

# Cotton Innovate

A Monthly Newsletter from ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur



*Adult of Jassids (Amrasca devastans)*

Contributed by Dr. K. Rameash, Principal Scientist, Entomology ICAR-CICR, RS, Coimbatore

**Research Note Clipping**  
Detoxification mechanism  
for neonicotinoids and  
newer molecules against  
cotton leaf hopper

K Shankarganesh, et al.,  
Page 1

**CICR Happenings:**  
Pre-Kharif - Farmers Workshop,  
Program under DAPST  
scheme, Research Committee  
Meeting, Principal Scientist  
Visit to University of Guelph,  
Training on GM Cotton Testing,  
Seed Sale, Summer Training,  
Page 2-8

**Scientists' Corner**  
Page 9-10  
**MGMG** - Page 9-10  
**Cotton Statistics**  
Domestic cotton  
scenario during  
May 2023  
Page 12-13

**Cotton in Media**  
Page 14-16



**Detoxification mechanism for neonicotinoids and newer molecules against cotton leaf hopper**

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Of the eleven insecticides tested, thiamethoxam was found to be more toxic to the leafhopper followed by clothionidin, chlorpyrifos diafenthiuron and fipronil. Insecticides such as profenofos, imidacloprid and flonicamid were less toxic to the leafhopper. The relative toxicity values suggest that the thiamethoxam was 7.92 times more toxic than profenofos. Studies on susceptibility status of field population (Nagpur) of leafhopper to different insecticides revealed that the insecticides such as flonicamid, imidacloprid, thiamethaxam and clothionidin were found to be more toxic and thiocloprid was found to be less toxic to this leafhopper population.

The detoxification enzymes, esterase, mixed function oxidase and glutathione S transferase revealed that the neonicotinoid exposure enhances the activity of esterase activity. Mixed function oxidases (MFOs) activity was high in chlorpyrifos and profenofos exposed leafhoppers. Leafhopper exposed spiromesifen also showed high level of MFOs activity. Similarly, the activity of Glutathione S transferase (GST) was high in chlorpyrifos and profenofos exposed leafhoppers.

## CICR Happenings

### **ICAR-CICR, Nagpur organized Pre-Kharif Cotton Farmers Workshop on "Technologies and best management practices for enhancing cotton productivity" on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

ICAR-CICR organized Pre-Kharif Cotton Farmers Workshop on "Technologies and best management practices for enhancing cotton productivity" on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 under DAPSC (SCSP) scheme. Input distribution for adoption of best practices to farmers under DAPSC (SCSP) scheme was done by Chief Guest Dr. CD Mayee, Former ASRB, Chairman. Technical session covering pre-sowing operations, selection of cotton cultivars, pest and disease management strategies were exhaustively covered by the scientific experts of the institute. A total of 190 farmers actively participated and benefitted from the workshop.



## ICAR-CICR organized one day “Farmers Training, Awareness camp cum Input Distribution” program under DAPST scheme

One day “Farmers’ Training, Awareness camp cum Input Distribution Programme” under DAPST/TSP scheme was organized by ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) under centrally sponsored development action plan for schedule tribes, DAPST (formerly Tribal Sub Plan) scheme. On this occasion, a team of subject experts comprising Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) & DAPST Nodal Officer (i/c), Dr. Ulhas Galkate, SMS (Veterinary science), KVK-CICR, Nagpur and Dr. S. H. Thube, Scientist (Agri. Entomology) interacted and guided the tribal farmers on several issues of cotton crop production, protection and diseases management, cotton post-harvest management practices, animal husbandry and integrated farming systems. At the outset, Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale briefed about the DAPST scheme for overall development of scheduled tribe farmers with advanced agrotechniques of cultivation. Dr. Ulhas Galkate explained the importance of selection of improved breeds of cattles, importance of vaccination and nutrition for animals. During the event, tarpaulins, nutribricks and vegetable seed kits were distributed to the participant tribal farmers of Gadchiroli district. Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale explained about integrated disease management in paddy and cotton with emphasis on seed treatment. Dr. S. H. Thube briefed about the role of biocontrol agents and biopesticides in cotton pest management. On this occasion, Mr. Dnyaneshwar Thatod, Mr. Pushpak A. Bothikar, Mr. Naresh P. Buddewar and Mrs. Nilima Patil from KVK, Gadchiroli also interacted with farmers. Dr. Dipak T. Nagrale was the organizing secretary of the program. Mr. Sujit Kumbhare, Technical Officer (T-2) and Mr. DB Mundharikar assisted in the farmers’ registration and coordination of the program. Vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Dnyaneshwar Thatod. Fifty tribal farmers from Gadchiroli district attended the program.



