

COTTON Innovate



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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A weekly newsletter from ICAR-CICR

In Country Training Program at Zaria, Nigeria under Cotton TAP

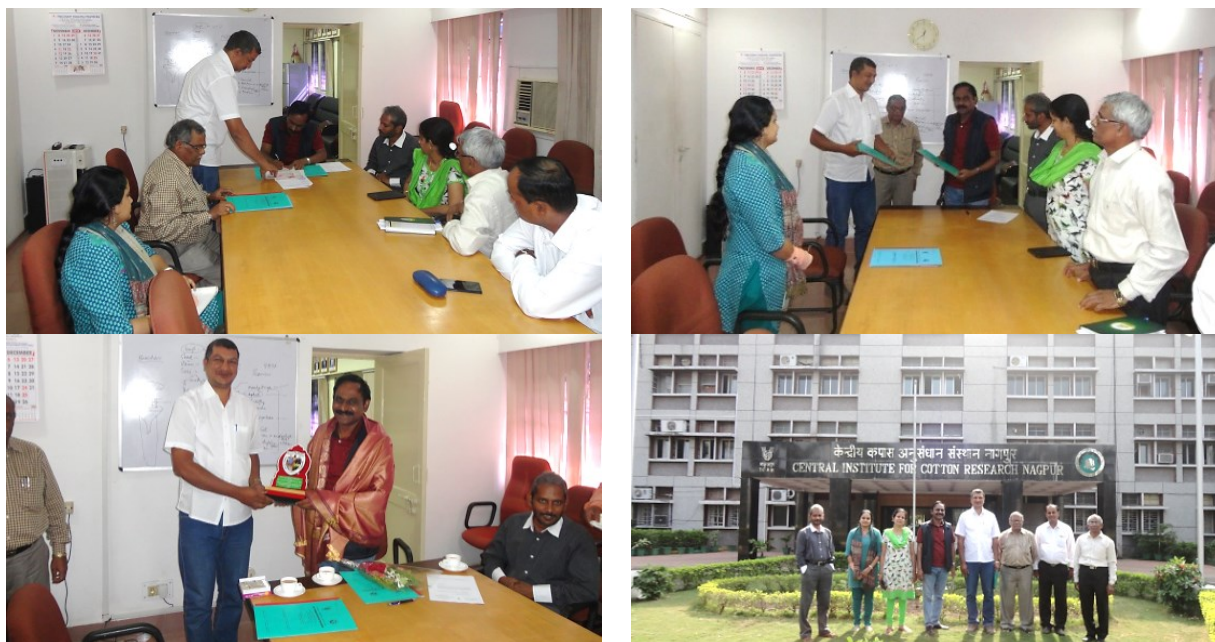
A two days training program on In-Country Modern Cotton Production Technology was organised at Institute of Agricultural Research, Zaria, Nigeria on 29th February and 1st March by Dr D. Monga, Head CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa and Dr Blaise Desouza, Head, Division of Crop Production, CICR Nagpur. The program was conducted under Government of India Cotton Technical Assistance Program for African countries. Scientific lectures on recent topics of Crop improvement, Crop production and Crop protection and futuristic technologies were covered during the training in four sessions. The master trainers who were imparted training at CICR Nagpur shared their experiences of cotton development programs in Nigeria. The recent status of cotton production in the country was also presented by Nigerian experts. The program was coordinated by IL & FS Cluster Development Initiatives.



In country training program at Zaria Nigeria

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Educational Institutions

ICAR- Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has signed MOU with Department of Botany and Biotechnology, Telangana University, Nizamabad on 5th December, 2015 at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.



MOU Meeting at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur

Meetings Attended

Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR attended meeting on “Cotton Technical Assistance Programme” under the chairmanship of joint secretary (FT Africa) on 1st march, 2016 at New Delhi.

Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR attended the interactive meeting on “management of whitefly in cotton” at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) complex, New Delhi on 2nd March, 2016

Dr. Rishi Kumar, Principal Scientist (Entomology) delivered a special lecture on whitefly management strategies in cotton and interacted with the farmers in a District Level Farmers Fair held on 20th February 2016 at KVK Sangaria Rajasthan. About 5000 farmers participated in this fair.

