allied organizations like the Swadeshi Jagraan Manch have been strongly lobbying against genetically modified crops. Last year, field trials for genetically modified varieties of chickpea, maize, rice and cotton were put on hold by the state government following questions raised by these organisations which had to be satisfied first. The researchers have already allayed their fears. Other farm activists have also been blaming Bt for farmers' suicides.

CICR suggested that a separate minimum support price (MSP) should be fixed for the desi cotton. The rate had to be more than that available for the same staple length of

IN A NUTSHELL



► Multinational seed maker Monsanto has threatened to quit India if government slashed its royalty

► Launched in 2002, Monsanto's Bt seeds now rule the cotton cultivation scene

► Activists blame it for increasing cost of production leading to farmers' suicides

► CICR says there are enough indigenous varieties available if Monsanto quit

► It has given govt a list of 12 varieties to agriculture ministry with plans to start trials soon

► CICR says Indian varieties have longer staple length and are better suited to Indian conditions

American variety The Cotton Corporation of India should have a special procurement scheme apart from starting a drive on Make in India.

The agency submitted a list of 12 purely Indian varieties of non-Bt cotton varieties at the meeting. "A field test of the varieties will be held in 21 locations throughout the country. This is being done to ascertain which region a specific variety will be best suited to," said Dr Keshav Kranthi, director of CICR.

The indigenous varieties mooted by CICR were developed during the last 10 years. Around eight varieties with 27 to 30cm staple length were developed in the last decade and those of 30-32cm were developed recently.

Recently, the government recommended a cut in the royalty charged by Monsanto that led to the multinational threatening to withdraw from Indian market.

2016

Cotton productivity set to increase with new varieties

SUSHIL MANAY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 16

To increase productivity, Sirsa-based regional station of the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) is developing new varieties of cotton suitable for high-density plantation of the crop.

One of the varieties of American cotton — CSH 3075 — is already under consideration of the Varietal Identification Committee (VIC) of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Its approval is expected soon.

Dilip Monga, Director, CICR, Sirsa, whose team has developed these varieties, said once approved, it would help increase productivity of cotton. "India has the largest area under cotton in the world. In pro-

duction too, India is second only to China. However, when it comes to productivity (production per hectare), India is placed at 33rd position in the world with an average yield of 500 kg lint cotton per hectare," said Monga.

He said the world average of productivity is 750 kg lint per hectare. Countries such as Brazil, China and the US have a productivity of as high as 1,000 to 2,000 kg lint per hectare. Pakistan has a productivity of more than 700 kg lint per hectare.

Monga said high-density plantation of cotton had helped these countries improve their yield.

Like the past three years, the CICR will set up demonstration plants of high-density plantation of cotton this year. "The commercial plantation will

begin, probably from the next season, once the VIC of the ICAR gives its nod to the varieties developed by the CICR," said Monga.

The concept of high-density plantation aims at distancing the plants to 67.5 cm row by row and 10 cm plant to plant instead of traditional 67.5 cm row by row and 60 cm plant to plant.

In the current 67.5 cm X 60 cm system, the number of plants is 24,691 in one hectare. By close spacing it to 67.5 cm X 10 cm system, the number of plants increases to 1,48,148 in one hectare.

Monga said that the CICR will set up 120 demonstration plots of one acre each this year. While 100 of these plots will have desi cotton, on the rest of 20 plots, varieties of American cotton will be sown.



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