## ICAR-CICR, Nagpur organized Pre-Kharif Cotton Farmers Workshop on "Technologies & best management practices for enhancing cotton productivity" on 30 May 2023

ICAR-CICR organized Pre-Kharif Cotton Farmers Workshop on "Technologies & best management practices for enhancing cotton productivity" on 30 May 2023 under DAPSC (SCSP) scheme. Input distribution for adoption of best practices to farmers under DAPSC (SCSP) scheme was done Chief Guest Dr. S.N. Puri, Former Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal in presence of Guest of Honour Ms. Mittali Sethi (IAS), Director, VANAMATI, Nagpur and Dr. NG Patil, Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur. Technical session covering pre-sowing operations, selection of cotton cultivars, pest and disease management strategies were exhaustively covered by the scientific experts of the institute. More than 200 farmers participated and benefitted from the workshop.



## Institute Research Committee Meeting held at ICAR-CICR-RS, Coimbatore



Institute Research Committee meeting was held during May 15 -16, 2023 at ICAR-CICR, RS, Coimbatore. The meeting was chaired by Dr. YG Prasad, Director, CICR, Nagpur. In his introductory remarks, the chairman spoke about cadre strength of AICRP and CICR, project-based budgeting, Adhoc Cess fund, IPR and certification of technologies by

Institute etc. He also encouraged the scientists to secure external funded projects and publish articles in high impact factor journals. All the Scientists presented their projects and constructive discussion about each project was done.

Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Head, PME Unit, Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Head, Crop Improvement division, Dr. P. Balasubramani, Principal Scientist, Biotechnology, Dr. K. Velumourougane, IRC secretary and Dr. K. Rathinavel, Head, CICR, RS, Coimbatore were present physically and gave important suggestions for the improvement of the projects. Dr. A. R. Raju, Head, Crop Production division, Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head, CICR, RS, Sirsa and Scientists from Nagpur and Sirsa virtually attended the meeting and actively participated in the discussion. Dr. K. Velumourougane, IRC Secretary and Dr. J. Annie Sheeba, local IRC secretary coordinated the meeting.

## Presentation on Visit to University of Guelph, Canada, by Dr. S. Usha Rani, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Extension

Dr. S. Usha Rani, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Extension, made a brief presentation on her visit to University of Guelph, Canada for participating in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual conference on Association of International Agricultural Extension Education (AIAEE) on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. She explained about the various sessions of the conference, the poster presented by her on “Plurastic Extension Model for fostering the production of Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton in India”, the session “International Extension Experiences” which she acted as a discussant and the round table session led by her “Concept of Integrated Extension Management for Bridging the Knowledge Gap among Heterogeneous Group of Technology Adopters”. She also exhibited few photographs of the University of Guelph campus, Arboretum and the places she visited in and around the campus.



### Training on GM Cotton Testing

A five-day training on GM Cotton Testing, for the officials from the Office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Seed Analyst and Training) - Department of Seed Certification and Organic Certification, Department of Agriculture, Coimbatore was held at Biotechnology laboratory, CICR, RS, Coimbatore from May 2-9, 2023. The training was mainly focused on testing of Bt cotton and Bt-HT cottons in the seed lots sold to farmers. Dr A. Manivannan (Course Coordinator) and Dr N. Chandrasekhar (Assistant Course Coordinator) conducted the training program and gave hands on training to Assistant Directors of Agriculture (ADA) and Agricultural Officers from the Seed Analyst and Training Laboratory.



### Meeting of Task Force under aegis of *Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran* (Haryana Farmers Welfare Authority) for preparation of Farmers Welfare Policy for Haryana Govt. with Vision 2047 held at CICR Sirsa on May 31, 2023

A farmers' interaction meeting of Task Force for preparation of Farmers Welfare Policy for Haryana Govt. with Vision 2047 was held at ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa, on May 31, 2023 where 35 progressive farmers of 3 districts (Fatehabad, Hisar and Sirsa) of Haryana participated and interacted with members of taskforce, provided their inputs for policy making. This meeting was chaired by Dr. Gurubachan Singh, (Former Chairman, ASRB) and coordinated by Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head (i/c) and Principal Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa; where he presented the overview of cotton production in north zone as well as emerging issues in cotton production with possible management options. Dr. RS Dalal, Retired Professor, CCS HAU, Hisar and Dr. Sajjan Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIRB, Hisar participated as members, whereas Dr. Neelam Patel participated as Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog and Dr. DP Malik, Professor & Head (Economics), CCS HAU, Hisar participated as member secretary for the programme.



### Summer Training on Field and Laboratory Techniques related to Cotton Crop at ICAR CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa

ICAR CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa organized 'Summer Training on "Field and Laboratory Techniques related to Cotton Crop"' for the B. Sc. III year students of CMK College, Sirsa (Haryana) from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head (i/c) & Principal Scientist (Entomology) was the training director and Dr. Debashis Paul, Scientist (Seed Technology) acted as training



coordinator; whereas Dr. S. K. Sain, Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), Dr. Amarpreet Singh (Scientist-SS-Agronomy) and Dr. Subhash Chandra (Scientist-SS-plant Breeding) ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa acted as training associates for the programme.