Dr Rishi Kumar attended an “Interactive Meeting on Management of Whitefly in Cotton” on 2nd March, 2016 at NASC complex. The meeting was organized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi & Crop Life India, New Delhi.

Dr VS Nagrare participated in the National Conference on Innovation in Agribusiness 26th to 27th February 2016, Dr Ambedkar College, Nagpur and presented paper on ‘New Vistas in Crop Pest Management with ICT tools in India’ authored by VS Nagrare, Sandhya Kranthi, Bhausaheb Naikwadi, Dharmendra Sinh.

Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, IMC Member of NCIPM New Delhi participated in the IMC meeting at NCIPM on -18th Feb 2016.

Dr. S.M. Wasnik Principal Scientist Extension participated in National Conference on Innovations in Agri-Biosciences (NCIABS-2016) held during 26th to 27th February 2016 at Dr Ambedkar College, Deeksha Bhumi Nagpur.

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Nothing to lose if Monsanto withdraws, claims CICR

Indian Firms To Gain, Other Cos Ready With New Varieties

Snehalata Shrivastava
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Nagpur: Monsanto is threatening to leave India after being issued a show cause notice on March 5 by the government of India, asking why its patent on Bollgard-II should not be revoked due to failure of its technology in protecting cotton against pink bollworm. However, several experts claim that India stands to lose nothing by the company's departure.

Monsanto obtained a patent on Bollgard-II, claiming that the two-gene technology would control the three cotton bollworms, pink, American and spotted, but city-based Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) recently found that Bollgard-II had become less effective.

CICR director Keshav Kranthi said the institute had been monitoring the bollworm attack over several years across the country and the damage by pink bollworm has been severe this year in Gujarat, Karnataka, AP and parts of Maharashtra.

Kranthi confirmed that the pink bollworm has developed resistance to Bollgard-II, and the technology has become less effective against bollworms progressively over the years.

CICR has developed insect resistance management strategies to effectively combat the bollworm problem in 2014 and issued advisories to all concerned state governments.

TOL also spoke to experts

IF MONSANTO QUILTS INDIA, OR IT DOESN'T

1. Patent is revoked, Monsanto quits

Indian seed companies and institutes will be forced to find new effective indigenous strategies and sustainable technologies to control bollworms.

It will also make way for public sector institutions and other companies working towards developing Bt cotton using indigenous Bt genes.

2. Stays in India, holds the patent

Monsanto wouldn't be able to sustain because farmers would demand compensation for the damage caused by pink bollworm and the



multinational giant, which has been virtually ruling cotton cultivation in India, will have a hard time facing them.

3. Quits, but gets to retain the patent

This will not allow any seed company or government institute to use Bollgard-II any further. At the most, farmers

would be able to use second generation (F2 seeds) seeds which they harvest from the existing crop. Even this is not a sustainable condition.

4. Remains in India, patent is revoked

The company may continue to exercise its influence on the Indian government agencies or regulators to prescribe NOC as a precondition for making any new cotton GM hybrid as they did with the Mon-531 gene, even though they did not have a patent in India on the gene, and continue to collect royalty from seed companies using the gene.

The times of India, Nagpur
Tuesday March 8, 2016

and found that actually Monsanto may be threatening to leave India but there is a catch that Monsanto has its plate to offer India a share for pest management.

It is working on Bollgard III, but reports indicate that is not a promising prospect against the pink bollworm and American bollworm. Moreover, Bollgard III is still 5-6 years away and, hence, if India weighs the pros and cons of the issue at present, it has nothing to lose at all if Monsanto withdraws from India.

While several of FDI-friendly Nienbakkar contradicted Monsanto threatened to quit, experts said there are four options in front of Mon-

link using CryI(Aa) + Cry2(Aa) and a gene for herbicide resistance. Dow is working on 'Widestrike', which contains CryI(Aa) + CryII(B) genes. Swarnabharti Biotech, Hyderabad, is also ready with 28-cotton containing CryII(B) + CryI(Aa) genes developed by NISRI Lucknow. These and others can try their hand at giving something new to Indian agriculture.

been given a trial. Also, since government cannot afford as much as Monsanto in research, it should wait till we have our own technology.

Mahyco MD Ragu Barwala didn't respond to attempts by TOL to reach him. TOL also could not reach officials in the Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech Limited, which has been served the notice last Thursday.



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