



CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON RESEARCH, NAGPUR केन्द्रीय कपास अनुसंघान संस्थान, नागपुर







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Published by

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Correct Citation

CICR, Annual Report 2006-2007 Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, India

Front Cover: Left : Intra-hirsutum hybrid CSHH238

Right: G. arboreum variety CISA -310

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Printed At:

Surya offset, Ramdashpeth, Nagpur





PREFACE

Cotton is a very important cash crop for Indian farmers and contributes around 30% to the gross domestic product of Indian agriculture. Around 280 lakh bales of cotton was produced during the year 2006-2007 with a productivity of 520 kg lintlha. In spite of many limitations cotton productivity is increasing every year during the last few years. This is primarily due to the adoption of transgenic cotton hybrids and improved production and protection technologies including highly productive and quality cottons. This report covers the results of research work done at CICR during 2006-07.

The intra-hirsutum hybrid CSHH 238 and G. arboreum variety CISA 310 were notified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India for commercial cultivation under irrigated conditions of North Zone. Another intra-hirsutum hybrid CSHH 243 was identified for release under irrigated conditions of North Zone. Four germplasm lines having unique characters were registered with N8PGR, New Delhi. The transgenic cotton varieties/hybrids (with Bt gene) were tested under RCGM trails and the follow-up action will be initiated in the coming years. Concrete efforts were made to improve water use efficiency of cotton under irrigated and rainfed conditions through improved agronomic practices. Studies were conducted on various aspects such as integrated nutrient management, inter-cropping, tillage and promising results were obtained in terms of lowered cost of cultivation and higher monetary returns. Integrated methodology for assessing regional level cotton production (including the use of remote sensed database, GIS and Cotton Crop Simulation Model (INFOCROP-Cotton)) was developed and validated. In the field of crop protection basic studies were conducted on cry 1 Ac resistance development and primers were designed for the characterization of susceptibility / resistance to cry 1 Ac. IRM strategies were disseminated to more than 70000 farmers covering an area of 1.31 lakh ha across 33 districts in the country. Proven technologies were effectively demonstrated and disseminated through FLD programme at all the three centers. A plant polyclinic was established at Rangri village in Haryana along with prototype IPM farm. Indepth basic/ molecular level studies on biotic and abiotic stresses were undertaken. Considerable progress has been made in the development of diagnostic kits. New research programmes were initiated to tackle the emerging issues in 8t cotton cultivation. All these were successfully accomplished due to the systematic and concerted efforts of my colleagues and support from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

I am highly grateful to Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR and Dr. Gautam Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi for the guidance provided and also for encouraging new research initiatives.

I am placing the Annual Report (2006-07) with a sense of satisfaction for public scrutiny.

(B.M.Khadi)

Director





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