### **Seed Sale report of ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa during 2022-23**

Breeder seeds sale of 3.2 Q of released varieties and parental lines of hybrids (*i.e* CICR Bt-6, CICR-1, CICR-3, CSH 3075, CSH 3129, parental lines of CICR-2) from ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa was achieved during last season to various Private Seed Companies and among the progressive farmers including the seed producers of North India. The sale of the seeds generated revenue of Rupees One Lakh Four Hundred and Thirteen (100413/-) and was deposited in revolving fund of the project AICRP on Seed (crops).

### Scientists' Corner:

- Dr YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur along with Dr KP Raghvendra and Dr Neelakanth Hiremani participated in the interactive session with Chairman, UGC on University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023, on 09.05.2023
- Dr. S. K. Sain, Principal Scientist (Plant pathology), Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Scientist (SS), (Agronomy) and Dr. Debashis Paul, Scientist (Seed Technology) from ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa conducted Farmers training at MGMG village 'Chadiwal' and 'Khedi' (Sirsa) on Best Management Practices in cotton (BMPs) on May 11, 2023. A total of 61 farmers trained in that programme.
- Dr. YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR presented the interim progress of the Special Project on Cotton before the Subgroup-I in the meeting held on 12.05.2023 under the Chairmanship of Dr RK Singh, ADG (CC) along with field partners and members to finalize the beneficiaries and operational details in the identified villages/ clusters.
- Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head (I/c) & Principal Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa, attended a meeting, chaired by Director ICAR-CICR, Nagpur and organized by Chief Administrative Officer, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on May 12, 2023 to discuss issues regarding evaluation of products from Bayer Crop Science
- Dr YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur attended the Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting during 15-16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and interaction meeting with scientists and staff of CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore
- Dr. Rishi Kumar, Head (i/c) & Principal Scientist (Entomology), Dr. SK Sain, Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), Dr. Amarpreet Singh, Scientist (SS), (Agronomy), Dr. Subhash Chandra, Scientist (SS), Plant Breeding and Dr. Debashis Paul, Scientist (Seed Technology) from ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa attended the IRC meeting of ICAR-CICR, Coimbatore during May 15-16, 2023 virtually chaired by Director ICAR-CICR, Nagpur. Closing projects as well as new project proposals were also discussed in the meeting.
- Dr YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur and Dr VN Waghmare virtually participated in the meeting regarding presentation of EFC proposal on "Enhancing climate resilience and ensuring food security with genome editing tool" on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 invited by Dr. Devendra Kumar Yadav.
- Dr YG Prasad, Director ICAR-CICR attended a meeting of the Committee on rationalizing and rightsizing of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with Crop Science Division on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Dr YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur attended a Round Table Discussion on Cotton under the Co-chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), NITI Ayog and Secretary, DA&FW on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi organized by Addl. Commissioner (Crops), MoAFW, DA&FW, Division of Crops and PHMF, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Dr YG Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur chaired the concluding session of IRC 2023 on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in hybrid mode. All the Scientists from Nagpur attended physically. Scientists from regional stations of CICR have participated in online mode.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the ISCI Nagpur chapter was convened at the ICAR-CICR, Nagpur on 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y G Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR. Dr M V Venugopalan, Dr G Balasubramani, Dr Vinita Gotmare, , Dr Ramkrushna, Dr Shailesh Gawande, Dr Fand and Mr Joy Das also attended the meeting.
- Dr. S. K. Sain, Principal Scientist (Plant pathology), ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Sirsa attended a meeting on enhancing seed production of desi cotton held at the Office of Director Agriculture, Kandi Bhavan, Panchkula, Chandigarh on May 31, 2023



