

COTTON Innovate



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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A weekly newsletter from ICAR-CICR

CICR Nagpur officials surveyed pest situation in four district of western Vidarbha

CICR Nagpur scientist Dr Babasaheb Fand and Technician Shri B. V. Naikawadi visited Amravati, Akola, Buldhana and Washim districts of Maharashtra on 9th & 10th October 2017 and surveyed pest situation and pesticide use in cotton. They also collected samples of bolls infested with pink bollworm.



ICAR-CICR, RS, Sirsa organises Workshop on “Management of Whitefly in Cotton

The workshop on Management of Whitefly in Cotton through use of Eco- friendly Interventions and Safer Insecticides” for farmers was conducted at ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Sirsa on 16th August, 2017. Total 70 farmers from different villages of District Sirsa (Haryana) participated in the workshop. At the outset, Dr D. Monga, Head CICR, RS Sirsa apprised the gathering about the genesis of the workshop where the detail about the announcement of the award by *United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF)* for the Fulbright alumnus was explained to the farmers and the amount of the award released by the sponsoring authority (USIEF) to conduct the workshop was also discussed.



Dr Rishi Kumar welcomed the gathering and discussed in detail about the whitefly and why this pest was selected for workshop. Dr Kulvir Singh, Senior Professor (Agronomy) from Regional Research Station, Faridkot, Punjab Agricultural University delivered a talk on agronomic practices for better yield and whitefly management. Dr D. Monga Head, CICR also delivered a talk on whitefly transmitted Cotton Leaf Curl Virus and other important diseases. Dr Satnam Singh, Senior Scientist (Entomology) discussed in detail Integrated pests Management of whitefly. Dr. Rishi Kumar and Mr. Naveen Kumar, YP-II demonstrated the whitefly life stages, damage symptoms under field conditions to the participants. The program was also covered by the Delhi Doordarshan team.



Meetings attended

- 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.
- Dr. S. M. Wasnik, Principal Scientist (Extension), CICR, Nagpur attended Workshop for Liaison Officers of SC/ST from 2nd to 3rd November, 2017 at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (Department of Personnel and Training), JNU (Old), Campus, Olof Palme Marg, New Delhi – 110067



Hitvada, Aug 19, 2017

CICR issues advisory to avoid pink bollworm on cotton crop

■ Cultivation of long duration hybrids, large number of hybrids released for cultivation, long term storage of raw cotton, extending the crop beyond January are few things to avoid

■ Staff Reporter

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (ICAR-CICR) has formulated an advisory for Pink Bollworm (PBW) on cotton in Central India here on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Dr R K Singh, ADG, Commercial Crops ICAR said, "India is the second biggest cotton grower in the world. The cotton crop in our country depends on monsoon and this year the cotton sowing activity in the country took place on 117 lakh hectare of land. Last year it performed on 105 lakh hectare only."

CICR worked on Bt Hybrid seeds for Central, South and North Zone respectively. The CICR Bt 1 will be provided for Central Zone while CICR Bt 1 and 2 for South Zone and CICR Bt 6 seeds are developed for North Zone. These Hybrid seeds will be available in markets authorised by National Seed Corporation from next year.

The Bt technology enabled farmers to protect their cotton crop against the three major bollworms that is American bollworm, spotted bollworm and pink bollworm. Monitoring for resistance in the pink bollworm against Bt toxin was initiated in 2010 onwards in Maharashtra by CICR when an outbreak of pink bollworm was recorded in Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Dhule of Maharashtra.

"Cultivation of long duration hybrids, large number of hybrids released for cultivation, long term storage of raw cotton, extending the crop beyond January are some reasons for pink bollworm occurrence in cotton crops," said Dr M S Ladaniya, Director, ICAR-CICR in the press conference.

He further advised to avoid crop extension beyond January because it affect the next crop sowing. Also clean up fields of residual stalks and partially opened bolls and do not stock stalks on bunds.

Do not store infested or stained cotton in godowns; install pheromone traps with authentic lures near ginneries to trap suicidal emergence if any; do not sow cotton crop in the month of April as it would be susceptible to Pink Bollworm; timely sowing of early maturing short duration Bt hybrids recommended for the region etc. are the major points highlighted by CICR during the press conference.

Dr A H Prakash, Dr Nandini, Dr V N Waghmare, Dr Dip Monga and others were present during the press conference.

Dr M S Ladaniya, Director, ICAR-CICR interacting with reporters while Dr R K Singh, ADG, ICAR and other senior scientists also look on. (Pic by Satish Raut)

Times of India, Aug 19, 2017

Straight Bt varieties developed by CICR being multiplied

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Nagpur: In the next 2-3 years, farmers would be able to get certain new straight Bt cotton varieties. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently approved these varieties for release.

The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) is for the first time multiplying these in all the agricultural zones in the country. Next year, the National Seeds Corporation will do large scale multiplication of seeds for distribution to farmers.

Explaining the importance of straight varieties, MS Ladaniya, the CICR director, said that these varieties can be multiplied by farmers themselves for at least four years without dilution of properties. They need not buy seeds every year as is the case with the hybrids. "That's a big advantage," he said.

With the pink boll worm being a big menace for cotton, Ladaniya said that the only way to minimize its attack was to break the life cycle of the insect.

"This is possible only if the farmer terminates the crop in December and doesn't extend it for another 2-3 months as he normally does by irrigating the crop. The availability of cotton in the fields round-the-year builds up the number of pests in the field," he said.

Ladaniya said the area under cotton this year had increased from 38 lakh hectare to 41 lakh hectare in Maharashtra. In the country, total cotton sowed this year is about 117 lakh ha whereas last year it was 105 lakh ha. In 2015-16, it was almost 118 lakh ha.

"With an increase in the area the overall production in the country will also increase 10-20% this year," he said.

On scanty rainfall, Ladaniya said that it was actually good for cotton.

The new varieties developed by the institute include CICR Bt-1, CICR Bt-2, CICR Bt-3, CICR Bt-6 and another variety of Punjab Agriculture University, PAU Bt-1. The varieties approved for Central India include CICR 1, 2, 3 and 12. In south India, only CICR Bt-1 and 2 have been permitted and for north zone it is CICR Bt-6. In Punjab, PAU Bt-1 will be used.

ICAR additional director general RK Singh, scientists AH Prakash from research station (RS) Coimbatore, Dilip Monga, RS Sirsa, VN Waghmare, Baise D'Souza were also present on the occasion.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO FIGHT PINK BOLL WORM

- Don't extend cotton crop beyond January
- Clean up fields of residual stalks, partially opened bolls. Do not stock stalks on bunds
- Do not store infested or stained cotton in godowns
- Install pheromone traps with lures near ginneries
- Don't sow cotton in April
- Timely sowing of early maturing short duration boll guard II hybrids
- Procure and sow only authentic Bt II seeds
- Fields that suffered heavy damage due to PBW last year should be monitored well
- Inspect the crop at squaring and flowering stage for presence of larvae of PBW
- At boll formation stage, farmers should pick 20 bolls from different parts of field
- Spraying insecticide may be done if the pest crosses economic threshold level



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