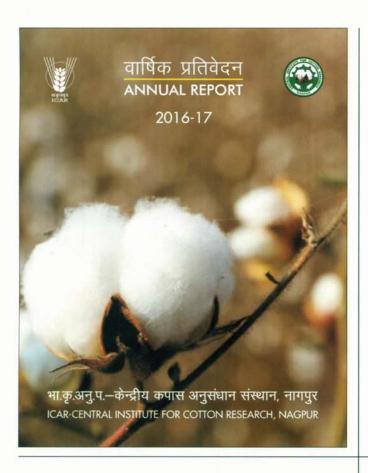


वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17





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PREFACE



he year 2016-17 has been an eventful year on many counts from cotton R&D perspective. It marked the Golden Jubilee year for the AICRP on Cotton. The celebrations were concluded with the approval of a new road map to increase the productivity of cotton to 1000 kg lint/ha in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible manner. The area under cotton declined from 11.88 m ha in 2015-16 to 10.5 m ha in 2016-17. But the cotton production was 351 lakh bales in 2016-17 as compared to 338 lakh bales in 2015-16. This happened only because of increase in productivity from 484 kg/ha to 568 kg/ha. For the first time in the period of this decade the desi, *G. arboreum* cotton was planted on 80,000 ha area replacing hybrids. For the first time, 21 Bt varieties developed by public sector institutes were evaluated across different AICRP centres and ICAR-CICR stations at Coimbatore and Sirsa and promising ones for each state were short listed for approval. The first ever *G. hirsutum* variety, CSH 3075, developed exclusively for planting under High Density Planting System was notified. Additionally, 2 more *G. hirsutum* varieties, CSH 3129 for irrigated north zone and high strength CCH 4474 (Subiksha) variety for irrigated conditions of south zone were released.

The ICAR-CICR has also collected, characterized and preserved for posterity the fast eroding land races and perennials from across the country. A novel protocol for in-vitro culture of cotton ovules of interspecific (*G. arboreum* x *G. hirsutum*) crosses, embryo rescue techniques and Agro-bacterium tumefaciens mediated in-planta transformation protocol were standardized. A protocol has also been standardized to enable DNA extraction from harvested matured cotton fibre.

The institute provided leadership and coordinated the implementation of strategies to manage whiteflies in the north zone. The proactive strategies devised helped to minimize losses due to pink bollworms in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. A protocol using LAMP for diagnosis of cotton leaf curl virus was developed. Technologies for managing multiple nutrient deficiencies on calcareous soils through seed treatment of chelated micronutrients and humic-acid were developed. A brush type harvester with pre-cleaner was developed and evaluated in collaboration with Mahendra & Mahendra and ICAR-CIRCOT. Through the e-kapas, voice mail service, the institute issued regular advisories and reached out to 1.59 lakh cotton farmers. 'Cotton Doctor' a decision support system for pest management was developed. Our efforts to reach out to the farmers were further intensified through the 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' (MGMG) programme and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Weekly articles on various production and protection technologies for the benefit of cotton farmers were disseminated through the most popular agricultural daily news paper in Marathi language in Maharashtra.

I am grateful to Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR; Dr J. S. Sandhu, DDG (CS) and Dr R. K. Singh, ADG (CC) for their constant encouragement, guidance and support. The dynamic leadership



provided to the Institute by Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Former Director, who joined the International Cotton Advisory Committee as the Head, Technical Information Section is fondly acknowledged. The Heads of Divisions Dr Sandhya Kranthi, Dr Blaise Desouza, Dr V. N. Waghmare and Dr Suman Bala Singh and Dr D. Monga, Head, Regional Stations, Sirsa, and Dr A. H. Prakash, PC and Head, Regional Station, Coimbatore have contributed immensely to the execution of research programmes and their documentation in this report. I thank them all for the excellent camaraderie and support. Dr M. V. Venugopalan, Dr M. S. Yadav and Mrs Vandana Satish deserve to be commended for their outstanding inputs and commitment to all aspects related to this annual report.

Cotton farming is on a threshold of a new revolution. With a vision and the roadmap for the future of cotton industry in India, innovative and appropriate technologies can be developed.

(M. S. Ladaniya)

Director (Additional Charge) ICAR-CICR, Nagpur

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