

COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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MEETINGS

A Meeting was held on “**Screening and Evaluation for Cotton Leaf Curl Virus**” under the aegis of the AICCIP on 5.8.2014 at CICR, Nagpur. About 26 participants from public and private sector attended the meeting. Kohinoor seeds, Ankur seeds, MAHYCO, Ganga Kaveri, Krishidhan seeds, JK seeds, Bayer Crop Sciences, Bioseed, Rasi seeds, Nuziveedu seeds were represented by their officials. Dr. Siwatch (HAU), Dr. Pankaj Rathod (PAU), Dr. A.H.Prakash (PC), Dr.Sandhya Kranthi (CICR), Dr. Chinna Babu (CICR) Dr. Pradeep Kumar (RAU) and Dr. R.K. Arora (PAU) were also present. The meeting was chaired by Dr. C.D. Mayee. While Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, CICR, welcomed the gathering, Dr. Mayee gave the introductory remarks, followed by Dr. Rishi Kumar's presentation on the status of leaf curl screening procedures. Detailed discussion on the screening methodology followed. A monitoring team under the chairmanship of Dr. K. R. Kranthi was constituted for the year.



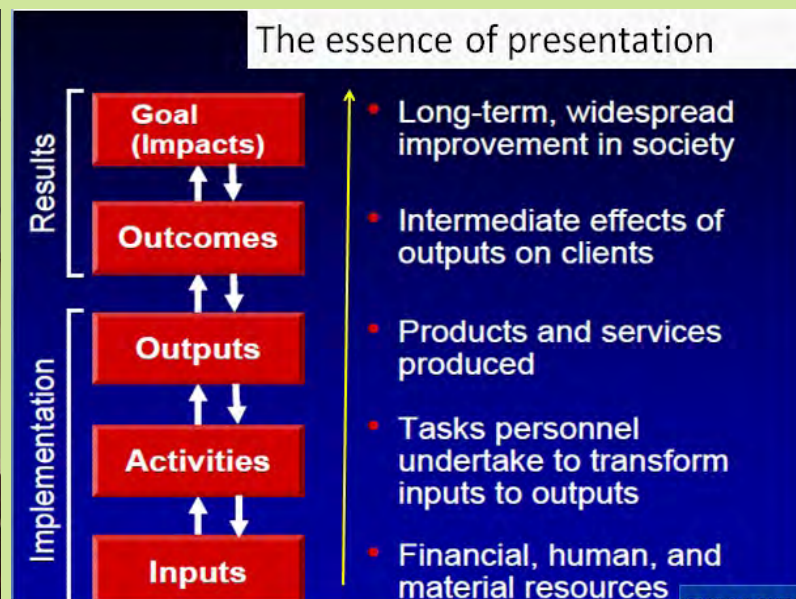
SCIENTIFIC TALKS



Dr.A. Manikandan, Scientist (Soil Science), Division of crop Production, CICR, Nagpur, presented a wild idea entitled as “**Beyond Biochar**” under the aegis of Innovation Cell on August 8, 2014. He shared the information pertaining to the importance of nutrient status and increasing trend of multinutrient deficiency in Indian soils over the last 3 decades. Further he briefed on limitations of rainfed farming. In order to increase the profit of rainfed farming he suggested the use of biomass based biochar with nutrient impregnation in cotton production in order to reduce the fertilizer costs. Biomass is the only renewable clean energy source and its availability is around 14% at global level and 32% in India.

According to ICAR, availability of crop residues (CR) is around 500-550 million tonnes and approximately 90-140 million tonnes were burned as shifting or slash cultivation. Biochar is produced through pyrolysis under absence or limited presence of oxygen and their properties are function of feedstock type and pyrolytic conditions (Moisture, Temperature). Highly stable aromatic forms of organic carbon (80-95%) i.e., biochar are produced and it is highly differentiated on the basis of chemical properties than biomass and similar physical property with presence of Structured (S), Tubular or Through (T), Restricted (R) type micro and mesopores. History of Biochar, conventional application rates and advantages were elaborated. Its application to soil provides benefits such as carbon sequestration tool, bioenergy, enhanced soil fertility and waste management He elaborated the process of fertilizer synthesis as fine powder of biochar and nutrient added by three different methods such as immersion, intercalation and impregnation and how this novel fertilizer application improves the nutrient use efficiency of cotton. The fabricated fertilizer will provide slow and sustained steady release of nutrients and increase nutrient use efficiency.

Dr. M.V. Venugopalan, Head, PME, CICR, Nagpur also delivered talk on “PME and related issues” and explained the terminologies related to RPFs.



MEETINGS ATTENDED

Dr. K.R.Kranthi, Director, CICR, Nagpur, Dr M V Venugopalan, Head, PME and Dr Vinita Gotmare Principal Scientist attended a Meeting on “Coloured Cotton” with the Joint Secretary (Cotton), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India on 4th August, 2014 at Office of the Textile Commissioner, Nishta Bhavan (New C.G.O. Building), Mumbai. Dr Vinita Gotmare made a Powerpoint presentation on “Prospects of Coloured Cotton”.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SCOUTS

One day training programme was organized for newly engaged workers of Online Pest Monitoring and Advisory Services (OPMAS) National Center for Integrated Pest Management on 31-07-2014 at CICR Regional Station, Sirsa. OPMAS Project staff participated in this training programme. Dr. Rishi Kumar, Entomologist discussed in detail about the Action Plan of OPMAS under NFSM (National Food Security Mission) - Commercial crops (Cotton). The Performa for recording insect pests' data, selection of villages, selection of farmers and hybrids was also discussed in detail. Dr. Monga in his address emphasized the importance of this data in issuance of the advisory to the farmers engaged in cotton farming. Dr. Monga suggested to record data on cotton leaf curl virus disease also on prominently grown hybrids in the adopted villages of Sirsa and Fatehabad. Mr. Jitender Nain, SRF (Senior Research Fellow) (OPMAS) demonstrated the recording of data under field conditions to the farmers.

Visit to HDPS Demonstration Plots

Dr. Dilip Monga, Head, CICR Regional Station, Sirsa and Dr. Rishi Kumar, Sr. Scientist visited the demonstration on HDPS (High Density Planting System) in villages Motta Panniwala and Karamgarh on dated 30-07-2014. The farmers were advised to spray for bollworm if ETL (Economic Threshold Level) is crossed.



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