**Farmers training at MGGM village Chadiwal and Khedi (Sirsa) on Best Management Practices in cotton.**

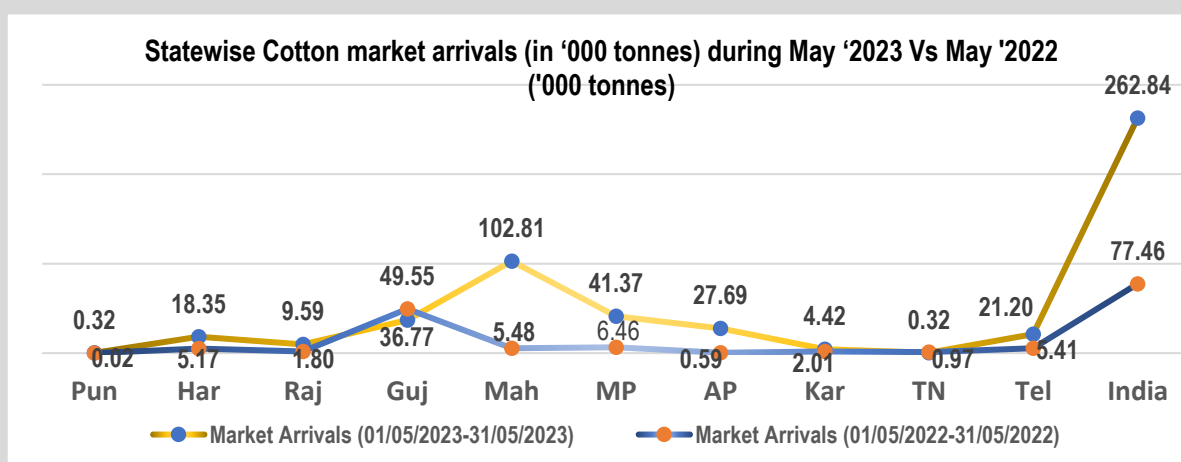
- Dr P Valarmathi, Scientist (Plant Pathology), acted as Mentor for the Student internship programme for Ms. M. Shobika, I M.Sc (Biotechnology), Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal on “Basic and Molecular Methods in Plant Pathology” for the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (15 days). During the internship period, she was trained in various basic and molecular aspects of Plant Pathology. Basic aspects such as general equipment, their uses and precaution in handling at laboratory, preparation of different media, isolation and purification of fungal and bacterial plant pathogens, isolation of fungal and bacterial antagonists from rhizosphere soil, transmission study of plant viruses through sap inoculation and preparation of buffers for DNA isolation and molecular aspects such as fungal DNA isolation using CTAB method, PCR analysis for fungal pathogens, RNA extraction from plants using TRIZOL method, Agarose gel electrophoresis, SDS-PAGE, ELISA and Chromatographic techniques were taught.

## Cotton Trade Scenario during the month of May '2023

Dr. Isabella Agarwal, Principal Scientist Economics, CICR, RS, Coimbatore

International cotton prices as measured by the Cotlook A Index ended the month of May as they began at 94.15 cents per lb. The highest position of the A Index was 97.85 on May 18 and it fell to a low of 90.65 cents per lb on May 26. China was certainly the most active import market for raw cotton during the month. The cotton yarn exports, dropped by almost 50% while the cotton fabrics and made-ups exports dropped by 17% and raw cotton exports dropped by 73% during the year 2022-23 when compared to 2021-22 as the production capacity across the cotton textile value chain has dropped to the tune of 30%, the demand for home-grown cotton also dropped resulting in significant drop in cotton prices during the month of May 2023

The arrivals of seed cotton in May have reached a new peak and are expected to continue until the end of June. Despite good production, cotton arrivals in Gujarat till May 2023 are comparatively lower than last year as farmers are holding stock in anticipation of better price. Presently, cotton arrivals are at around 20,000 bales per day. Moreover, around 18 lakh bales are expected to arrive till September 2023. Farmers in various States have had a change of heart and are now interested in selling their stored seed cotton.



The demand for yarn is minimal, and its exports have been negatively affected by the recessionary trend. The demand for cloth is also low. Cotton arrivals this month have reached a nine-year high of 262.84 thousand tonnes. In comparison, during the same period in 2014, when India had a record high cotton crop of 398 lakh bales, arrivals amounted to 236 thousand tonnes. The arrival of cotton during the current season was less than 60% against its usual arrival during the season which is 85% - 90%.

State wise Wholesale Prices (Rs./qtl.) for Cotton May '2023

State	May, 2023	May, 2022	% Change( Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	7147	11838	-39.63
Gujarat	7292	10870	-32.92
Haryana	7348	11243	-34.64
Karnataka	7278	11138	-34.66
Madhya Pradesh	7228	10005	-27.76
Maharashtra	7285	11422	-36.22
Punjab	2125		
Rajasthan	7650	12156	-37.07
Tamil Nadu	6500	12455	-47.81
Telangana	7153	11119	-35.67
Average	6700.6	11360.67	

Source: [www.agmarket.nic.in](http://www.agmarket.nic.in)

The abnormal month on month kapas price prevailed during the previous year made the farmers and kapas traders to hold over 47% of the cotton with a hope of abnormal price increase despite the cotton corporation of India's announcement regarding the closure of MSP operations on March 31. During the month of May '2023, the prices were less when compared to the same month of previous year 2022. The current prices hovered around Rs.6500/- to Rs.7650/- during May '2023.

LOKMAT TIMES • Anchor

## Smart Cotton Project to give more income to farmers

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK  
NAGPUR

Smart Cotton Project is being jointly implemented by Agriculture Department and Marketing Department in 15 villages of Katol tehsil.

