



Review meeting for release of Bt cotton BG II for commercial cultivation in view of resistance to pink bollworm held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

A “Review meeting for release of Bt cotton BGII for commercial cultivation in view of resistance to pink bollworm” was held at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi on 25th October 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (Hort.) and DDG (CS) Addl. Charge. The meeting was attended by Dr. R. K. Singh, ADG (CC), Dr. V.N.Waghmare, Director, CICR, Nagpur, Dr. D. S. Mishra, Deputy Commissioner (Seeds), DAC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Dr. N. K. Singh, Director NRCPB, IARI, New Delhi, Dr S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Govt of India. The agriculture commissioners from cotton growing states, scientists from CICR, Nagpur, SAUs and representatives from seed industry were participated. CICR Scientists who participated were Dr D. Monga, Dr A. H Prakash, Dr Nandini Gokte-Narkedkar, Dr B. Dharajothi, Dr Vishlesh Nagrare and Dr V. China Babu Naik.



Review Meeting for evaluation and refinement of strategy for effective management of whitefly in north zone held at CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa

A meeting was held on 13th September, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr B. Rajender, IAS, Joint Secretary (Crops), MOA & FW, DAC & FW, GOI at ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Sirsa, Haryana to review, evaluation and refinement of strategy for effective management of whitefly in north zone during 2017. The meeting was jointly organized by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare, New Delhi and ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Sirsa.



In the meeting Dr. D. Monga, Head ICAR-CICR Regional Station, Sirsa briefed scenario of the cotton sucking pests

and the experience of the management strategies implemented during the current season. Dr Rishi Kumar, Principal Scientist, CICR-RS made a presentation about the whitefly incidence scenario and the management strategies adopted during the current cropping season. Dr. B Rajender IAS, Joint Secretary (Crops & Oil Seeds), stressed that there should be proper quality check on chemical pesticides being used in the market. The use of spurious pesticides must be stopped and there is a need to develop better production and protection strategies for cotton. Dr. AP Singh, Additional Commissioner, GOI, Dr. RP Singh, Director DCD, Dr. YP Singh, PS (CC), ICAR, Dr. CS Sethi, Director Research CCS HAU, Dr. RK Tanwar PS-NCIPM, Dr. Rishi Kumar etc shared their experiences in managing the whitefly and other sucking pests of cotton. The delegates from the Department of Cotton Development, Agriculture Universities, NCIPM, State Department of Agriculture of Haryana and Punjab shared their experience in managing the whitefly and other pests in cotton. It was stressed in the meeting that there is a need to develop and or refine IRM/IPM strategies for whitefly and other pest management in cotton in future to minimize the injudicious use of chemical pesticides. The strategies to be refined were discussed and finalized jointly by all the participants.

Scientists team surveyed pest status in cotton fields in Samudrapur Tehsil, Dist Wardha

A multidisciplinary team of scientists namely Dr. S. M. Wasnik, Dr. Shailesh Gawande, Dr. Savitha Santosh and Mr. Joy Das from ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur made a visit on 13th October, 2017 to Samudrapur Tahsil of Wardha district (Maharashtra) comprising in seven villages namely Khairgaon, Edlabad, Girad, Faridpur, Arvi, Wadegaon Sawangi and Govindpur. The purpose of the visit was to survey the Samudrapur tehsil & to assess the possible causes of unfortunate incidents of farmer's death related to insecticide poisoning occurring in and around the areas of Yavatmal and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra. The team visited the farmer's fields and a few krishi kendras to gather relevant information regarding the agriculture practices especially spraying of agro-chemicals practised by the farmers. It was observed that majority of the farmers have been using monocrotophos and acephate insecticide along with few fungicides, growth regulators and soluble fertilizers in their fields. Strikingly, most of those farmers were not following the standard procedures for spray of agro-chemicals rather using an admixture of multiple chemicals at a time. Most of the farmers usually employ daily labourers to carry out spraying operations which further results in inappropriate procedure of agro-spraying. Further, in almost all the cases, safety measures are found to be compromised during spraying operations which makes it more vulnerable towards chemical toxicity. In addition, during interactions with the farmers, it was found that farmers usually spray in higher doses of chemicals with a wrong notion to achieve better and quick results. Moreover, the spraying operations are carried out any time of the day as opposed to the prescribed period of early morning or evening hours.



An unusually vigorous vegetative growth of around 5-7 feet tall standing cotton crops were observed in many of the fields. This also hampers the inter-culture operation in the farmer's fields. Surprisingly, not less than 40-50% of cotton growers are growing illegally procured HT cotton. Also, in HT crops farmers are usually spraying 3-4 rounds of glyphosate during a cropping season. It was also observed high incidence of sucking pest viz. White fly and mealy bug in several surveyed fields. Even farmers are not aware of bollworm complex, diseases and their management practices. They are blindly following the advisories given by Krishi kendra dealers rather than state agriculture department or KVKs.

Meetings attended

- Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director (Acting), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur attended a meeting discussion at ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 25.10.2017 in connection with the Pink bollworm project.
- Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director (Acting), ICAR-CICR, Nagpur attended meeting of Special Investigation Team (SIT) [constituted by Govt. of Maharashtra] held under the chairmanship of Commissioner (Revenue), Amravati Division, at Revenue Bhawan, Yeotmal on 30.10.2017 in connection with death of farmers / farm labourers due to insecticide poisoning



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