



Preface

Cotton production and productivity in India have been noticed to be significantly high in the past few years with a record production figure of 280 lakh bales during 2006-07 and the mean productivity being high at 520 kg lint/ha. The country has also attained the pride of place with the status of being the second highest in cotton production in the world. This spectacular achievement has become possible due to improved cotton varieties / hybrids including private sector Bt cotton hybrids, efficient cotton production technologies and Integrated Pest Management and Insecticide Resistance Management strategies, besides effective implementation of improved technologies by cotton farmers.

Qualitative and quantitative transformation has taken place in cotton production in India with the production of cotton fibres having varying staple length, from non-spinnable coarse to medium, long, extra long and super fine cotton for spinning 6 to 120^s counts. Due to rapid growth in Indian economy, increasing population and renewed demand for cotton due to cessation of Quota Regime, the requirement of cotton has been projected at 450 lakh bales by 2012 and 525-550 lakh bales by 2025. Hence, very urgent efforts are needed for enhancing cotton productivity, both under irrigated and rainfed situations, to meet this daunting task.

The role of Central Institute for Cotton Research (ICAR), Nagpur and its Regional Station at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Sirsa (Haryana) and All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project of ICAR and its constituent centres in State Agricultural Universities of cotton growing States of the country has been much acclaimed for ensuring sustainability of cotton production, enhancing productivity with matching economic returns to cotton farmers and also innovative approaches in cotton cultivation.

In order to speed up the transfer of improved technologies to cotton farmers and also have an effective interaction and feed back from the field functionaries, the Directorate of Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India thought it fit to organize a "Model Training Course on Cultivation of Long Staple Cotton (ELS)" at Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore for the officials from the State Department of Agriculture of cotton growing States of the Country, who have the pivotal role in fruitful transfer of modern technologies.

I take this opportunity to profusely thank Dr. K. P. Wasnik, Director, Department of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi for having chosen our Institute for this important assignment and for sponsoring the training course for disseminating latest cotton cultivation aspects to the participants. I place on record my sincere gratitude to Dr. K. C. Jain, Asst. Director General, (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. B. M. Khadi, Director, CICR, Nagpur for their constant guidance and encouragement. The Scientists and Staffs of Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore deserve special thanks for their whole-hearted support in the conduct of the training programme. The tireless efforts made by Dr. S. Manickam, Senior Scientist, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Coimbatore deserve special mention. I thank all the contributors, for sparing their valuable time in preparation of lecture notes and effective interaction with the trainees.

I sincerely hope that this compilation of lecture notes shall serve the purpose of enthusing the participants in furthering the cause of cotton research and development in the county so that an ever vibrant cotton production scenario is ensured in the years to come for achieving number one status in the world of cotton.

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