This project is being implemented with the objective of increasing the income of the cotton growers by adding value to the cotton crop. Since this cotton will fetch 500 per cent more price than the cotton seed, more farmers are opting for growing long staple cotton, sources said.

However, to have uniform quality of cotton, there is a need to select a single variety in the village. For that, meetings were organised in Gangadoli, Bordoli, Yenwa, Rajni, Isapur, Chikhali, Mendki to select 'one village, one variety'



of cotton. Multitasking grader Indrapal Bagde guided the farmers in the meeting at Mendki. Former Sarpanch Vijay Nanudev Bhaishwar, Veterinary officer Dr Sheshrao Mahadev Sonekar, progressive farmers Sanjay Motiram Khanve, Pramod Laludev Bhaishwar also expressed their thoughts in the meeting.

### Online sale of bales

In the project, long-stapled cotton of farmers with higher ginning per centage will be collected through the Cotton Growers' Group with the help of the group leader and cotton seed will be separated from the lint at the ginning mill to make bales. These bales would be sold online to give more income to the farmers.

Group head of Adarsh Farmers Self Help Group Bandu Neware was instrumental in making the programme a successful. Agriculture supervisor Chhatrapati Nagamote, agriculture assistant A Hedau, tehsil technical manager Amol Bhaishwar guided the farmers about the new scheme in the Agriculture Department.

Lokmat Times, 11 May, 2023

## 'Cotton prices dropped to please industrial lobby'

Anil Deshmukh says state government should intervene

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK  
NAGPUR

The untimely rains this year have caused huge losses to the cotton growers in the district. Cotton production too has decreased due to heavy rains.

Cotton is being imported in large quantities from abroad under the pressure of Cotton Association of India to benefit the textile industry giants. Former home minister Anil Deshmukh has made a serious allegation that the domestic cotton prices have been reduced to favour industrial lobby.

Deshmukh said, in the sea-

son of 2021-22, cotton was sown in about 39.36 lakh hectares in the state. In the open market this year, the price of cotton was ₹15,500 per quintal. However, due to the import of large quantities of cotton, domestic cotton prices fell.

This year, the Cotton Association of India put pressure on the central government and citing the shortage of cotton and yarn, the 11 per cent import duty on cotton between September and October 2022 was waived off.

Due to this, textile entrepreneurs imported large quantities of cotton bales from abroad. As soon as duty was waived, 12 lakh bales were imported. Also, just a few days ago, 4 lakh bales were again imported from abroad. Last year, 43 lakh bales were exported. However, only 30 lakh bales were ex-

ported this year. Due to this, the price of domestic cotton has fallen.

Currently, cotton is fetching 6 thousand 500 to 6 thousand 800 in the market. This does not even include simple production costs. On the other hand, farmers did not bring cotton to the market due to lack of price. Since cotton has been in the house for a long time now its price has also fallen.

Not only this, the weight of cotton has also decreased due to increasing temperature. In view of all this situation, the cotton producers are in a big trouble. Taking cognizance of this, Deshmukh has demanded that the state government should discuss the import policy with the central government and provide financial assistance to the farmers.

Lokmat News, 31 May, 2023

## Farmers report increased cotton yield

Achieve results with help of CICR; Pre-Kharif Kisan Consultation organised under DAPSC

BHAIRAVI SHRIVASTAV  
NAGPUR

Farmers attending Pre-Kharif Kisan Consultation organised by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) reported increased yield in their farms through help received from the institute. The programme was held under centrally sponsored Development Action Plan for scheduled caste (DAPSC) on Tuesday at ICAR-CICR campus.

Akshay Janardhan Somkumar, a 27-year-old farmer and student from Vadivhara village who owns a 3-acre farm, told Lokmat Times, "I am currently pursuing Masters in Social Work and do farming also. I have been attending CICR workshops for two years. With support



Dignitaries and farmers along with others during the programme held in the city on Tuesday.

from officials here, I have been able to increase my cotton productivity from 9-10 quintals to 11-12 quintals. A kit is always provided which really helps crops grow in a healthy way."

Another farmer Kulkarni Kundlikraut from Rampuri Sooner grows only cotton on his 4.5 acre farm. He said, "I am visiting workshop for the

first time.

CICR scientist visited our village and explained to us the relevance of the programme. I am very excited to be here and looking forward to attend more such programmes. They gave us fertilizer kit and I will be using it in my farm. I am sure it will give the desired results."

Dr Y G Prasad, director,

ICAR-CICR, briefed on different outreach and extension activities of institute consisting of production and protection technologies devised by the institute to enhance cotton productivity in Maharashtra. He discussed a number of scalable ICAR-CICR technologies, such as the High Density Planting System (HDPS) for raised

cultivation, shallow-medium soils, drone technology demonstration, e-kapas programme, weekly advisory services, and collaboration with the state agriculture department.

