



Training on Agricultural Implements for delegates from African nations

The Cotton Technical Assistance Programme was initiated as fulfilment of India's commitment to Cotton-4 Countries at the WTO, Geneva to provide cotton development assistance under the auspices of the 2nd India- Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). Cotton production technologies in these countries need up-gradation especially with regard to mechanization. Therefore, based on the felt needs of the recipient countries, three main implements viz., the vertical rotor planter, the inclined plate planter cum fertiliser drill and the solar powered knapsack sprayer are being promoted for use in the African nations.

A two-day hands-on training was organized at CICR, Nagpur on 9th and 10th Sept., 2016, for the delegates from recipient countries on assembly, working and optimization of these implements. Four participants Mr. Vodounnou Julius H. from Benin, Mr. Walendom M'Beteamgar from Chad, Mr. Mohammed Abu Baker from Nigeria and Mr. Chwa Lemi Felix from Uganda attended the training programme.

Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, I/C Director briefed the participants about the Institutional activities. Dr. Blaise Desouza, Head, Crop Production and Training Co-ordinator gave an overview of this activity and hoped that the agri-implements to be shared would benefit the cotton growers in their respective countries. Er. Gautam Majumdar, Sr. Scientist, Farm Machinery, and the Course Leader of the programme gave a detailed presentation of the agri-implements.

Detailed demonstration on hitching the planters to animals and various adjustments needed to drop seeds at specified distances and depths were carried out. Importance of calibrating the equipment before commencement of the work was emphasized in order to achieve highest efficiency of operation and optimization of resources. Worked examples and field demonstration of calibration of planters and sprayers were carried out to get hands on learning in real life situations. After running the implements in the field the test results of calibrated implements were confirmed by the participants with that of test data shown to them earlier during theory class. The participants took observations on the seed dropping, seed to seed distance, depth of placement of seed in soil, time taken to spray a given area of field, amount of pesticide needed to put in a single spray tank in order to apply the required pesticide per hectare, and then they were found to be in accordance with the published test results of these implements. Valuable feedback from the participants was also received with an average rating of 9.25 on a scale of 10.00.



CICR, RS, Sirsa Organises Farmers Meeting at village NezadelaKalan under MGMT



One-day farmers training programme on IPM/IRM was organized at ICAR- Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Sirsa on 02.09.2016. A total of 100 farmers selected under Cotton Front Line Demonstrations on Integrated Pest management- insecticides Resistance Management in Bt cotton were trained in this training. The training was started with the inaugural address given by Dr. D. Monga, Head. Dr. R.A Meena delivered the lecture on crop production aspect, while Dr. Rishi Kumar and Dr. SK Sain delivered the lecture topics on IRM concept & cotton insect-pest management and cotton disease management, respectively. Farmers from the adopted villages under MeraGaonMeraGaurav and other villages like RangdiKheda, Begu, Jhopra, NajadellaKalan, Alikan, PanniwalaMota, Kanwarpura etc. attended day long deliberations. The farmers were given input like YST, Neem Oil 0.03%, V.lecanii, Difenturon and Trizophos for pest management in Bt cotton demonstration plots. On-station demonstration visit was organized by Dr. OP Tuteja and Dr SK Verma followed by an interactive session at the end.



Photo: M.Sabesh

Hitavada, 5 September 2016

SAARC countries come together in city to evolve action plan on cotton cultivation

During SAARC regional consultation meeting held at CICR, participants build consensus on sharing of knowledge and varieties of cotton

Staff Reporter

FOR the first time, cotton is likely to gain focus in South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). During a three-day SAARC Regional Consultation Meeting, organised jointly by ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh, at CICR, the representatives of participating countries agreed to formulate an 'Action Plan' on sharing of knowledge and varieties of cotton with each other.

