



Shri Hansaraj Ahir Hon. Min of State for Home Affairs, GOI discusses insecticide poisoning issue with CICR Scientists

Dr V. N Waghmare, Director, Dr Nandini Gokte-Narkhedkar, Principal Scientist, Dr Vishlesh Nagrare, Principal Scientist and Dr V. Chinna Babu Naik were invited by Shri Hansaraj Ahir, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home affairs, Govt of India for discussion on pesticide poisoning in Yavatmal. All relevant issues pertaining to insecticide poisoning were discussed. Hon'ble Minister appreciated proactive role being played by ICAR-CICR. He stressed on awareness campaign among farmers and farm labourers about handling of insecticides, safe use, application methodology and hazardous effects of pesticides. He has been informed that the institute has published a small bulletin on pink bollworm management in local language and the same is being distributed among farmer and stake holders.

Again on 16.10.2017, Dr V. N Waghmare Director, Dr V. S. Nagrare and Dr Nandini Gokte- Narkhedkar were invited by Shri Hansaraj Ahir, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home affairs, Govt of India for an update on pesticide poisoning.



National Level Monitoring Team (NLMT) Monitored Implementation of NFSM

National Level Monitoring Team (NLMT) comprising of Shri R.P. Singh, Director, DCD, GOI, Nagpur as coordinator; Dr. S. M. Wasnik, Principal Scientist (Extension), CICR, Nagpur as Expert member for cotton; Dr. L.S. Chavan, Associate Director of Research, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Karjat as Expert member for Rice; Dr. Sunil Karad, Principal Scientist, Zonal Agricultural Research Station, MPKV, Kolhapur as Expert member for Coarse Cereals and Shri H.P. Baptiwale, Deputy Director (NFSM), Government of Maharashtra, Pune as Expert member for NFSM implementation in Maharashtra state was constituted under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) by GOI. The NLMT - NFSM team visited the districts of Satara, Kohlapur and Solapur during 26th to 28th September, 2017 and monitored the



implementation of NFSM components like NFSM: Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Coarse Cereals & Commercial Crops i.e. Cotton & Sugarcane and also assessed the crops situation of kharif crops 2017. They visited implementing districts - NFSM: Rice, Pulses and Coarse cereals (Satara), NFSM: Pulses (Kohlapur) and NFSM: Wheat, Pulses and Coarse cereals (Solapur). The team observed that all the components of NFSM have been implemented by the state following the guidelines. The team had discussions with KVK, Kalwade, Satara and KVK, Mohol, Solapur also. During the interaction District Agriculture Department, Kolhapur stated that the intercropping of Groundnut and Chickpea is being followed with the Sugarcane crop, however, there is problem of suitable variety availability of moongbean. After completion of field visit, the Wrap up Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Pune on 28.09.2017. The meeting was attended by Expert Members of NLMT and coordinator, besides senior officers from State Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra. The Chairman of the meeting informed that the guidelines for implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes like NFSM, NMOOP and Rainfed Area Development (RAD) are already issued and implementation is underway. It was informed in the meeting that since more than 90 % of the cotton area is under Bt Cotton in Maharashtra and as there are reports of Pink bollworm incidence, the farmers may be guided to follow recommended package of practices like planting refugia around the cotton fields, termination of cotton crop in November or December, utilisation or destruction of crop residues and cotton stalks immediately after harvest, follow recommended crop rotation to break the pink bollworm cycle etc.. Farmers may be encouraged to spray bio-pesticides / pesticides in the morning 8 – 10 am or in the evening 4 – 6 pm using recommended safety kit, if population of pests go above ETL in cotton and other crops...



CICR scientists Surveyed cotton fields in Maregoan, Yavatmal

The team of CICR scientists comprising of Dr. T. R. Loknathan, Dr. K. P. Raghavendra, Dr. D. T. Nagrale and Dr. H. B. Santosh visited different farmers' fields of Maregoan and adjoining villages (Karanwadi, Narsala, Pathri, Mangrul) of Maregoan Taluka, Yavatmal District on 13th October 2017. The survey was undertaken to understand the status of crop growth and crop management practices followed by the farmers. The team interacted with cotton farmers on their field and collected leaf samples from different farmers' fields. Crop growth was very good in majority of the fields. Majority of the farmers surveyed have taken up BG-II cotton crop. Leaf samples were collected from the fields of all the interacted farmers to confirm BG-II/BG-III. No significant menace of major bollworms (*Helicoverpa/Pectinophora/Spotted*) was observed in the field. Alternaria/Myrothecium/Cercospora leaf spots and grey mildews were the disease observed in patches. Lot of physiological square/boll shedding was observed across different fields. Farmers have taken 4-5 sprays using power sprayers till now, for management of sucking pests. Some farmers resorted to spraying of individual pesticides, while many others did the spraying of pesticide mixtures. The farmers have taken up mostly the sprayings of locally available brands viz., Monosyn, Confidor, Police, Polo, Acetamiprid, Acephate etc as acquired from the dealers and no untoward incidents were encountered upon spraying of these pesticides. Mostly the hired labourers undertook



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the spraying. Interestingly, a couple of farmers expressed their difficulty in hiring labourers for spraying now, in the backdrop of the recently reported spray mishaps in some areas of Yavatmal district. During the interaction, the team educated the farmers regarding safety measures to be adapted while spraying and suggested need based application of recommended pesticides.



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