Dr S N Puri, former VC, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, and MPKV, Raipur, in his inaugural address, stated that the farmers should take the benefits from this scheme. Mitall Sethi, director, VANAMATI, Nagpur was guest of honour.

Dr N G Patil, director, NBS&LUP, Nagpur, stressed on the necessity of water conservation, contingency planning, soil type-depth, fertility, and water holding capacity in preparation for drought expected this year. Dr Jayant H Meshram, nodal officer-DAPSC, provided an outline of the programme's many operations.

Lokmat Times, 31 May, 2023

## Cotton farmers in trouble due to rate drop across India: Anil Deshmukh

Vaibhav Ganjapure  
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Former home minister Anil Deshmukh on Tuesday accusing BJP-Shiv Sena government of neglecting the cotton farmers' plight.

Deshmukh said that the farmers were in big trouble due to a sharp drop in the rate of cotton. Deshmukh had raised the issue in the Maharashtra assembly's budget session in March. The government had assured to look into the issue, but farmers had hardly received any help, he said.

"The steep fall in the rates across the country is primarily due to wrong import and export policies of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Last year, the farmers were

getting rates of ₹12,000 to ₹12,500 per quintal, which has now reduced to ₹6,000-₹6,500. Last year, the country exported 43 lakh bales, which is reduced to 30 lakh this year. On the other hand, there is a 7% increase in cotton sowing by the farmers, which now covers almost 42.11 lakh hectares," Deshmukh said.

Accusing the central government of acting as per the dictates of Cotton Association of India, the senior NCP leader said that it abolished 11% import tax on cotton.

"When I had raised the issue in the assembly in Mumbai, the rates were ₹8,000-9,000 per quintal. The farmers held back their produce hoping that the rates would increase. However, it is leading to pro-



NCP leader Anil Deshmukh with Ramesh Bang on Tuesday

blems like degradation of cotton quality due to summer temperature, reduction in its weight, and health problems due to pests and insects," Deshmukh said.

Appealing chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnis to look into the farmers' grievances, Deshmukh, who was accompanied by city NCP president Duneswar Pethe, former MLA Ramesh Bang, and party's district president Baba Gujar, demanded that both

Centre and state should review the policies on cotton.

"The government should provide immediate help to farmers. After abolition of import duty, 16 lakh bales were imported that led to drastic reduction in the cotton prices," he said.

Launching a scathing attack on (NMC, which was formerly ruled by the BJP, Deshmukh said that the 24x7 water supply scheme of Orange City Water (OCW) was a big failure. "The scheme was hyped a lot when it was launched. About 11 years later, not even 25% of citizens receive drinking water for even 12 hours," he said.

NCP will organize its state OBC cell's two-day workshop Phule Sanskrutik Sabhagruh, Reshimbagh on June 3 and 4, where all top leaders would guide the participants.

Times of India, 31 May, 2023

## Farmers' body demands ban on HtBt cotton seeds be lifted

TO Abraham | TNN

**Yavatmal:** A delegation of Shetkari Sanghatana led by its district president Vijay Naval met Union minister Nitin Gadkari at Mahur to apprise him of hardships of cotton farmers.

The delegation pointed out that developed countries like America had in 1996 lifted restrictions on use of herbicide-tolerant BT (HtBt) cotton seeds but in India the seeds are banned and anybody using them is prosecuted. The Sanghatana demanded lifting ban on the HtBt cotton seeds.

According to Milind Damle of the technical wing of the Sanghatana, farmers are forced to use costly pesticides. "Over 6,000 farmers and farm labourers have died in the state due to the inhalation of pesticide during spraying. Also, farmers have to spend additional ₹10-15,000 per acre to remove weed which grows the cotton crop," he said.



A delegation of Shetkari Sanghatana led by its district president Vijay Naval met Union minister Nitin Gadkari at Mahur

The delegation pointed out that countries like America had in 1996 lifted curbs on use of HtBt cotton seeds

The delegation also stated that on the pesticide packets, manufacturers don't disclose the pH ratio of water to be used. "Pesticide rules had been passed in India in 1971. But it was not made mandatory for manufacturers to disclose quality and quantity of water to be used. This leads to use of water having pH level more than 7," Damle said and added that if pesticides are used inconsistent with the requirements, they fail to destroy weeds near cotton, maize and soyabean, the major cash crops cultivated across the district.

Gadkari has assured to take up the matter with Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

A delegation of the farmers organization had earlier met district guardian minister Sanjay Rathod to apprise him of their plight.

**Times of India**  
23 May, 2023

## 'Large quantity of cotton import led to its price crash'

■ Staff Reporter

"DUE to anticipation of getting good prices this year also like last year, farmers have increased the sowing area of cotton. But heavy rains damaged the cotton. To add to their woes, this year, Central Government has imported cotton in large quantity. To benefit the textile industry in country, Cotton Association of India has pressurised the Government," alleged former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh.