In all, 12 participants from SAARC countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, India, apart from SAC members attended the meeting. During the meeting, major challenges in cotton cultivation in SAARC countries were discussed and common problems were identified. Boli-worms, drought, salinity tolerance, production constraints of high input use and cost of cultivation were identified as common problems. As per the 'Action Plan' of which the idea was mooted during the meeting, major solution to enhancing production at low cost of cultivation was proposed to be taking up cultivated early-maturing varieties with high-density planting systems.

Dr. S. M. Wasnik, Director, CICR, said 'The Hitavada' that the idea of sharing of knowledge and varieties came up as India was rich in germplasm of the crop and some of the SAARC countries have own land races that have particular qualities. 'India being the largest cotton producing country, we will assist Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal in getting germplasm and technology. In return, these countries will give India access to their land races. This



Dr. S. B. Nandeshwar, Pema Chorten, Dr. Ghimire, Jahan, Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Dr. R. K. Kranthi, Abdulrahimzai, Dr. Kale, Dr. Dil Baugh Muhammad, Dr. Waghmare, Dr. Gurung, Dr. Venugopalan, Dr. Farid Uddin, and Dr. Desouza after valedictory function of SAARC regional consultation held at CICR.

will be mutually beneficial situation for those having large area under cotton cultivation and those willing to expand area under cotton," he said.

During the meeting held at CICR in Nagpur, Dr. C. D. Mayee, former Chairman of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), also suggested to initiate a common cotton adaptive research trial for SAARC countries. One of the participants, Dr. Gurung, emphasised that the most suitable variety could then be released through SAARC and identified as of regional importance. India and Pakistan jointly agreed to share their production technologies with cotton growing countries of SAARC. Furthermore, they also expressed to conduct in-country trainings.

According to Dr. Kranthi, the meeting was highly successful as SAARC never had a cotton programme. In a meeting held in Bangladesh two years ago, Dr. Kranthi had mooted the proposal to share knowledge and

exchange varieties of cotton. And, this was the first time in the history of SAARC that such a consultation on cotton was held in Nagpur.

Abdulrahimzai, Head of Industrial and Crops, Afghanistan; Dr. Farid Uddin, Executive Director, Cotton Development Board, Bangladesh; Pema Chorten, Extension Officer of Bhutan; Dr. Venugopalan, CICR; Ghimire, Department of Agriculture, Nepal; and Dr. Dil Baugh Muhammad, Principal Scientific Officer, Central Cotton Research Institute, Pakistan; made country presentations on status of cotton, challenges and opportunities.

Besides, there were four lead presentations made by Dr. Waghmare on cotton improvement; by Dr. Desouza on production; by Dr. S. M. Wasnik on cotton protection, and by Dr. Shukla of Ginning Training Centre (GTC) on ginning and post-harvest.

'Cotton Production in SAARC: Problems, Analysis & Way Forward' was the major theme area for discussions followed by a brainstorming session initiated by Dr. Gurung. He stressed on importance of this meeting to benefit small cotton growing countries that did not have adequate resources to conduct research. Dr. Desouza and Fatema Nasrin facilitated the session during which major challenges were prioritised.

Later, the participants visited GTC, Nagpur; Bhagirthi Mills, and Maharashtra Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI), Wardha. Dr. Lokanathan of CICR co-ordinated their visit.

The programme concluded with valedictory session chaired by Dr. P. B. Kale, Director, MGIRI, Wardha. Dr. Kale distributed certificates to participants.

Dr. Desouza and Jahan co-edited the programme, and Dr. Desouza proposed a vote of thanks.

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Abdulrahimzai from Afghanistan being given a certificate

Saarc regional consultation meet held

A three-day South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) regional consultation meeting was jointly organized by ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and Saarc Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh, at CICR. Twelve participants from the Saarc countries. Presentations on status of cotton, challenges and opportunities, were made by Abdulrahimzai from Afghanistan, Farid Uddin from Bangladesh, Chorten from Bhutan, Venugopalan, CICR, India, Ghimire from Nepal and Dil Baugh Mohammad from Pakistan.



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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: cicrmagpur@gmail.com, director.cicr@icar.gov.in