

# COTTON *Innovate*



Weekly Newsletter from Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur

Issue :5, Volume : 8, August 2016

A weekly newsletter from ICAR-CICR

## SAARC Regional Consultation Meeting held at CICR, Nagpur

A three day SAARC Regional Consultation Meeting was jointly organized by ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh at CICR. The meeting was held from 29-31 August 2016. Twelve participants from the SAARC countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, India and SAC attended the meeting. Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director, CICR introduced the Chief Guest Dr. C. D. Mayee and welcomed the participants. Director, CICR in his introductory remarks briefed the importance of the meeting in different aspects covering cotton crop, textile industry and foreign exchange earnings. He also stressed the dynamic cotton cultivation patterns across countries which affects the global trade through imports and exports. He explained the need of synchrony between crop management practices and critical stages of cotton crop. He strongly opined that there is tremendous scope to improve the yield levels of the cotton in SAARC region which can be achieved through narrowing the window period of flowering and fruiting and high density planting.

Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Senior Program Specialist, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh explained the initiatives of SAARC Agriculture Centre and about Cotton program. He expressed his gratitude to Director General (ICAR), Director (CICR), Asian Cotton Research and Development Network (ACRDN) for Regional Consultation Meeting and ministries of the respective SAARC countries for nominating the participants. He opined that outcomes of the meeting in terms of policy and technology guidelines will have far reaching consequences.



From left to right: Dr. S. B. Nandeshwar, Mr. Pema Chorten, Dr. Ghimire, Ms. Jahan, Dr. Sandhya Kranthi, Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Mr. Abdulrahimzai, Dr. Kale, Dr. Dil Baugh Muhammad, Dr. Waghmare, Dr. Gurung, Dr. Venugopalan, Dr. Farid Uddin and Dr. Desouza after the Valedictory function

Dr. C. D. Mayee, Former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi and Chief Guest of the meeting in his inaugural address called for production and productivity technologies for the SAARC countries as cotton is grown on more than 12 m ha area by more than 8 million farmers in the region. He recalled the historical transitions in cotton cultivation patterns over decades and suggested three strategies for lint productivity enhancement in SAARC countries viz., a target cotton yield of 1000 kg per hectare, strong extension network for efficient technology transfer and better resource utilization. He also suggested SAARC countries to take advantage of network of ICAR institutes including CICR and All India Cotton Improvement Programme (AICCIP). The inaugural session was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Blaise DeSouza, Head, Division of Crop Production, CICR, Nagpur.



Dr. Kale, Director, MGIRI presenting the certificate to Mr. Abdulrahimzai, Afghanistan.

Country presentations on status of cotton, challenges and opportunities were made by Mr. Abdulrahimzai, Head of Industrial and Oil crops, Afghanistan; Dr. Farid Uddin, Executive Director, Cotton Development Board, Bangladesh; Mr. Chorten, Extension Officer of Bhutan; Dr. Venugopalan, CICR, India; Mr. Ghimire, Department of Agriculture, Nepal and Dr. Dil Baugh Mohammad, Principal Scientific Officer, Central Cotton Research Institute, Pakistan. Following the country presentations, four lead presentations on various aspects were made by Dr. Waghmare on cotton improvement, production by Dr. Desouza, cotton protection by Dr. S. Kranthi and Ginning and post-harvest by Dr. Shukla of GTC.

“Cotton Production in SAARC, Problems analysis & Way forward” was the major theme area for discussions followed by a Brainstorming session which was initiated by Dr. Gurung, SAARC. He stressed on the importance of this meeting to benefit the small cotton growing countries that do not have adequate resources to conduct research. The session was facilitated by Dr. Desouza, Head, Crop Production and Fatema Nasrin of SAC, Dhaka during which the major challenges were prioritized. The common problems were considered as tackling the problem of boll worms, drought and salinity tolerance and the production constraints of high input use and cost of cultivation. An Action Plan was prepared by mutual consultation for the various issues. The major solution to enhancing production at a low cost of cultivation was taking up cultivation of early maturing varieties with high density planting systems. Also one of the suggestions made by Dr. Mayee, Former Chairman, ASRB was initiating a common SAARC cotton adaptive research trials. Dr. Gurung emphasized that the most suitable variety could then be released through SAARC and identified as of regional importance. India and Pakistan jointly agreed to share their production technologies with the cotton growing countries of SAARC. Furthermore, they also expressed to conduct in-country trainings. The participants also visited Ginning Training Centre, Nagpur, Bhagirath Mills and MGIRI, Wardha which was co-ordinated by Dr. Lokanathan, CICR.

The programme concluded with the Valedictory session Chaired by Dr. P.B. Kale, Director, MGIRI, Wardha. Certificates were distributed to the participants by the Chief Guest, Dr. Kale. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Desouza, Head, Crop Production, CICR, Nagpur and Ms. Jahan, SAC. The 3-day meeting ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Desouza, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.

## Sokkanur Cluster MGMG Scientists Apprised Technological Interventions to farmers

CICR, RS, Coimbatore MGMG Sokkanur Team of Scientists Drs K. Rathinavel, M. Sabesh, C. Karpagam and A. Amutha visited the adopted villages on 29.08.2016 and apprised FLD and non - FLD farmers about the technological interventions to be carried out during the vegetative growth stage of cotton. Farmers in the village has sown cotton crop during 1st week of July and already applied 'P' fertiliser as basal dose. They have also taken up two weeding and slight earthing - up in their cotton fields. Farmers mostly sown Bt cotton by purchasing seed from local vendors @ Rs. 800 / pocket, red gram as border crop for cotton field, none applied insecticide up to 50 days of the crop. At vegetative growth stage of cotton, majority of the farmers adopted technologies viz., gap filling, thinning, weeding, however, other technologies viz., bio-control, fixing of pheromone trap, application of neem products has not been adopted by the farmers. The scientist's team advised the farmers about the importance of regular monitoring of pest population, importance of early sowing and neem application. Further, the scientist team could be able to observe the demerits of late sowing of crop as one of the farmer Mr. Thirumoorthi who undertook sowing during 3rd week of July, observed poor germination, poor vegetative growth and pest infestation.

Technological interventions adopted until 50 days of the crop are timely sowing, basal dose of 'P' fertilizer, weeding, thinning and earthing up



Timely shown , weed free crop maintained by selected FLD farmers  
Mr. Nataraj (1.5 ac), Thangamani (3.5 ac), Sakthivel (2 ac) at Sokkanur village



The late sown crop witnessed of poor vegetative growth, and early symptoms of pest infestation.

## Meetings attended

Dr S. M. Wasnik, Principal Scientist, Extension attended agriculture advisory committee meeting of All India Radio on 31 August 2016 organised at its office, Akashwani Kendra, Nagpur. In the meeting programmes to be broadcasted during the quarter months of October to December 2016 was discussed

## Superannuation

Smt. Sulochana S. Wagde, Skilled Support Staff was accorded warm farewell on 31st August, 2016 on behalf of staff welfare club in the seminar hall. Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director (I/C) & Head, Division of Crop Improvement, ICAR-CICR, felicitated her on this occasion. All the Scientists, administrative, technical, supporting and other staff were present on this occasion.



Produced and Published by:  
Chief Editor :

Editors :

Digital Editor, design & Media Support :

Citation : Cotton Innovate, Issue-5, Volume-8, 2016,  
ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.

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Publication Note: This Newsletter presented online at  
[http://www.cicr.org.in/cotton\\_innovate.html](http://www.cicr.org.in/cotton_innovate.html)

Cotton Innovate is the Open Access CICR Newsletter

The Cotton Innovate – is published weekly by  
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