



International Yoga Day Celebrated

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur celebrated 'International Yoga Day' on 21st June, 2016 at community hall, ICAR residential complex (Krishi Kunj), Bajaj nagar, Nagpur. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR chaired the session. Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head of Department (Crop Protection) welcomed yoga experts, all the staff of CICR and family members of the staff. Dr. K.R. Kranthi mentioned the importance of yoga and asked all staff to continue to practice every day. Dr. Vithalrao Jibhakate, Yogacharya and Mrs. Meenatai Deshmukh demonstrated and conducted various yoga asanas. Mr. Sachin Agnihotri, Senior Administrative Officer proposed vote of thanks. Mr. M. V. Dhande and Mr. Rajnikant Chaturvedi coordinated the programme.



CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated at ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore on 21st June 2016. All the Scientists, Technical, Administrative and Skilled supporting staff, Temporary Status Laborers (TSLs), Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) and Skilled Workers of CICR Regional Station and Staff of CIRCOT Regional Unit, Coimbatore enthusiastically participated in the International Day of Yoga celebration. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, PC & Head i/c, presided over the function and emphasized the importance of yoga which embodies unity of mind and body and its overall health benefits. The Chief Guest, Shri. R. Parameswaran, Senior Yoga Teacher, Coimbatore told that the Yoga is a 5,000-year-old proven method for experiencing greater health, well-being and peace of mind. He explained the eight limbs of yoga viz., Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi. He elaborated various asana and pranayama in yoga and its benefits through a presentation cum demonstration session for the benefit of the audience. He also conducted a training session on Chair Yoga for the benefit of staff members which involved various physical and breathing exercises at sitting posture. He suggested that the staff members can practice the same for about five minutes during free time to get rejuvenated. He also answered to the queries raised by the staff members during the interaction session. Dr. R. Raja, Senior Scientist welcomed the gathering and Smt. K. Subashree, Technical Officer proposed formal vote of thanks.



CICR Regional station Sirsa

International yoga day celebrations were also organised at the regional station, Sirsa on 21st June, 2016. Shri Suresh Tayal, Yoga expert carried out a yoga session of two hours and demonstrated PRANAYAM, YOG ASANAS AND ACCUPRESSURE techniques to the participants. All the staff members including TSL and contractual staff participated in the event. On this occasion he also talked about the importance of yoga in uniting the body, mind and soul and also elaborated on the cure of various diseases.



Report on the occurrence of cotton leaf curl virus disease in south zone

During the visit of monitoring team on AICRP on Cotton to Department of Cotton, TNAU, Coimbatore during November 2015, it was observed that in the National trial Br12a, the entry 755 was suspected to be affected by cotton leaf curl virus disease. Preliminary diagnosis for begomovirus was done by subjecting the genomic DNA to PCR using universal primers (Rojas et al., 1993) which detect begomoviruses (PCR product amplified at 1.4kb). The entry 755 was G barbadense variety Suvin after decoding. Systematic survey in farmer fields will be planned during 2016 season to record if any incidence of Cotton leaf curl virus disease is present in farmer fields.



Vein thickening symptoms



Leafy enation on underside of leaf



Monitoring for whiteflies in North India

Mr. Prabhulinga and Dr. V. Chinna Babu Naik surveyed whitefly and their natural enemies in 7 districts (Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hissar, Hanumangadh, Sriganaganagar, Bhatinda and Fazilka) of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan from 15.06.2016 to 18.06.2016. The population of whitefly in all the districts surveyed was in below the ETL level and farmers were advised to take neem spray if the population approached ETL.



Fertilizer kit provided to Girad Cluster Tribal farmers under MGMG

ICAR-CICR, Nagpur scientists Dr. Nandini Gokte Narkhedkar, (Plant Nematologist) and Dr. Shailesh Gawande (Plant Pathology) visited five adopted villages viz., Arvi, Mohgaon, Faridpur, Shivanphal and Jovingumpha in Girad cluster of Wardha district on June 20, 2016 under “Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” programme. Forty Tribal farmers from these villages have taken up demonstration trials under Tribal Sub Plan programme. Each tribal farmer participating in the programme was given fertilizer kits containing 2 bags (100kg) Single super phosphate, 5 Kg Zinc Sulphate and 1 Kg Boron for application at sowing time as localized placement near the seed. The team interacted with the farmers in all the five villages and provided the technical knowhow for sustainable cotton cultivation. The team also collected 14 soil samples from farmers participating in the programme for analysis of soil for micronutrients. Farmers were also informed about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, printed pamphlets on the occasion were also given to them. Delay in monsoon was a major worry for farmers as sowing of cotton were getting affected.



Meeting Attended

Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR Participated and addressed in the session "Agriculture and Climate Change" in the National Convention of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on 12 June, 2016 at People's University, Bhopal.

Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Head Crop Protection, presented a project on Development of IPM strategies to combat whitefly menace in cotton under the NICRA (National Innovation in Climate resilient agriculture) 11th Meeting of Expert Committee (Sponsored/Competitive Grants) at NAAS Complex New Delhi on 13th June 2016.

Other Activities

Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) was nominated by the Director, ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore as external member of the selection committee for the selection of one Project Fellow under the project entitled "Isolation and characterization of low temperature tolerance responsive genes from high cold tolerant *Saccharum spontaneum* IND00-1061 Arunachal Pradesh Collection". The selection committee meeting was held on 22/06/2016.



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