



Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited to Maharashtra from 15th to 18th May, 2018 for Assessment of situation in the wake of Pest Attack on Cotton and Paddy crops

On receipt of the Memorandum from the State Government of Maharashtra, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) under the leadership of Shri. Ashwani Kumar, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare for assessment of situation caused by pest attack on Cotton and Paddy and ockhi cyclone in Maharashtra. The team was constituted on the Memorandum submitted by Maharashtra government in March, 2018 to the Government of India for seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Members of the team were Dr. R. P. Singh, Director, Directorate of Cotton Development, Nagpur; Shri. Deena Nath, Consultant, Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Expenditure; Dr. B. Ganeshram, Research Officer (Agriculture) NITI Aayog; Shri. Santosh R, Assistant Adviser Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation; Ms. Chahat Singh, Assistant Director Ministry of Rural Development; Shri. Om Prakash Suman, Deputy Director, Central Electricity Authority; Shri. R. D. Deshpande, Director, Central Water Commission, Nagpur; Dr. S.R. Voleti, Director, Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad; Shri. M.G. Temburne, Deputy General Manager (R), Food Corporation of India; Dr. Tarun Kumar Singh, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries; Dr. K.W. Deshkar, Deputy Director, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad; Dr. Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar, HoD Crop Protection, CICR, Nagpur and Dr. A.H. Prakash, Project Coordinator (Cotton), CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore. On proceeding to leave by Dr Gokte, she was replaced by Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist (Entomology), CICR Nagpur.



To cover the maximum possible area for assessment of the field situation the team leader grouped IMCT in two groups, Group I led by Dr. A.H. Prakash visited Nagpur region while and Group II led by Shri. Ashwani Kumar visited Aurangabad region from 15th to 18th May, 2018 and made the assessment of situation in the wake of pest attack on cotton and paddy crops and ockhi cyclone during its field visit in 5 districts, out of the 28 districts affected by the pest on cotton crop and 2 districts, out of 8 districts affected on paddy crop as mentioned in the Memorandum.

A briefing meeting was held on 15th May 2018 in presence of Chief Secretary, ACS Rehabilitation, ACS Agriculture, Commissioner Agriculture. A debriefing meeting was held on 18th May, 2018 at Sahyadri Guest House, Mumbai in presence of Chief Minister of Maharashtra state. Chief Secretary, ACS Rehabilitation, ACS Agriculture, Commissioner Agriculture and other officials were present in the meeting. IMCT officers briefed about their visits and findings. Assured Chief Minister that a detailed draft report shall be submitted to Central Government at the earliest, for acceptance and consideration for sanction of funds under NDRF.



CICR scientist participated in ‘Kisan Kalyan Diwas’ workshop organised by State agriculture department and ICAR institutes

On the occasion of ‘Gram Swaraj Abhiyan’ 2018 dated 2nd May, 2018 with the theme of ‘Doubling of farmer’s Income’ by 2022, a “Kisan Kalyan Diwas” workshop was organised at tahsil level by state agriculture department officials in collaboration with ICAR institutes, SAU and ATMA at Amgaon Deoli, Tal. Hingna, Dist.-Nagpur. The major objective was creating awareness among farmers about strategies to be adopted for ‘Doubling of farmer’s income’ by 2022. In this regard, scientists from ICAR-CICR were participated in the programme at different blocks level as ICAR-CICR nominee. Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist (Entomology) and Dr. D.T. Nagrale, Scientist (Plant Pathology), Division of Crop Protection, participated in “Kisan Kalyan Diwas” farmer’s workshop at Nagpur tahsil (Village-Dhamna) and Hingna tahsil (Village-Amgaon Deoli) as ICAR nominee, respectively.



Dr. V.S. Nagrare, Principal Scientist (Entomology) delivered a talk on integrated pest management of pink bollworm and sucking pests in cotton. The sowing of short duration varieties, crop rotation, monitoring of bollworms by pheromone traps after 45 days of sowing, crop termination latest by January’s first fortnight etc. were major strategies among IPM of pink bollworm in cotton.

Dr. D.T. Nagrale, Scientist (Plant Pathology) explained different diseases, their proper identification and integrated disease management in cotton. Also, provide information about integrated management practices of cotton pink bollworm recommended by CICR and distributed institute's leaflets on integrated pink bollworm management. Nearly, 100 farmers participated in the workshop and interacted with scientist, subject experts and state agricultural department officials on various issues related to agriculture, agro-based cottage industries and various government schemes available. The booklets provided by 'Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare' on 'Doubling of Farmer's Income' by 2022 were distributed to farmers.



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