

# COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

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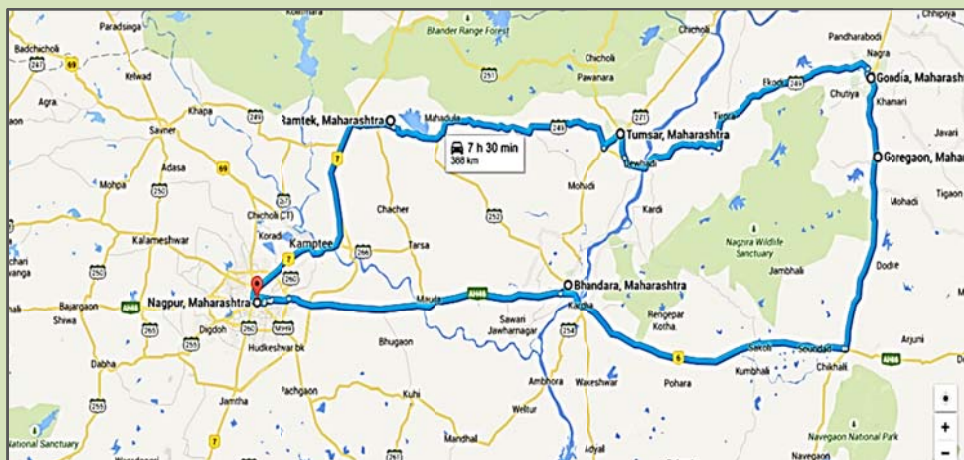
## ICAR-CICR signs MoU with Delhi University for R&D of a new Bt-cotton event developed by DU

ICAR-CICR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 15th June 2015 in Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, with the Delhi University for R&D and commercial utilization of a Bt cotton event 'Tg2E-13' developed by Professor Deepak Pental and his team. The Bt-cotton transgenic event 'Tg2E-13' was developed in a variety 'Coker 310' to incorporate the cry1Ac gene. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr S. Ayyappan, DG, ICAR, Dr J. S. Sandhu, DDG (CS), Dr Gopalakrishnan ADG (CC), Dr P. K. Chakrabarty, ADG (PP), Dr T. R. Sharma, Director, NRCPB, Prof. P. K. Burma, DU and research scientists Dr. Amarjeet Singh and Dr. Kumar Paritosh DU.

Dr Ayyappan, congratulated Prof Pental and his team for the achievement and assured him that ICAR would make the best of efforts to take the technology forward so as to ensure effective cotton pest management in India. The DG exhorted CICR to use the event for diversification and development of drought tolerant varieties with bollworm tolerance so as to help farmers in the dryland areas in boosting cotton productivity and production. Dr Sandhu endorsed the initiative and said that it would greatly strengthen the public sector efforts in providing elegant and sustainable technological options for farmers. Dr P. K. Chakrabarty said that he would coordinate biosafety testing of the event. Professor Deepak Pental informed that the Bt-cotton event has high levels of Cry1Ac expression with excellent toxicity to the American bollworm *Helicoverpa armigera*. He said that the Bt-cotton event Tg2E-13 was developed after eight years of hard work in the Department of Genetics of University of Delhi with funding from the Department of Biotechnology. He recommended that ICAR-CICR should make efforts to stack the Tg2E-13 event with other transgenic events developed by other public sector institutions, so as to enhance pest control efficacy and long term sustainability to enable competitive performance of the varieties. Dr Kranthi received a seed packet of 32 seeds from Prof pental. He said that over the past 10 years, the public sector system through meticulous hard work has developed excellent elite varieties adaptable to dry lands and low input conditions. However, farmer preference for Bt has resulted in the decline of area under public sector varieties. Recently, the ICAR-CICR developed a new high density planting system (HDPS), which was being increasingly adopted by farmers especially in rain-fed regions of Maharashtra and Telangana to obtain high yields with low cost of cultivation. Dr Kranthi said that the HDPS system would be immensely strengthened with the current initiatives to convert the elite varieties with Bt-cotton with Tg2E-13 pyramided with trans-genes developed by other public sector institutions in the country.