Deshmukh was interacting with mediapersons at Patrakar Club of Nagpur on Tuesday. He said, "In 2021-22, the cotton was produced in 39.36 lakh hectare land. In the open market, cotton got price of Rs 12,500/quintal. Owing to good price last year, cotton growers increased the sowing area of cotton by 7% to 42.11 lakh



hectare. But the cotton was imported in large quantity and farmers had to suffer losses."

Cotton Association of India created pressure for more cotton. Citing the reason of shortage of cotton and thread, the Association suggested Government to waive off the 11% fees on import of cotton. This has led to cotton industries importing cotton bales. After the waiving of the import fees, 12 lakh cotton bales were imported, Deshmukh put forth the statistics.

This year, cotton is getting the price of Rs 6,500 to 6,800 out of which farmers are not able to get back the production cost. The rising temperature too has reduced the weight of cotton, pointed out Anil Deshmukh.

The Hitavada, 31 May, 2023

Times of India  
20/5/2023

## ICAR-CICR brings latest technology to Maha cotton growers to boost productivity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Nagpur:** As a symbolic gesture towards cotton growers of region, five progressive farmers were felicitated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) for their contribution in boosting production by adopting innovative methods of cultivation on Friday.

The ICAR-CICR had organised a one-day pre-kharif kisan sammelan, aimed at enhancing cotton productivity and equipping farmers with the latest agricultural technologies, in which over 200 agriculturists from all over the state participated apart from senior scientists and officials.



Dignitaries felicitating a farmer at pre-kharif kisan sammelan

Agricultural scientist CD Mayee, former chairman of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, graced the occasion as chief guest. He explained the development action plan for scheduled castes (DAPSC) scheme being implemented by the ICAR-CICR.

The main objective of the programme was to create awareness about cutting-edge tech-

niques and best practices in cotton cultivation. Mayee urged the farmers to take advantage of the scheme.

Director of ICAR-CICR YG Prasad explained the institute's outreach activities and strategies to boost cotton productivity in Maharashtra.

An exhibition showcased scalable technologies developed by the ICAR-CICR, including high-density planting system for rainfed marginal soils, canopy and nutrient management techniques, legume-based intercropping, and integrated pest and disease management strategies etc.

Those felicitated were given kits containing essential tools and materials like battery-operated knapsack sprayer, vege-

table seeds, pest management supplies, soluble fertilizers, and printed leaflets.

Farmers Naresh Chandwar, Sandhya Darwesh, and Swapnil Patil expressed their gratitude for the support received from ICAR-CICR.

Nodal officer at ICAR-CICR JH Meshram emphasized on the institute's commitment to the welfare of farmers, especially those from the below poverty line (BPL) and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe groups. He said the institute has provided pairs of goats to promote animal husbandry and to generate additional income for the marginal farmers.

(Reporting by Suyash Thakre and Astha Tiwari)

Times of India, 20 May, 2023

# खरीपात सुधारित वाण व तंत्रज्ञान वापरून प्रगती साधा

**डॉ. दीपक नगराळे यांचे आवाहन शेतकरी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम**

पुण्य नगरी / प्रतिनिधी



गडचिरोली : आदिवासी उपयोजनेविषयी माहिती देऊन कापूस संशोधन केंद्रांतर्गत राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या विविध योजनांची माहिती दिली. तसेच सुधारीत बियाण्यांचा वापर करून खरीप पिकाद्वारे उत्पन्नात वाढ करावी आणि आपले आर्थिक स्तर उंचावावे, असे प्रतिपादन केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन केंद्र नागपूर येथील वरिष्ठ शास्त्रज्ञ डॉ. दीपक नगराळे यांनी केले. स्वातंत्र्याच्या अमृत महोत्सवानिमित्त आदिवासी उपयोजनेंतर्गत केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन नागपूर व कृषी विज्ञान केंद्र सोनापूर गडचिरोली यांच्या

संयुक्त विद्यमाने शेतकरी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन २६ मे रोजी कृषी विज्ञान केंद्र सोनापूर गडचिरोली येथे करण्यात आले होते. यावेळी ते बोलत होते. कार्यक्रमाला शास्त्रज्ञ डॉ. शिवाजी ठुबे, डॉ. उल्हास गळकाटे, दिलीप मुधीलकर, निलीमा पाटील, डी.व्ही. ताथोड, पी. ए. बोधीकर, एन. पी. बुद्धेवार, गुरुनाथ वाढई, सुजित कुंभारे तसेच शेतकरी उपस्थित होते. याप्रसंगी डॉ. शिवाजी ठुबे यांनी खिज प्रक्रिया, कापूस पिकावरील विविध कीडी

