



Seventh Asian Cotton Research and Development Network (ACRDN) Meeting held at Nagpur

The Indian Society for Cotton Improvement (ISCI) Mumbai, in collaboration with International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai, organized the 7th Asian Cotton Research and Development Network meeting at Nagpur, Maharashtra, India during September 15-17, 2017.



The meeting was inaugurated by Dr Terry Townsend, Former Executive Director, International Cotton Advisory Committee, Washington DC on 15 Sept. 2017. Dr. AK Singh, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research delivered the presidential address.

The theme of the 7th ACRDN meeting was "Production of quality fibre and doubling cotton farmers' income". Two hundred and thirty nine delegates comprising of researchers, Government officials, experts from trade and industry and farmers representing India, Bangladesh, Egypt, Australia and USA participated.

Spread over the last 3 days, there were 29 technical sessions including 1 plenary session, 1 panel discussion, 1 open forum for young researchers, two open sessions, 1 poster session and 24 concurrent sessions. In all, 126 abstracts were received, 40 of them were presented in poster session and 72 were presented in oral sessions.

Dr. Terry Townsend, former Executive Director, ICAC delivered a plenary talk entitled "The dynamics of cotton markets with reference to Asia" and Shri Suresh Kotak, President ISCI, Mumbai spoke on the topic "King Cotton - Future for Asia".

During the technical sessions, a wide gamut of issues covering BMPs for high yield, cotton mechanization, germplasm exchange, breeding for yield and quality, climate change and abiotic stress, viral diseases, whiteflies, bollworm, transfer of technology, application of nanotechnology, nutrient management, CRISPER – CAS9, RNAi techniques, HDPS, *G arboreum* cotton, contamination and quality evaluation were discussed. Several useful recommendations and action points emanated. These delegates also visited experimental fields and Bio-control laboratory of ICAR-CICR.



Dr C. D. Mayee, President, ISCI, delivered his plenary address on “Novel Technologies: Today and Tomorrow” and reiterated the importance of biotechnology as a game changer in the progress of cotton research and development.

Dr. Mrs. Kavita Gupta, Textile Commissioner, Government of India, chaired the valedictory session and delivered the valedictory address. She spoke on the rich heritage of cotton in Asia and the current relevance of cotton production and utilization to the development of the region.



Dr. Kavita Gupta emphasized on the need for doubling farm income and suggested a pathway for doing so through a combination of low cost yield enhancement technologies.

Dr. P.G. Patil, Director, ICAR- CIRCOT was elected as the Chairman of the Network until the next ACRDN meeting. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr C Sundaramoorthy, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai.

Meetings attended

- Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director (Acting), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur participated in a meeting at ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 21.9.2017 and made a presentation of EFC Memo of the Institute.
- Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director (Acting), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur during his maiden visit to CICR Regional Station, Sirsa on 22.9.2017 monitored the implementation and the progress of the technical programme (2017-18). As a chairman of Germplasm Identification Committee, he has conducted the evaluation of unique Germplasm lines.



Produced and Published by:
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Citation : Cotton Innovate, Issue-3 Volume-9, 2017,
ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.

Publication Note: This Newsletter presented online at
http://www.cicr.org.in/cotton_innovate.html

Cotton Innovate is the Open Access CICR Newsletter

The Cotton Innovate – is published weekly by
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