



M. SABESH
SCIENTIST
(Computer Applications)
Central Institute for Cotton Research
COIMBATORE - 641 003.

Preface

Cotton outlook for the year 2003-04 has been a landmark for India in terms of better productivity and prices. The season witnessed a production of 177 lakh bales and a record productivity of 387 kg lint/ha. Unusually higher productivity has been complimented by relatively remunerative prices, against the canons of practical economics. The success of the season can be attributed to an array of factors favourable ambience, involving on-farm research mode and outreach activities by NARS, developmental and Institutional efforts, growers confidence and striving, advance crop performance in major cotton economies etc. The institute has released two hybrids one *intra-hirsutum* (CSHH 198) and a MS based *desi* hybrid (CISAA 2) suitable for cotton-wheat cropping system of north zone.

Cotton season was relatively free from any catastrophic pest onslaught. However, the economic survey of cotton performance has come out with revelation of plant protection contributing more than one-third of the cost even during this season. The trends emphasise the need for cutting-down the pesticides and fertilizer bills in cotton production particularly in resource rich conditions. This underscores the need for transfer of cost cutting technologies - IPM, soil mulching, water harvesting, intercropping etc.

The imported cotton picker tested for the first time brought-out encouraging results in term of efficiency with the identified genotypes characterised by synchrony in maturity, compact, plant stature, fruiting bodies position etc.

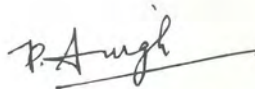
It is a matter of pride to every one of us that the institute annual report 2002-03 has won the **Best Annual Report Award** of ICAR. The institute shall strive hard to attain further acclaims in the years ahead.



All these have been possible due to untiring efforts of my colleagues and also due to the support from ICAR, New Delhi.

I place on record my sense of gratitude for the guidance and leadership provided by hon'ble Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE & Director General, ICAR and Dr. Gautam Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) ICAR, New Delhi in developing infrastructural facilities and manpower capabilities of the Institute.

I am presenting the annual report 2003 - 04 with pride and sense of fulfilment for public scrutiny.



(Phundan Singh)

Director (Acting)