व रोगाचे व्यवस्थापन विषयक मार्गदर्शन केले. डॉ. उल्हास गळकाटे यांनी पशुधनाची घ्यावयाची काळजीविषयी माहिती दिली. जनावरांचे लसीकरण व लम्पी आजाराची कारणे तसेच घ्यावयाची काळजीविषयी शेतकऱ्यांना मार्गदर्शन केले. निलीमा पाटील यांनी पौष्टिक आहाराकरिता भाजीपाला पिकाचे महत्त्व सांगितले. त्याचप्रमाणे परसबागेमध्ये भाजीपाला पिकाची लगवड करण्याविषयी मार्गदर्शन केले. पी.ए. बोधीकर यांनी धानपिकावर येणारे कीड

व रोगाविषयी मार्गदर्शन केले. धान पिकाच्या अवस्था, कीड, रोग व्यवस्थापन तसेच फवारणी करताना घ्यावयाची काळजीविषयी मार्गदर्शन केले. एन.पी. बुद्धेवार यांनी कापूस तसेच धान पीक लगवड तंत्रज्ञानविषयी मार्गदर्शन केले. संचालन व आभार डी.व्ही. ताथोड यांनी केले. शेतकरी प्रशिक्षणादरम्यान आदिवासी उपयोजनेंतर्गत आदिवासी शेतकऱ्यांना भाजीपाला बियाणे, ताडपत्री व पाळीव जनावरांसाठी पोषण विटांचे वाटप कृषी निविष्टा स्वरूपात देण्यात आले.

## लोकमत

### खरीप हंगामात सुधारित वाणाचा वापर करा

वनस्पतीरोग शास्त्रज्ञ नगराळे : कृषी विज्ञान केंद्रात शेतकरी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क गडचिरोली : यंदाचा खरीप हंगाम काही दिवसातच सुरू होईल. आतापासूनच शेतकरी बियाण्यांच्या व्यवस्था करण्याच्या कामाला लागले आहेत. बियाण्यांची निवड करताना शेतकऱ्यांनी सुधारित वाणांचा वापर करावा व अधिकाधिक उत्पादन घ्यावे, असे आवाहन नागपूरच्या केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन केंद्राचे वरिष्ठ शास्त्रज्ञ (वनस्पती रोगशास्त्र) दीपक नगराळे यांनी केले.

केंद्रीय कापूस संशोधन केंद्र, नागपूर आणि कृषी विज्ञान केंद्र, सोनापूर-गडचिरोली यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने शेतकरी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम २६ मे रोजी कृषी विज्ञान केंद्रात पार पडला. यावेळी कीटकशास्त्रज्ञ डॉ. शिवाजी एच. ठुबे, डॉ. उल्हास गळकाटे, दिलीप मुधीलकर, विषय विशेषज्ञ (गृह



मार्गदर्शन करताना वरिष्ठ शास्त्रज्ञ दीपक नगराळे, सोबत कृषीतज्ज्ञ.

विज्ञान) निलीमा पाटील, डी. व्ही. ताथोड, पी. ए. बोधीकर, एन. पी. बुद्धेवार, गुरुनाथ वनरक्षक गुरुनाथ वाढई, सुजित कुंभारे तसेच शेतकरी उपस्थित होते.

डॉ. शिवाजी ठुबे यांनी बीज प्रक्रिया, कापूस पिकावरील विविध कीडी व रोगाचे व्यवस्थापन याविषयी मार्गदर्शन

केले. खरीप पिकांची घ्यावयाची काळजी, तसेच पशुधनाविषयी मार्गदर्शन उपस्थित मान्यवरांनी केले. ज्ञानेश्वर ताथोड यांनी कार्यक्रमाचे संचालन करून उपस्थितांचे आभार मानले. कार्यक्रमाच्या यशस्वीतेसाठी कृषी विज्ञान केंद्रातील कर्मचाऱ्यांनी सहकार्य केले.

कृषी निविष्टांसह पीक लागवडीबाबत धडे

परसबागेमध्ये भाजीपाला पिकांचे लागवड करणे, धान पिकांवर येणारी कीड व रोग याविषयी विशेष मार्गदर्शन केले. धान पिकाच्या अवस्था, कीड रोग व्यवस्थापन तसेच फवारणी करताना घ्यावयाची काळजी, कापूस तसेच धान पीक लागवड तंत्रज्ञान, त्याचप्रमाणे धान पिकावरील बीज प्रक्रिया तसेच धान पीक लागवड तंत्रज्ञानाविषय उपस्थित शेतकऱ्यांना समजावून सांगितले. शेतकरी प्रशिक्षणात आदिवासी उपयोजनेंतर्गत आदिवासी शेतकऱ्यांना भाजीपाला बियाणे, ताडपत्री व पाळीव जनावरांसाठी पोषण विटांचे वाटप कृषी निविष्टा स्वरूपात देण्यात आले.





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