## Germplasm Exploration

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has carried out exploratory survey to collect native cultivars of desi cotton and perennials/tree cotton from Bhandara and Gondia districts of Maharashtra. Dr. S.B. Nandeshwar, Head, Biotechnology section and Principal Scientist, Dr. Saravanan, M, Scientist, Miss. Pragati, PA and Mr. Swapnil, Skilled worker participated in the survey on 12th June, 2015. During the exploration, 26 variants of cotton germplasm were collected from Bhandara, Goregaon, Amgaon and Gondia of Maharashtra.



Route map of Exploratory Survey

## **“Snakes, snake bite, first - aid and protection”- talk organized at CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore**

Mr. A. Selvaraju of Green Cross India delivered a talk on “Snakes, Snake bite, first-aid and protection” at CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore on June 08, 2015 under National Snakebite Initiative. The talk covered the different types of snakes and its identification about poisonous and non-poisonous. He discussed in detail about the first aid to be provided in case of snake bite; snake bite symptoms; do's and don'ts and the myths to be avoided during first aid. He also highlighted the precautions to be taken while working in field. All the staff members of CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore attended it.



## **Farmers' Exposure Visit to CICR RS, Coimbatore under ATMA**

Twenty five cotton farmers from Anthiyur block, Erode District of Tamil Nadu along with the BTT Convener were on exposure visit under ATMA to Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore recently. The farmers were apprised about improved varieties and hybrids in cotton, better cotton production technologies, inter cropping for increasing the income and role of CICR in fostering the cotton production by Dr. S. Usha Rani, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Extension). The details on Pest Management in cotton were dealt by Dr. M. Amutha, Scientist (Agrl. Entomology)

## **Participation in workshop/ Conference/ Training**

- All the Scientists of CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore participated in the one day workshop Interactive J-Gate@CeRA (Consortium of e-Resources in Agriculture) organised at SBI Auditorium on 12th June 2015. Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Project Director, ICAR-DKMA, New Delhi inaugurated the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by Informatics India Ltd., Bangalore on initiatives from the Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. Few publishers associated with CeRA platform also participated.
- Dr A.H. Prakash, Project Coordinator (Cotton Improvement) & Head, CICR (RS), Coimbatore delivered special Address on the Cotton Scenario in Tamil Nadu and challenges faced the Public Sector Breeding programmes during ‘81st SCIENTIFIC WORKERS’ CONFERENCE’ of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University held on 12th June, 2015. The Inaugural function was presided by Shri T. Rajesh Lakhoni, I.A.S. Agricultural Production Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Chennai.
- Dr. S. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) undergone training workshop on Monitoring Confined Field Trials for Regulatory Compliance recently at NASC complex, New Delhi as a part of UNEF-GEF supported “Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety”, being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) The training program consisted of presentations and group exercises conducted by international expert from Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA)-ILSI, Washington.

## Meetings

- Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur attended a meeting convened by Director -General, ICAR, New Delhi on “Transgenic Cotton” on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.
- Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation committee meeting (PME) was held at CICR, Nagpur from 09.06.15 to 11.06.15 to discuss sowing plan, experimental details and field allocations for various experiments to be conducted during kharif 2015 for all the three divisions.
- A Meeting on “Preparedness for implementation of Seeds Bill, 2004” was held under the Chairmanship of DDG (CS), ICAR recently at NBPGR, New Delhi. Dr A.H. Prakash attended the meeting and the issues such as collection of the information about crop-wise varieties of field crops available in the country, development of detailed requirement & procedures for variety evaluation, evaluation of multi-location trials of the varieties, recording of characteristics to National Registrar of varieties, necessities/requirements for accreditation of organizations for conducting multi-location trials, development of crop-wise protocol for testing the performance of the varieties, etc were discussed

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