



Adoption Barriers for Suvin in Attur taluk of Salem district - A Field Level Enquiry

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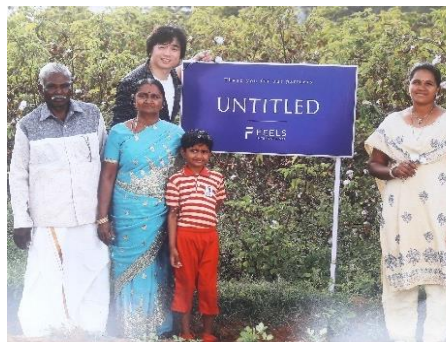
Extra-long staple (>32.5 mm) G. barbadence variety “Suvin” from hybridization of Sujatha with Sea Island St. Vincent V 135 was considered as the pride of India at the time of its release. It can be spinnable up to 100s and 120s count and it had adaptability in cotton tracts of Coimbatore, Salem and Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu state. A field level enquiry was undertaken in Gangavalli, Attur, Thalaivasal and Pallakadu of Attur taluk of Salem district. Suvin cultivation was undertaken with the collaboration of a private organization under contract farming system called in the name of “agreement cotton” by farmers. Contract farming system for suvin cultivation was operating in these villages for the last five years. The outstanding performance was observed in the year of 2016-17, which resulted in an average net profit of Rs. 75,000/acre. The higher profit accelerated the adoption rate during the year 2017-18 as well. This shows the higher potential of the genotypes in terms of providing profit edge over other crops after the 45 years of release. However, the similar trend of 2016-17 was not continued in the year of 2017-18. The barbadense variety (suvin) is known for non-tolerance of biotic and a biotic pressure unlike arboretum and its need effective management for sustaining. There are several constraints were reported by the farmers were listed below.

- The average yield of Suvin over the period is highly fluctuating from 8-10 Q/ac to 3-4 Q/ac
- Severe incidence of red cotton bug which bites labour and cause skin irritation and itching
- Due to the long duration nature, the infestation of pink bollworm is in higher rate which demands more number of pesticide applications
- High morpho-frame and bushy growth nature creates difficulties in carrying out of inter-cultivation operations and picking
- The characteristics nature of pointed tips in boll which piercing the labour while picking. Hence labour demands more cost
- Boll dropping is another problem reported by the farmers. Which reduce the overall yield significantly?
- Difficulties in accommodating the crop in cropping system approach because of Long duration nature (of 180 – 200 days)
- Improper boll opening is a major issue reported by the farmers. Due to small boll size and less boll bursting, picking cost became more
- Long gestation periods, more number of pesticide applications, more number of labour for picking and inter-cultivation operations leads for higher cost of cultivation.

Extension strategies for Suvin cotton cultivation: The contract farming agencies has to take the responsibility of providing technical service from sowing to harvest like what the sugar factories is doing in case of sugarcane cultivation.

- Assessing the total market demand and targeting for the required production should be aimed
- Late sowing was the major cause for more pest infestation. Hence the local extension agency personnel have to ensure the timely sowing

- High procurement cost demanded by the farmers. If the farmers get more profit then certainly the adoption rate will be higher.
- Reduced cost of cultivation and enhanced yield will make the farmers attractive towards Suvin cultivation.



A successful Suvin farmer

Suvin under contract farming

Discussion with Suvin farmers

Meetings/trainings attended/ lecture delivered

- Dr. Blaise Desouza was invited to deliver a talk at the 14th Southern and Eastern Africa cotton Forum held at Meikles, Harare, Zimbabwe during 4-6 July 2018. The theme of the Workshop was 'Global Best Practices for Cotton Yield Enhancement in Africa'. Dr. Desouza delivered a talk on the topic: 'Conservation Agriculture - The BMP for Sustainable Cotton Production in Africa: Indian Experiences'. Dr. Desouza was also a panelist in the Brain Storming Session on "Best Practices for Yield Enhancement in Africa".
- PoCRA Workshop was conducted at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 8th July 2018. Dr. Blaise Desouza, I/c Director, welcomed all the delegates from the various KVK's, SAU's and the Institute Scientists who participated in the programme. Sh. Rastogi, Project Director, PoCRA, outlined the activities of PoCRA and looked forward to CICR for logistic support in the form of trainings to be conducted for the Stakeholders. Dr. Venugopalan, Dr Wasnik and Dr. Nagrare actively took part in the deliberations.
- Dr VS Nagrare Participated in discussion on issues related cotton cultivation in Yavatmal on 10th August 2018 where about 200 participants attended the meet



Publications:

- Sabesh. M. Hope and Scope for Enhancing Cotton Production in Africa. The ICAC Recorder. September 2018. Volume XXXVI, No. 3 p18-24.
- Sabesh. M. Novel Ideas proposed to Enhance cotton production and Value of by-products in Africa. The ICAC Recorder. September 2018. Volume XXXVI, No. 3 p15-16.



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